**Supplementary Table A: Availability of Pre-observership information:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Which pre-departure information did the host institution provide to you?** | **Total****(N = 148)** | **IS\* from LICs†****(N = 8)** | **IS from LMICs‡****(N = 23)** | **IS from UMICs¶****(N = 44)** | **IS from HICs**§**(N = 73)** |
| A Web-based orientation  | 51 (34%) | 1 (13%) | 7 (30%) | 21 (48%) | 22 (30%) |
| A program/observership schedule | 72 (49%) | 5 (63%) | 7 (30%) | 24 (55%) | 36 (49%) |
| Information regarding the institution/organization | 109 (74%) | 7 (88%) | 16 (70%) | 35 (80%) | 51 (70%) |
| Information regarding leisure activities around host site’s town | 26 (18%) | 0 | 3 (13%) | 12 (27%) | 11 (15%) |
| Information regarding housing opportunities | 72 (49%) | 5 (63%) | 10 (43%) | 23 (52%) | 34 (47%) |
| Information regarding how to obtain a visa | 39 (26%) | 2 (25%) | 5 (22%) | 14 (32%) | 18 (25%) |
| Information regarding health screening requirement | 91 (62%) | 5 (63%) | 12 (52%) | 27 (61%) | 47 (64%) |
| **Which pre-departure information would have been helpful prior to your arrival that you did not receive?** | **Total****(N = 148)** | **IS\* from LICs†****(N = 8)** | **IS from LMICs‡****(N = 23)** | **IS from UMICs¶****(N = 44)** | **IS from HICs**§**(N = 73)** |
| A Web-based orientation  | 46 (31%) | 3 (38%) | 10 (44%) | 12 (27%) | 21 (29%) |
| A program/observership schedule | 67 (45%) | 3 (38%) | 9 (39%) | 20 (45%) | 35 (48%) |
| Information regarding the institution/organization | 29 (20%) | 3 (38%) | 2 (9%) | 8 (18%) | 16 (22%) |
| Information regarding leisure activities around host site’s town | 42 (28%) | 3 (38%) | 7 (30%) | 14 (32%) | 18 (25%) |
| Information regarding housing opportunities | 56 (38%) | 3 (38%) | 9 (39%) | 16 (36%) | 28 (38%) |
| Information regarding how to obtain a visa | 21 (14%) | 1 (13%) | 1 (4%) | 8 (18%) | 11 (15%) |
| Information regarding health screening requirement | 27 (18%) | 1 (13%) | 3 (13%) | 9 (20%) | 14 (19%) |
| Values are given as number of respondents, with the percentage in parentheses. Some respondents filled out more than one category.IS\* = international surgeon; LICs†  = low-income countries; LMICs‡ = lower middle-income countries; UMICs¶ = upper middle-income countries; HICs§ = high-income countries |