Deanery address

Street Address

Town/city

Postcode

Date

Dear *(enter name of TPD)* Training Programme Director, *(enter Deanery)*

Re:  *Mr/Miss/Mrs trainee name, ST grade, Deanery*

The above trainee has been awarded a BSSH Overseas Travelling Fellowship (or is actively involved with a formal BSSH Overseas Project in a Low or Middle Income Country (LMIC)). \*Delete as appropriate\*

This letter is written on behalf of the BSSH in support of their application for study leave/professional leave for *xx* time to take part in a BSSH overseas educational visit to a Low or Middle Income Country (LMIC). This visit offers a unique opportunity for *(enter trainee name)* to develop professionally as a Surgeon with a global perspective.

During this project/visit to *(enter country name,) (Enter trainee name)* will play a valuable role in the delivery of a surgical educational course and will participate in MDT clinics alongside the provision of surgical services. *(enter trainee name)* will join a team of hand surgeons, clinicians, and therapists, and will be supervised by *(enter name of consultant lead, job title, hospital of practice, NHS trust),* consultant lead for the project.

This visit provides the opportunity to develop several key skills and attributes that support the development of our trainees as future surgical leaders; enhancing their knowledge of healthcare delivery in resource poor settings, optimising appropriate and equitable distribution and utilisation of healthcare resources, enhancing their educational and teaching skills, and developing collaborative partnerships with our colleagues practising in low-resource settings.

*(Enter trainee name)* will be required to provide a report of their experience on return, to allow shared learning from their overseas experience. The BSSH encourage the presentation of this reports at local, regional and national meetings to support the development of improved and equitable surgical care across international health systems.

This is in line with the ‘**Engaging in Global Health document’** (1) produced by the Department of Health, the National Health Service, and the Department of International Development (DFID) which defines “*the vital role for UK employers and professional associations to play in supporting effective engagement through their human resources policies and recognition of the training offered”*, as well as the **The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery** (2) which emphasised the growing need for provision of safe and affordable surgical and anaesthetic care in LMIC countries. The BSSH, along with the four UK Royal Surgical Colleges, are committed to supporting the development of global surgery and improving the delivery of surgical care for individuals throughout the globe.

This letter has the full support of the BSSH Council. We respect that approval may be dependent upon local service or training needs. However, we would be grateful if you could consider this application favourably.

Yours faithfully,

BSSH Overseas Committee Chair     BSSH President

(1) Davies JI, Meara JG. Global surgery--going beyond the Lancet Commission. Lancet. 2015 Aug 8;386(9993):507-9. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60465-2.

(2) Department for International Development, Department of Health and Social Care, and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. (2014). Engaging in Global Health - The Framework for Voluntary Engagement in Global Health by the UK Health Sector. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-international-volunteering-in-the-health-and-care-sector>