



Report: Student Elective Bursaries



Our programme to award bursaries to students of healthcare professions goes from strength to strength. Since the Order of St Lazarus partnered with EMMS International, 72 young people have been supported as they serve in mission hospitals across the globe.

We are extremely grateful for your partnership and the progress we are making as we extend financial support to talented, committed young people. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Our progress

This year, we have extended sponsorship to another 16 students, who are studying either Medicine or Nursing at university. The 11 students who received their bursary in March have, by now, gone on elective and have returned. Nearly all of them have sent me a report on their experience of learning to provide healthcare services in a resource-poor context. The 5 students who have won bursaries in September are due to embark on their electives over the coming weeks. A list of the winners is included below:

Bursary winners for 2018 and their destinations

Mark McBrien – Nepal	Joanna Balmforth – Malawi	Ame Whitehead – India
Grace Bretnall – Nepal	Inari Kolu – Malawi	Michael Crowe – Swaziland
Anna Hilton – Uganda	Jessica Walker – Swaziland	Lydia McMullen – Malawi
Jessica Richards – Nepal	Monica Lowrie – Malawi	Victoria Changara – Malawi
Louise Black – Uganda	Thomas Wilson – India	
Samuel Imarhiagbe – Malawi	Bethan Cleary – Israel	

Supporting these 16 students means that, to date, **72 young people have been significantly helped by you to fund their electives across the world.** That is a wonderful testament to our partnership, and we look forward to being able to increase the number of bursary winners next year and beyond.

Reports from our winners



Above: Bursary winner **Mark McBrien** with **James Wells**. Right: the town of Tansen, Nepal, where Mark spent his elective.

“With new challenges faced daily, from physical illness to hair raising car journeys to emotional struggles of witnessing events in the hospital. These difficulties brought with them **insights into my own character** as to how I coped or failed to cope with them as they arose. I got the opportunity to meet many incredible expatriates and Nepalis who redefined for me what it is to be welcoming, loving and dependent on God. I got the privilege of seeing so many new things whether that be new diseases, cultural differences or incredible sights.”

Jessica Richards went to Anandaban Hospital in India, which focuses on treating leprosy sufferers. She wrote: “All leprosy-affected patients received their treatment free-of-charge, and general-patients with financial difficulty were offered financial aid, to help cover the cost of their treatment. Observing patients receive life-changing treatment, which they would not otherwise be able to access without this aid, was particularly rewarding.”



Above: Bursary winner **Jessica Richards** with staff at Anandaban Hospital.

Jessica did note that she was “able to see some amazing reconstructive surgery, which enabled function in hands that were once clawed or feet that were

Earlier this year, we met **Mark McBrien** when he dropped by our office to collect his bursary cheque. You can see him receiving his award from James Wells, the Chief Executive of EMMS International.

Mark was awarded £1,000 to help him meet the costs of his elective in Nepal in March and April. In his report, he describes how his experience proved to be “**the most exciting, informative, and enriching of my life.**”



“Anandaban hospital is a leprosy mission hospital, and so the care of leprosy-affected patients is integral to the life of the hospital. Having been taught very little about the disease during my medical studies, I was curious. Especially as there are so many Biblical references, and a few friends of mine had spent time volunteering in leprosy colonies. **The more I read about the condition, the more I appreciated the impact having leprosy has not only on the lives of patients affected by the condition, but also their whole family.** I was discouraged to find that since reaching elimination status, support for leprosy-care was decreasing and Governments all over the world had taken less of an interest, as they considered it no longer a public health problem.”

permanently dropped, because of nerve involvement. **Overall, my elective was such a precious time for me.**"

Coming up

We are in talks with the University of Edinburgh to hold a Student Elective Symposium early next year, and **a provisional date of Wednesday 16th January** from 4-6pm has been pencilled into the diary.

We plan for the Symposium to be a forum for discourse on how electives in resource-poor settings help create well-rounded global citizens, and how they enhance the knowledge of these budding healthcare professionals.



We will invite the Order to speak at the event and have a display to raise awareness of our partnership and your work. I will keep you updated with our plans as they develop and are confirmed.

I am also designing an annual newsletter especially for bursary winner alumni, in a bid to create a community of healthcare professionals who have benefited from our bursaries. EMMS International would like to stay in touch with all the students who win support from our Student Elective Bursary scheme, and this newsletter is a reminder of the connection they share with the Order and with us.

This first edition, which I aim to send out in November, will feature articles based on past and present bursary winner alumni, and will include an invitation to our Symposium.

Thank you for your continued support

We are **hugely grateful** for all of the support and encouragement given by the Order of St Lazarus and its Charitable Trust. You have enabled us to :

- Renew and expand the elective scheme,
- Support **72** students, to date, on overseas electives,
- Hold a Symposium in 2016 and plan for another Symposium in 2019.



It is a pleasure to partner with an organisation that shares our values and vision, and wishes to make such a positive impact on students' professional development and, ultimately, global health. **Thank you!**