

GEN Short Exchange

Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Singapore

Frequently Asked Questions ...

What is the Global Education Network (GEN)?

The Global Education Network (GEN) is an organisation founded by Box Hill Institute and SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary, Canada in 2001. Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, USA, and ITE, Singapore, have also joined the GEN partnership to provide international experiences for their students. Through this network of vocational colleges similar to Box Hill Institute we are able to offer international travel and study opportunities to our enrolled students. Box Hill Institute students can travel to the GEN partner colleges to live, study and explore a new international environment for up to six months. Box Hill Institute also hosts international students for up to six months under the Global Education Network agreement. More information about the Global Education Network is available at: <http://www.globaledunetwork.org>

What happens on the Short Exchange?

A short exchange is generally 2–3 weeks duration. It offers you a variety of experiences — cultural or tourism opportunities, exposure to international industry through pre-arranged excursions and tours, and an opportunity to spend time in a classroom at the host college to understand different international teaching and learning styles and sometimes different curriculum. Short exchanges are busy, interesting and exhausting! They are often the inspiration for further international travel planning and experiences for Box Hill Institute students.

Is a Short Exchange program right for me?

- Am I adaptable?
- Am I flexible?
- Can I deal with uncertainty?
- Am I resourceful?
- Am I interested in meeting new people?
- Am I interested in other cultures?
- Am I open-minded?
- Am I physically fit and healthy?
- Do I have clear and realistic goals/objectives for this experience?

If you have answered **yes** to these questions, then participating in a short exchange program may be right for you!

It is important for you to take responsibility for the success of your participation. Having realistic expectations play a big part in how enjoyable this experience will be.

I'm an International student at Box Hill Institute – can I still apply?

Eligible applicants from Box Hill Institute must be 18+ years of age and Permanent Residents of Australia or Australian citizens. The aim of the program is to give local students an opportunity for an international exchange opportunity.

Is there any funding available to assist with the costs?

Box Hill Institute will provide a scholarship which includes travel insurance and a travel Scholarship to each student participating in the exchange program. The students are then responsible for all other associated costs. The actual costs of a short exchange will depend on the flights, accommodation, meals, entertainment activities, personal expenses, passport and Visas. Estimates are available at information sessions or you may like to discuss your personal situation with the Student Mobility Coordinator in the Study Abroad Office.

Who else is coming to Singapore?

We are offering this opportunity to students enrolled at Box Hill Institute in a variety of areas of training. Students may be from Automotive, Beauty, Commerce, Graphic Design, Commercial Cookery, Events, Hairdressing, Hospitality Management, Laboratory Technology, Nursing or Tourism.

There may also be some students from the GEN network colleges (Canada & USA) in Singapore at the same time. They will often stay in the same accommodation.

Box Hill Institute will have a teacher accompanying the students for the duration of the program.

When the group arrive in Singapore they will meet the other students from ITE who are completing training in the same area. You will get to know the students over the time in Singapore.

Where is everyone staying?

The accommodation location will be advised when the final travel dates are confirmed. We have previously accessed a variety of options – international student accommodation on College East and College Central hostel, YMCA International accommodation in Orchard Road, and also ITE's training hotel at College West. Cost of the accommodation will vary depending on the availability of the facilities accessed. We endeavour to keep the accommodation affordable so more BHI students can afford to participate. The Box Hill Institute group will all stay at the same location.

When will I get to meet everyone?

Prior to departure from Melbourne, you will have a number of opportunities to meet with the other students (and staff) from Box Hill Institute travelling to Singapore. We will also have a closed Facebook page available for you to share information with the other students prior to and during the program.

We expect that the BHIG will arrive in Singapore on a Saturday or Sunday prior to the program, and will complete an orientation program on day 1. The orientation will ensure you know your way around the local area, can catch a train, have had a quick look around the central business district area, and can buy or order food and coffee! You will also know where to come for your first day of class.

Can I book my own flight and accommodation?

Students applying for scholarship assistance and joining the Box Hill Institute team will travel as a group from Melbourne on the same flights, both outbound and also for the return journey. The group will stay in the same accommodation which will often be used by the other colleges participating in the program. There are no exceptions to this arrangement.

Travel and accommodation bookings will be coordinated for the group through the Study Abroad Office.

A Box Hill Institute staff member will accompany the group for travel, cultural activities and throughout the academic program.

Can I extend my stay in Singapore after the training program finishes?

All Box Hill Institute participants will return on the designated flight to Melbourne at the conclusion of the program. There are no exceptions to this arrangement.

Do I need a visa?

You will not require a visa to visit Singapore for the program if you travel on an Australian Passport. If you are a permanent resident, additional visa requirements may apply. It is your responsibility to investigate visa requirements based on your individual circumstance.

What about Travel Insurance?

All Box Hill Institute students participating in a Student exchange will automatically receive travel insurance. **Students are responsible for the costs of medical treatment resulting from a pre-existing medical condition.** Depending on your own personal circumstances and travel requirements, you may choose to purchase additional travel insurance cover.

Will I need text books or any other study materials?

We suggest you take items such as writing materials and paper with you for the program. You may also need to consider taking additional resources if you are completing a project when you are at the host college. This may include reference material for example, or a memory stick (USB).

Any hints for the long flight?

Drink lots of water and keep hydrated; get up and move around every few hours to stretch your legs; take some music and a good book to help pass the time.

Carry-on Baggage Requirements

All passengers flying to and from Australia on international flights must ensure they comply with the relevant Airlines Travel conditions and safety standards for carryon and checked in luggage.

What will I wear in Singapore?

Most young people stick with the usual jeans/t-shirt combination. The polo shirt is probably the single most popular item of clothing. Hair fashions may also be conservative especially on campus. We will discuss suitable attire to be worn on campus and to classes at our pre-departure sessions so you are clear on the most appropriate clothing to wear. All other students at ITE will be wearing a uniform. Each area of training can be identified by the uniform worn by the students. The climate will be hot and humid and has regular rainfall, usually in the form of heavy tropical showers that last an hour or two and leave clear skies behind them.

Should I bring a laptop computer?

If you have a laptop computer at home, you may want to bring it with you.

What's the cheapest way to keep in contact with home?

Internet or phone cards can be less expensive ways to keep in contact with family and friends at home. There will be opportunities for students to purchase phone cards or local sim cards for mobiles if required during the orientation part of the program. Internet cafes are common in Singapore and there are sometimes wireless facilities in cafes for public access.

How much does a train ticket cost?

Tickets for the MRT cost from 80cents - \$2.30 for a single trip.
The trains run from 6am – midnight with trains arriving every three – six minutes.

How cold / warm will it be?

Singapore is hot and humid all year round. It gets regular rainfall (heavy tropical showers). Temperature will be 30 degrees Celsius and above for most of the year during the day time.

How big is Singapore?

The population of Singapore is 5.7 million.

What currency is used in Singapore?

Name : Singapore Dollar
Symbol : S\$

Changing Your Money

Changing foreign currency can be done at most banks. There are foreign-exchange booths at Melbourne Airport's international terminal, and also in the airport in Singapore when you arrive.

Money Tips

Credit cards (particularly Visa and MasterCard) are widely accepted, and ATMs all over the country accept credit and Cirrus cards.

Sample Price Guide

Café latte S\$5.00
Litre petrol S\$2.05
Plate of Chicken Rice S\$5.00
Souvenir T-Shirt S\$7.00
Beer – S\$15 a pint in a city bar
Fine for littering S\$1000

Emergency contacts

Student Mobility and Scholarship Coordinator



Academic Affairs
Box Hill Institute
Tel: 61 3 9286 9601
Email: gen@boxhill.edu.au

Any useful links?

Box Hill Institute of TAFE
Institute of Technical Education
Global Education Network
World Time Server
Universal Currency Converter
Smartraveller

<http://www.boxhill.edu.au>
<http://www.ite.edu.sg>
<http://www.globaledunetwork.org/>
<http://www.worldtimeserver.com/>
<http://www.xe.com/>
<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au>