Travel advice for International placements – Information Sheet

Read this information sheet carefully as it contains important information relevant to your overseas placement.

Overseas Placement

In order for you to undertake a placement overseas a legal agreement between Griffith University and the overseas placement facility is required to be in place. A School placement staff member will establish the legal agreement, which may require 6 months or more to negotiate.

Local culture

Prior to your placement overseas you should research the country/region to become familiar with the local culture and customs. Be aware of behaviours that are acceptable and unacceptable in your placement destination and respect the culture and traditions of your host country and people.

The Smart Traveller website http://smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/ offers some information on cultural considerations but it is recommended that you also search other resources to obtain a reasonable level of awareness of cultural matters relevant to your specific destination. These days it is easy to find information about other countries through a web search. Try to read up and ask others who have been before.

Threats to security

Prior to your placement overseas you should research the country/region to check the level of risk of the country/region, safety and security issues and local laws. Respect the laws of your host country and people.


Travel overseas for University purposes will not be approved to areas under current DFAT warnings "Do not travel" or "Reconsider your need to travel".

Climate

The climate of international destinations may be different to that of Australia. When planning for international placements, climatology information and real time weather forecasts can assist in determining:

- Clothing suitable for the climate
- How the climate might affect health (e.g. there is an increased risk of colds and influenza in a colder climate)
- Time required for acclimatisation

The World Meteorological Organization is one of many websites that provides online weather information http://www.worldweather.org/
Natural Disasters

Seasonal and geological factors can occur while on a placement overseas. Prior to your placement overseas you should register your trip with DFAT (Department of Affairs and Trading) [http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/) This will help the Australian government to contact you in an emergency. You should also subscribe to the governments travel advice for your upcoming destination(s) to receive free email updates each time the travel advice is reissued, available at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

Health and Disease

You should consult a doctor with experience in travel medicine 3-6 months prior to departure for health and disease information relevant to your travel and the country/region of placement, and to complete any vaccinations required. Normally at least six to eight weeks is required for vaccines to be effective.

Relevant travel health and disease information can be found at various online sites including:


Travel insurance

You are required to arrange your own comprehensive travel insurance for any overseas placement as University insurance does not apply where the travel is funded by the student. Insurance coverage must be for the entire duration of the trip (i.e. from the time you depart Australia until you return to Australia) and must include coverage for any travel prior to and after the official placement.

You are required to show proof of travel insurance to a School placement staff member prior to departure.

Visas and Passport

Check to see if you require visas for the country or countries you are visiting or transiting. For visa information refer to [http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas/)

Many countries require travellers to have at least six months validity remaining on their passports. You should confirm your passport is current with a minimum 6 months prior to expiration. For further information refer to [https://www.passports.gov.au/Web/index.aspx](https://www.passports.gov.au/Web/index.aspx)

Overseas Pre-travel Checklist

Prior to any overseas placement you should complete the Overseas Pre-Travel Checklist which will assist you in your travel plans. Obtain the checklist from a School placement staff member.

International Placement Travel Declaration Form

You are required to complete the *International Placement Travel Declaration Form* and submit it to a School placement staff member along with a copy of your itinerary.
An overseas placement allows you to experience a different culture, lifestyle and people while offering you the opportunity to practise the skills of your profession and gain practical experience in another part of the world. Enjoy the experience!