

GEN Community Service Learning

Siam Reap, Cambodia

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 is a Community Service-Learning Program ...what does it actually mean?

A community service-learning program seeks to provide an experience which combines service with structured learning through the execution of a local community service project in Siam Reap, Cambodia. The objectives for this programme are to:

- enable the participants to apply their technical skills and knowledge to address real-life needs in the global community;
- provide a platform for all participants to enhance their service-learning experience through unfamiliar physical and social settings, thus forcing them to step out of their comfort zones;
- increase the participants' awareness on social matters and ultimately improve their spirit of care for others
- challenge oneself and go beyond your comfort zone, as this is when the most meaningful learning about oneself and the world around us takes place, and
- To provide a platform for our participants from different cultural backgrounds to work together as a team, and to strengthen the bonding between GEN partners.

How does a Community Service Learning program work?

A Community Services Program teaches and encourages students to carry out activities either locally or globally that will benefit others more than themselves. These activities seeks to make a difference to communities with real needs, raise awareness of others less fortunate and develop a culture of responsibility and care.

What will happen on the Community Services Learning Project?

The Community Services Learning Project will be hosted by our GEN partner, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in conjunction with Global Heritage Tours. The program will involve a team of 20 students and teachers working together for 10 days to build a classroom for a school in Siam Reap. The program will also include cultural activities with visits to Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple, Ta Prohm, Angkor Wat Temple, Tonle Sap Lake, Tuoi Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek. On arrival in Siam Reap, students and teachers from United States of America, Canada and Singapore will meet for team building and orientations activities before starting the building from its foundations.

Is a Community Services 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 ready to move outside my comfort zone?
- 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 Community Services 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 generous travel scholarship which also includes travel insurance. The students are then responsible for all other associated costs. The student contribution payment will depend on the type of accommodation, personal expenses, passport and travel insurance you select. Estimates are available at information sessions or you may like to discuss the costs with the Student Mobility staff.

Who else is going to be there?

There will be students and teachers from ITE in Singapore, KCC in Iowa, USA and SAIT in Calgary, Canada as well as staff from Global Heritage Tours joining the Box Hill Institute group for the program. Each Institution will send a faculty or staff member as a "mentor" for the group of students. Before departure, you will have a number of opportunities to meet with the other students (and staff) from Box Hill Institute travelling to Cambodia. We will also have a Facebook page available for you to share information with the other students prior to and during the program.

Where is everyone staying?

The group will stay in 3 and 4 star hotel accommodation in Siam Reap. The accommodation details will be confirmed at the Pre-departure sessions. Transport from the hotel to the project will be provided and breakfast included. There will also be some other meals included in the program

Students are unable to make their own accommodation arrangements to stay with friends, relatives or with other providers. Reservations will be made for the Box Hill Institute group by the Student Mobility office.

When will I get to meet everyone?

The Box Hill Institute group will get to know each other during the pre-departure sessions arranged before travel. Some groups like to arrange an additional get together, for example, have a meal together prior to departure.

Can I book my own flight and accommodation?

Students will travel on the same flights and will stay in the same accommodation which will 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 Student Mobility 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 Cambodia after the Community Services 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?

A 30 day Visa is required for enter to Cambodia. Students will apply for the Visa through the Cambodian Embassy in Canberra. The cost of the Visa is \$50.00. Student Mobility office will assist with the preparing the applications and the process will be discussed in detail at the pre-departure sessions.

Please note if you are a permanent resident of Australia, Visa requirements may apply. It is your responsibility to check the Visa requirements with the Cambodian Embassy 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 travel requirements and circumstances, you may choose to purchase additional travel insurance cover. Travel Insurance will be discussed in detail at the pre-departure sessions.

What will the weather be like?

The weather during June in Siem Reap is warm and the rainy season has started in Cambodia. Even though June is part of the rainy season it is a good time to visit Siem Reap. The weather is not very hot as the few showers generally cool the air to make it a more pleasant climate. June is also one of the main months that farmers in Cambodia start planting the rice.

June Max. 32° C and Min: 24° C

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.

Carry-on Baggage Requirements

All passengers flying to and from Australia on international flights are only permitted to carry small quantities of liquids, gels or aerosols in their cabin or carry-on luggage. Small containers of 100 mls (3.5 fl oz) are permitted and must be sealed in a transparent plastic bag. Carry-on and checked in luggage allowances will be discussed at the Pre-departure sessions.

What will I wear in Cambodia?

As Cambodia is a hot and tropical country, natural fabrics e.g. linen, cotton and silk are cooler than synthetic fabrics. Lightweight, loose-fitting cotton clothing, long-sleeved pants and long-sleeved shirts protect against mosquitoes and the sun. Good sunglasses, sunhat, sunscreen and insect repellent are a must. Travel light - it is cheap and easy to get laundry done.

It's too hot for denim jeans

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 local sim cards for mobiles if required during the orientation part of the program.

How big is Cambodia?

The population of Cambodia is 16.099 million.

What currency is used in Cambodia?

Name : Cambodia Riel

Symbol : ₭

Coins:

₭ 50, ₭ 100, ₭ 200, ₭ 500

Banknotes:

₭ 50, ₭ 100, ₭ 200, ₭ 500, ₭ 1000, ₭ 2000, ₭ 5000, ₭ 10000, ₭ 20000, ₭ 50000, ₭ 100000

Changing Your Money

Changing foreign currency can be done at most banks. There are foreign-exchange booths at Melbourne Airport's (prior to your departure from home) in the international terminal.

Money Tips

Travel and credit cards (particularly Visa and MasterCard) are accepted and ATMs accept credit and Cirrus cards. Confirm the best option for you with your own bank prior to departure.



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?

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

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

** If you are a permanent resident of Australia special visa requirements may apply to you.*