

# Meet the international recruitment team

## Senior leadership team



I play a crucial role in the organisation's efforts to recruit skilled international healthcare professionals. My team works closely with various stakeholders to ensure effective recruitment and support for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals. Notably, NHS Professionals International has been recognised for its excellence in recruitment, demonstrating the impact of our collaborative efforts

through the award of Best Recruitment Solution in 2023, by the reputable HSJ organisation.

I recognise the value of internationally educated healthcare professionals joining the NHS. My commitment to diversifying the NHS workforce and providing opportunities underscores the importance of ethical recruitment and compassionate support.

### Hadrien Kieffer, Director of International Recruitment



Responsible for the recruitment and retention of international healthcare professionals, I'm primarily focused on supporting NHS recruitment for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals. With over a decade's worth of experience in healthcare recruitment, I have led large recruitment teams, both within the private and public sectors.

Working with key stakeholders such as independent regulators, NHS England and the Department of

Health and Social Care (DHSC), I support NHS Trusts to deliver their mid- and long-term recruitment strategies. This includes virtual and face to face campaigns, whilst overseeing the delivery of circa 2,000 candidates annually in the Midlands and South regions, including 26 NHS Trusts in London. I've had the pleasure of working with candidates from across the world, including India, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and the Philippines.

### Antony Law, International Regional Director for the South, London, and Midlands



I have been part of NHS Professionals International for over four years. My role is to support the recruitment of international healthcare professionals into vacancies in the North of England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. I have over 10 years' experience working in the international recruitment markets, and I've been lucky enough to support candidates from Europe, India, the Philippines, Middle East, Africa and more to make the UK their home.

My team and I work closely with NHS England, The Department of Health and Social Care as well as acute, mental health and paediatric Trusts to ensure that demand for healthcare professionals is met and candidates are recruited safely and ethically. We recruit over 2,000 healthcare professionals every year into the region which includes 38 NHS Trusts, as well as 5 Trusts in Northern Ireland and 4 Health Boards in Scotland.

### Anthony Catlow, International Regional Director for the North



As the overseer of our operations, I'm involved in the entire end-to-end process, working with internal and external stakeholders to ensure regulatory compliance. I've implemented key systems and processes to enhance client and candidate engagement, ensuring our operations remain efficient and effective in delivering high-quality service.

With over 20 years in the industry, I provide valuable knowledge and insight to our international team, composed of experts in international recruitment. While international recruitment has its challenges, our well-equipped team collaborates closely with candidates and clients to streamline the long and complex process.

## Savita Dabasia, Head of International Operations



I lead a team of International Recruitment Consultants and Advisers. My team and I work collaboratively to look after our candidates from the very start of their application journey, all the way through and beyond their arrival here in the UK.

This job has led me to meet some incredible people and gain an understanding of many cultures. I have worked in the international

healthcare recruitment industry for many years now, having spent a lot of time in my career in the Philippines, India, and Dubai.

I'm passionate about my job and I am proud of the great work my team do every day. We match healthcare professionals, to the right hospitals and locations, to further their careers. It's amazing to be able to be part of someone's next chapter.

## Emma Toby, Head of International Resourcing



With over ten years in international recruitment, I'm passionate about the impact our team has on thousands of healthcare professionals starting new lives in the UK. This role has allowed me to travel, meet incredible

people, and understand global healthcare systems and the challenges of relocation. I now focus on supporting NHS trusts and social care providers in the Northwest with international recruitment solutions.

## Jenny Padgett, Head of Northwest, International Recruitment



I work with NHS Trusts in the Northeast and Yorkshire region to support them with their international recruitment requirements. I lead a team of dedicated International Recruitment Managers who work with these Trusts daily, supporting all candidates with their international journey.

I have worked in recruitment for over 20 years, specifically working with acute NHS Trusts and ambulance Trusts until I specialised in international recruitment. I have found this area of recruitment the most rewarding as it is lovely to see candidates arriving and settling in a different country and making a positive difference to the NHS workforce.

## Joanna Davis, Head of Northeast, and Yorkshire, International Recruitment

# International Recruitment Managers



I work closely with our NHS stakeholders within Trusts, supporting them with their project planning and forecasting of high-volume international recruitment campaigns. This role has led me to visit new countries and experience other cultures first-hand. I have predominately been working with Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health

Professionals from India, Philippines, Middle East, South Africa, and Europe.

There is no greater job satisfaction than meeting the wonderful international healthcare professionals at our UK airports. You get to know them over time and can build some lovely relationships.

**Melanie Moran**, International Recruitment Manager



I partner with NHS Trusts across Northwest England, bringing over 12 years of recruitment experience in the nursing and healthcare sector, including six years in international recruitment. I manage the entire international recruitment process, from candidate screening to their arrival in the UK.

I recruit Registered Nurses, Midwives, and Allied Health Professionals globally and have participated in recruitment events across Europe, the Caribbean, and South Africa. It's incredibly rewarding to assist talented healthcare professionals in their journey to the UK.

**Karen Mellor**, International Recruitment Manager



I have over 10 years' experience working in healthcare recruitment, including recruitment of Doctors,

Nurses, Midwives, Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Assistants for both the NHS and the private sector.

**Bogdan Plesa**, International Recruitment Manager



I work with individual Trusts to fill vacancy gaps by recruiting internationally educated healthcare professionals. My experience leading large teams within the NHS gives me insight into the internal challenges of international recruitment. Having worked within overseas healthcare systems, I understand the complexities of registering in a new country.

The most rewarding part of my job is helping individuals find their dream roles and relocate to the UK. I focus on matching the right candidates with the right employers, considering both professional experience and the alignment of personal values with the organisation.

**Keisha Shaffi**, International Recruitment Manager



# International Recruitment Consultants



I assist and guide candidates in securing an offer of employment with one of our NHS partners Trust. My advice to anyone applying is to never give up following your dream job.

**Alina Casineanu, International Recruitment Consultant**



I find and recruit suitable candidates to join an NHS Trust. I work to find the best talent from across the world and create opportunities for international healthcare professionals to arrive and experience what NHS have to offer.

My advice to anyone applying is,

patience and respect goes a long way. Also, take advantage of any orientation or onboarding programmes provided by your employing Trust. These programmes can help you navigate the system, understand the expectations, and familiarise yourself with local practices and procedures.

**Ranga Pathirange, International Recruitment Consultant**

# International Recruitment Advisers



I support international healthcare professionals from the moment they receive a job offer through to their arrival in the UK. My responsibilities include gathering compliance documents, issuing certificates of sponsorship, checking visas, and arranging flights. I ensure a smooth transition by coordinating every detail and ensuring they arrive safely at their accommodation. In addition to my core

role, I also coordinate the training team, delivering both onboarding and refresher training for internal and external colleagues. I conduct systems testing for our applicant tracking system and serve as the Information Asset Assistant for the International team, maintaining GDPR compliance throughout the process.

**Lisa McGee, Senior International Recruitment Adviser**



I facilitate the processing of international healthcare professionals from the time they are offered a job until they arrive here in the UK.

This involves checking their compliance documents, issuing certificates of sponsorship, checking their visas, and booking their flights to the UK.

**Shabna Hassen, Senior International Recruitment Adviser**



I serve as the common denominator between the candidate and the Trust. It is my job to ensure candidates are kept in the loop during all aspects of their recruitment process, I also strengthen relationships with Trusts through focus and friendly communication. Being able to aid candidates from pre-employment check stage all the way through to

deployment is a great privilege. A big part of my job is also putting out any fires that may start along the way, this may be in the form of visa queries, missing documents, candidate worries, and so on.

I have a genuine passion for International Recruitment and believe every overseas candidate placed in the NHS can make a positive impact.

**Kelly-Ascheley Gawono, International Recruitment Adviser**



I am responsible for the compliance process and managing a diverse pipeline for our client Trusts. I love being part of the NHS Professionals International family and feel privileged to work with such amazing and caring people.

My advice to anyone applying is, communication, trust and commitment is essential.

**Ilinca Ionescu, International Recruitment Adviser**



My role within the team is to carry out the compliance checks for each international candidate. I make sure all relevant documents are compliant and help candidates through their journey, offering support and check-ins with them. It is a very satisfying feeling knowing when the candidates arrive in the UK, I was part of their journey for a new and exciting start

in their lives and bringing their knowledge and support to our country.

My advice to anyone applying is, work together with the international recruitment team and have patience to achieve a great and smooth journey.

**Natalie Alves, International Recruitment Adviser**

To speak to someone in the team, email us at:  
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