

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

Differences are normal in a foreign culture. The changes could be fascinating and exciting and frustrating and confusing all at the same time. Managing your expectations and keeping an open mind are keys to adjusting successfully. 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.

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 advisories are available at the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Smart Traveller website:

<http://dfat.gov.au/travel/Pages/travel.aspx>

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 and Force Majeure

Seasonal, geological and force majeure (Acts of God) factors can occur while on a placement overseas. Prior to your placement overseas you should register your trip with DFAT Smart Traveller <http://dfat.gov.au/travel/Pages/travel.aspx>

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. In order for the Griffith University Corporate Travel Insurance policy to be applicable, you need to register your travel plans with [International SOS https://www.internationalsos.com/](https://www.internationalsos.com/)

Griffith University has joined forces with International SOS to offer students (and staff) unique medical, safety and security expertise and assistance when travelling or living abroad. This program forms part of our International Travel Policy and is a pre-requisite to having your travel approved. As a student of Griffith University, and therefore an International SOS

member, you receive extended medical and safety assistance 24/7 no matter where you live or travel internationally. International SOS does everything possible to keep members healthy, safe and secure in any situation. You can access the International SOS Members-only resources through the Griffith intranet.

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:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<http://smartraveller.gov.au/guide/all-travellers/health/pages/health-checks-and-vaccinations.aspx>
- The Travel Doctor <http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/>

Travel insurance

You are required to arrange your own comprehensive travel insurance for any overseas placement as any travel or leisure time prior to or after the official placement period is NOT covered by the university corporate travel policy. Travel outside of your declared country of destination will NOT be covered. Weekends are covered for local travel in and around your host country only. Your privately purchased travel insurance should cover medical expenses for injury or illness, theft of valuables, damage to baggage and interruptions to flight plans as well as pre-existing medical conditions and additional activities you plan to undertake, such as hiring a motorbike. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TRAVEL INSURANCE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO TRAVEL. 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/>

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>

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.

Further Information

Student Exchange Office
(07) 3735 4004

exchange@griffith.edu.au

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/international/exchange>

Griffith International

(07) 3735 6425

international@griffith.edu.au

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/international/>

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!