Working in Norway

Through many years thousands of foreign doctors have been working in Norway. Due to chronic shortage of doctors, the country has been quite eager to attract doctors from abroad, mainly specialist doctors, to fill vacant positions in the constantly expanding health care sector.

Especially, of course, Norway has attracted doctors from the neighbouring countries Denmark, Sweden who have similar languages and culture. Long time before the existence of the EU, the Nordic countries had a common job market, and relevant university and specialty degrees and authorizations were accepted without great problems.

Same, same

In general the health care system in Norway is quite alike. Almost every patient doctor contact is in the public sector. There are only a few private clinics and small specialized hospitals. During the last years the activity in the private sector has risen due to changes in the political environment and the wellbeing chronic economic crisis in the health care sector that Norway has, due to its relative pros-

privileges, given, so far patients and healthcare workers RELATED GOOD CONDITIONS. THE YEARS SHOULDN'T END, WITHOUT DOUBT BECOME MORE FOR ALL. MANY MEASURED REFORMS HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, WHERE SMALL HOSPITALS AND UNITS HAVE CLOSED AND A MORE CONSOLIDATED STRUCTURE REGARDING SPECIALITY CARE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. FURTHERMORE, CENTRALISATION AT THE MANAGEMENT AND POLITICAL LEVEL HAS BECOME STRONGER. POSTS AND SALARIES ARE BEING ENHANCED. ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS REDUCED THE GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL, INCLUDING DOCTORS. NEVERTHLESS, THERE ARE STILL GREAT CHALLENGES TO GET A JOB ESPECIALLY IN MORE RURAL AREAS. IN GENERAL THERE IS STILL UNEMPLOYMENT FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL INCREASED IN MANY PROFESSIONS THERE IS A SHORTAGE.

Country

The majority of the 4 million Norwegians live in the five biggest cities in the vast country. However, so his national policies change the population of the most rural areas, including the need for hospitals there. Of course, this increases the need for doctors, but it is often quite difficult to get a doctor to stay for a longer time at a permanent base because of the isolation, both professional and personal. On the other hand, this is a great possibility to experience places you would never have been, and for sure never find elsewhere. And the isolation gives great opportunities to recuperate many years in an overpopulated and pollinated world.

Training

Like in most other countries, there is an 18 month internship after university and doctor (medical) school. After this, one can start specialisation. Most of the basic_ specialisations demand about four years of work in the core field, i.e. anaesthesia and specialisation demand about four years of their stay in the country. However, some colleagues have had considerable problems during the last years due to paranoia in the Norwegian Medical Association. So a very good advice is to meet the procedure before arrival.

Working conditions

The weekly working time is a minimum of 38 hours, but often amount to 40–45 as an average over time. If you work more, you will get paid extra or it is possible to work at public and private clinics. The salary starts approximately at €40,000 and a consultant can earn up to €100,000. There are furthermore good possibilities to increase the salary with extra work at both public and private clinics. The relationship good salary is, however balanced by the world’s highest living costs.

Dr. Niels Mosbech

Senior Consultant, Paediatric Anaesthesia

Department of Anaesthesia

Ullevaal University Hospital,

Oslo, Norway

mosbech@gmail.com

www.legeforeningen.no

The Norwegian medical association. Largely in Norwegian.

www.norway.no

The official website for the Norwegian public sector. Information in general about the country, tax and social security.

www.joint.org

Vacant positions in the public sector.

www.goinginternational.org

Going International Career Guide