

Wesley Stonehouse Internship

Koto Restaurant, Vietnam

Frequently Asked Questions ...

Who is Wesley Stonehouse?

Wesley Stonehouse (1972-2010) spent 20 years travelling and working across the world and in Asia. Wesley brought an energy and passion to his work in the hospitality industry, working closely with local and international people to ensure excellence in customer experience. Wesley was committed to learning about local practices, particularly about food and the importance of it in bringing people together. His extensive knowledge in food, beverage, front of house, customer service and operations was gained 'hands-on' and we believe was enhanced by his varied experience in China, Thailand, Malaysia and other Asian countries.

This generous scholarship is being offered to ensure a committed individual gains an experience that is memorable, a diverse broadening experience and inspiration to further their career in the industry. Wesley's family believe that this experience, for a promising student, will be a small but fitting memorial to the spirit of Wesley.

What happens on the Internship?

The Wesley Stonehouse internship is 4 weeks in duration where you travel to Vietnam during term 3 (TBC) and work in various roles at the KOTO (Know One Teach One) Restaurant in Hanoi – a Box Hill Institute training partner. KOTO is a social enterprise foundation working in Vietnam with disadvantaged street kids.

It offers you a variety of experiences — cultural or tourism opportunities, exposure to international industry as well credits towards your study requirements! They are often the inspiration for further international travel planning and experiences for Box Hill Institute students.

Is this 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?

The Wesley Stonehouse Foundation will provide a scholarship which will fund your travel and living expenses whilst on this 4 week internship. The students are responsible for all other associated costs i.e. Passport, personal expenses and any additional cultural activities.

Estimates are available at information sessions or you may like to discuss your personal situation with the staff in the Student Mobility Office. Box Hill Institute will also provide Business Travel Insurance coverage for each student approved to travel with the group.

Who else is going to be there?

We are offering this opportunity to students enrolled at Box Hill Institute in the Hospitality & Tourism areas of training. You will be working with people from KOTO and will have a representative who will be your support person whilst overseas.

Where would I be staying?

The accommodation will be at the Eastin Hotel located in Hanoi. This is a short distance to KOTO.

When will I get to meet people at Koto?

Prior to departure from Melbourne, you will be given contact details of the KOTO representative who will greet you at the airport in Vietnam, you will then be introduced to the staff and given an orientation of the local area upon arrival. We expect that you would arrive in Vietnam on a Sunday prior to the program, and complete a day of orientation before the Internship commences. The orientation will ensure you know your way around the local area, 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 appointment or class.

A Facebook page will be set up for you to join and share information with BHIG prior to and during the program.

Can I book my own flight and accommodation?

Students participating in this program will have their flights and accommodation booked and paid for in advance by the Study Abroad Office. There are no exceptions to this arrangement.

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

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

Do I need a visa?

Yes you will be required to obtain a Visa to enter Vietnam. The cost of this Visa is \$99.00. The Student Mobility staff will provide assistance for organising the Visa application.

What about Travel Insurance?

All Box Hill Institute students participating in a Student exchange will automatically receive travel insurance. Box Hill Institute's travel policy does not cover treatment for pre-existing medical conditions. Therefore, 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

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 on site. This may include reference material 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 will only be permitted to carry small quantities of liquids, gels or aerosols in their cabin or carry-on luggage. Small containers of 100 ml are permitted and must be sealed in a transparent plastic bag.

What will I wear in Vietnam?

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 site. We will discuss suitable attire to be worn on site at our pre-departure sessions so you are clear on the most appropriate clothing to wear. When working in KOTO you will be required to wear work attire which will also be discussed with you at the pre-departure session.

The climate will be very 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, bring it with you as you will have wifi access in your accommodation. You may find it useful as a way of keeping in contact with your family and friends via the internet.

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.

How much does a taxi cost?

For a single trip from your accommodation to KOTO restaurant is approximately \$5AUD.

How cold / warm will it be?

Vietnam's weather is quite diverse. During the time you would be travelling you can expect the weather to be hot & humid except for those areas sheltered by mountains.

How big is Vietnam?

The population of Vietnam is 88.78 million

What currency is used in Vietnam?

Name : Vietnamese dong
Symbol : VND\$

Changing Your Money

Changing foreign currency can be done at most banks. There are foreign-exchange booths at Melbourne Airport's international terminal and ANZ foreign Currency Exchange.

Money Tips

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

You may wish to look for a travel card. Australia Post has travel cards as do most banks.

Sample Price Guide

Budget breakfast	Pho (noodle soup) is cheap and everywhere for breakfast, but many Western options are available.	0.95 - 2.37
Budget lunch	Local Vietnamese specialties are cheapest	1.90 - 3.79
Budget dinner	Food at street stalls is cheap, but these prices are for sit-down restaurants	2.84 - 4.74
Bowl of pho soup	The most popular dish in the city, available everywhere around the clock	0.71 - 1.42
Fast food meal	Burger, fries, and soft drink at Lotteria chain	2.28

Source: <http://www.priceoftravel.com/>

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?

KOTO <http://www.koto.com.au>
Global Education Network <http://www.globaledunetwork.org/>
Tourism in Cedar Rapids <http://www.cedar-rapids.com/about/>
World Time Server <http://www.worldtimeserver.com/>
Universal Currency Converter <http://www.xe.com/>
Smartraveller Website <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au>