

SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SISEP)

Youth Member Information Guide



Scouts
AUSTRALIA





Scouts International Student Exchange Program (SISEP)

A Scouts Australia Publication

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Part A
Welcome

Welcome

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Scouts International Student Exchange Program (SISEP) is an educational and cultural exchange experience operated by Scouts Australia through Branch Coordinators.

It is not every day that a person has the opportunity to represent their country. Scouts Australia provides this opportunity through this program therefore it is imperative that the manner with which individuals conduct themselves when overseas is exemplary. Participants will be expected to act as ambassadors for their country by their attitudes and behaviours. They will share their knowledge and love of their own country and lifestyle by addressing Scout, school and family life in the host country. Similarly, they will also have opportunities to share their knowledge and experience of life in the host country on their return home.

It encourages international goodwill and understanding between Australia and other Scouting countries through the facilitation of an exchange experience for Venturer Scouts.

The Program enables Venturer Scouts to experience life in another country through:

- » Participating in local Scouting activities
- » Living with a local Scout family
- » Acting as an ambassador for their country
- » Attending school
- » The exchange environment will most likely be very different to that at home. Participants will be challenged through exposure to the different cultural values, customs, attitudes and ideologies of the host country, family and school. This will facilitate self-development and global understanding.
- » The Scouts International Student Exchange Program will provide a wonderful opportunity for both exchangees and hosts.
- » Anyone wanting to apply for this program must be a registered member of their Branch of the Scout Association of Australia, and be in good standing with the Association and meet the eligibility criteria listed below:

Welcome

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INBOUND AND OUTBOUND YOUTH MEMBERS

Applicants must be:

- » Registered and active members of the Scout Association
- » Have the support of their School, Venturer Unit, Scout Group and the approval of the local District Commissioner and the Regional Commissioner
- » Aged between 16 and 17 years at the time of travel and have been a Venturer Scout for at least 12 months before the exchange begins (exceptions to this need to be discussed with the National Coordinator SISEP)

Applicants are not required to be proficient in the language of the country they have applied to undertake the Program, however it is preferable that any applicants wishing to travel to Japan have at least a basic understanding of the written and spoken word.

The Scouts International Student Exchange Program is typically one of reciprocity.

Ideally, the family of an outgoing youth member will have hosted or be hosting an overseas Venturer undertaking the same Program. However, it is not essential that reciprocity take place. Consideration is given to families only wishing to host, and Venturers only wishing to travel!

Ideally, applicants will have:

- » A balanced and outgoing personality
- » The capability of being a good ambassador for Scouting and for Australia
- » Good communication and interpersonal skills
- » An active role in the local community in which they live
- » A high degree of maturity
- » An enquiring mind, with an interest in, and understanding of, local community, national and world issues
- » A proven knowledge of Australian history, geography, civics and current affairs
- » A strong family relationship
- » A sound academic record

Welcome

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- » The applicant's family must be prepared to accept all costs associated with participation in the Program. This includes travel (airfares, taxes,) and a contingent fee (includes travel insurance, scarves, woggle, badges and tapes, name bar).
- » Living expenses including accommodation and food are the responsibility of the host family, however applicants will need to supply their own spending money.
- » At the conclusion of the Program, Venturers going on exchange to Denmark will have 5 days in London, normally staying at Baden-Powell House. All costs associated with sightseeing and meals are the responsibility of the applicant.
- » Following selection, the youth member should enlist the support of the Venturer Unit and Group to assist with fund-raising towards the costs of participation.
- » A deposit of the participation fee is required to be paid into OLEMS before the advertised due date. Two additional instalments will be advertised at regular intervals in the year of departure.

HOW TO APPLY

Information on applications for the SISEP are available from the Scouts Australia International website <http://international.scouts.com.au/> Additional questions may be answered directly by contacting your local coordinator using the details below: Once you are ready to register, please use our On-Line Event Management System (OLEMS), following the instructions below.

Welcome

ON-LINE EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (OLEMS)

Scouts Australia uses a single national database to record applications to all international events. You may already be familiar with this system if you have been part of a National Contingent.

HOW TO REGISTER ON OLEMS

The OLEMS website can be accessed at <https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au> where the following login screen will appear:

Once you have completed the application, click on save and then submit. Print your application out and get it signed by your Group Leader who will then send it to your Branch Coordinator.

Login Information
Welcome to the Scouts Australia's International Events Online Activity Application System.

Before you can access the system you must create (and estimate) an account. For each event you attend you will need a separate account, if you do not have an account for the event you wish to attend please go to the Register New User section (see below or [click here](#)) and create your account. Once you have created your account (and activated it) log in and complete your actual application form.

Please note: Each Applicant must have a separate account, though the same email address can be used for multiple accounts.

An [Online Application Process Guide](#) is available for download and can be accessed by clicking on the following link. [Online Application Process Guide](#)

If you are experiencing any issues or have questions regarding the registration process please email the System Administrator: it.support@scouts.com.au

Any field labelled with an asterisk (*) is mandatory and you will not be able to proceed unless it is completed.

Log in

User Name [Forgot your password?](#)

Password [Forgot your User Name or Password?](#)

Obligations

OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH MEMBER AND THE YOUTH MEMBER'S FAMILY

Youth members going overseas are expected to:

- » Adhere to the Program rules, including those that relate to laws of the country, drugs and alcohol, school, smoking etc. These rules and laws will all be reiterated at the Orientation Day
- » Participants are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle or riding or being a passenger on any motorcycle or scooter
- » Adhere to the 'ground rules' of the Host Family
- » Attend school full time during the period of the exchange (special circumstances may arise during the visit where exceptions will be made)

The sending family is expected to:

- » Pay airfares, passport and visa costs (if applicable), medical and immunisation charges, a contingent fee (which covers name badge, scarves, woggle, tapes, insurance)
- » Provide the youth member with pocket money to cover 'day-to-day' expenses

OBLIGATIONS OF THE HOST FAMILY

The host family is expected to:

- » Provide a safe, secure and friendly family environment for the youth member
- » Greet and farewell the youth member at the airport (alternative arrangements may be made for a host family living outside metropolitan districts)
- » Arrange transport for the youth member to attend school
- » Facilitate the involvement of the youth member in Venturer Unit and Scout Group activities
- » More details are provided in the Host Family Information Guide. Please ask your Branch Coordinator if you would like a copy of this.

Obligations

OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

Scouts Australia through the Branch associations will provide on-going support to both the host family and the youth member at all stages of the Program. If you have any questions at any stage, please contact your SISEP Coordinator or your Branch Office.

CODE OF CONDUCT

For outbound participants, both you and your parents or guardians will be required to sign a Code of Conduct document in OLEMS when applying for the program. If you do not adhere to the Code of Conduct, after consultation with your host family, parents/guardians and Scouts Australia, it may be necessary to shorten your trip and you will be returned home at the expense of your parents/guardians.

Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| National Coordinator SISEP | int.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP ACT | act.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP NSW | nsw.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP QLD | sisep@scoutsqld.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP SA | sa.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP TAS | tas.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP VIC | vic.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| Branch Coordinator SISEP WA | wa.sisep@scouts.com.au |
| International Commissioner | int.comm@scouts.com.au |
| International Support | int.support@scouts.com.au |

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Part B

Timeline for Outgoing Youth Members

Timeline

TIMELINE, APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Each year, youth members will depart Australia in late November (usually the last Sunday) and arrive home mid-January. The duration of stay will be approximately 7 weeks, with youth members attending School during this period (there is a Christmas New Year break).

A registration form needs to be completed in OLEMS by 1st April of each year. Supporting documentation is also required. This can include a confidential reference, school principal report and medical statement.

Late applications **will not** be accepted. The completed form will provide the selection committee with a description of the Venturer Scout (including family, school and Scouting interests) and the Host country requested.

Interviews will be conducted in the April of the year of planned departure, and all applicants will be notified within two weeks of the outcome.

The interview is conducted by a panel of Scout personnel, comprising those who have a Venturer Scout background and/or are representatives of the Branch International Commissioner.

The interview is scheduled to last approximately half an hour, and will assess:

- » Appearance and presentation
- » Speech
- » Personality
- » General knowledge of national and world affairs, scouting and venturing
- » Personal achievements
- » Motivation for applying
- » Acceptance of the obligations and rules

Full uniform needs to be worn to the interview.

The Interview

THE INTERVIEW – POINTS FOR CLOSE ATTENTION

Below are some facts about Australia that you should be able to talk about at your interview:

Political System

- » Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, their political parties
- » Governor General. Who? His/her job
- » The Houses and their roles
- » Elections, who votes, how often
- » Canberra - its role
- » States and territories. What is the difference
- » Capital cities
- » Climate
- » Size: be able to compare to host country
- » Chief products and exports - agricultural and industrial
- » Republican debate
- » Mabo and native title. Treatment of Aborigines
- » Main trading partners

Physical

- » Land area
- » Distances and travel times, air, road, rail. The longest stretch of straight rail in the world - where
- » Road trains in the Northern Territory
- » Natural features: e.g. Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock, Lake Argyle, Lake Eyre, Great Dividing Range and the Snowy Mountain Scheme
- » National Parks: e.g. Kakadu
- » Fauna
- » Marsupials: What are they? Why unusual? Examples
- » Koalas - are they bears?
- » The platypus, emu. Some of the world's deadliest snakes!
- » Climate
- » Tremendous range from North to South. Seasonal variations

Your Home State

- » Size
- » Industries
- » Agriculture
- » Premier and Party. Opposition Leader and Party
- » Flora and fauna - far more specific than above
- » State emblems
- » Build and rivers
- » Outdoor activities - diversity
- » Points of interest for tourists

The Interview

Host Country

- » Be able to compare size, population, political system climate etc with Australia and your home State.

Scouting

- » Its organization, National and State. The Sections and ages
- » The Award Scheme
- » Venturing activities. (Major expeditions and what you have seen and done)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

Details of the successful applicants are forwarded to the preferred host country so that a host family, Scout group and school can be arranged.

Hosting details will be forwarded to the exchangee by the Branch Coordinator as soon as they are known.

If your application has been successful, you will receive a letter from the Branch Coordinator confirming you have been accepted into the program. They will also sign your application form and forward to your Branch Office.

Rules

SISEP RULES FOR YOUTH MEMBERS

On acceptance to the Program, the youth member is required to sign an agreement in which they agree to abide with the Program rules whilst on exchange (this is the Code of Conduct form you would have signed when you were applying for the program in OLEMS).

The rules are:

1. The youth member must attend a secondary school during the period of the exchange. Full participation is expected (special circumstances may arise during the visit where exceptions may be made).
2. The youth member must attend and participate in the activities of a Venturer Unit, or equivalent, during the period of Exchange.
3. The youth member must take with them an amount of spending money to cover special activities, souvenirs and discretionary expenses.
4. The youth member must respect the wishes and requests of the host parent(s). 'Ground rules' of the host family (for example, going out, school work, house duties) will be discussed upon arrival.
5. The youth member should not drive a motorised vehicle of any kind in a public area.
6. The youth member must obey the laws of the host country. This includes the consumption of alcoholic beverages in a public place or in licensed premises. The youth member must not possess, use, cultivate or manufacture any illegal drugs or prohibited or restricted substances.
7. Smoking of cigarettes or other similar substances is prohibited.
8. The Parents/Guardians of the youth member release and indemnify the host family, and Scouts Australia, its officers, leaders, agents and members against liability for any loss, property damage, personal injury or death, including any such liability which may arise out of the negligence of any such persons or entities, which may be suffered or claimed by the youth member as a result of their participation in the program, including travel to and from the host country.

Rules

9. The Parents/Guardians of the youth member authorise the host family and the Scout Association of the host country and of Scouts Australia in the event of any accident or illness occurring in connection with any activity associated with the program to obtain on the members behalf, and at the expense of the parents/guardians of the youth member, any medical treatment as may be considered by the host family and/or the Scout Association of the host country and of Scouts Australia. The parents/guardians of the youth member agree to pay any medical, hospital or other expenses incurred by the host family and/or the Scout Associations of the host country on their behalf.
10. The youth member is expected to act in accordance with the acknowledged principles of the Scout Association. Should the youth member detract from the said standard of behaviour, he/she may be returned home at the expense of their parents/guardians.
11. The youth member is to remain as part of the exchange under the host country and is not to travel to other destinations to visit family, friends etc. unless arranged with the National Coordinator SISEP prior to departure.
Please note these requests will not always be granted.

The background of the page is a vertical strip on the right side, featuring a dark blue base with wavy, organic shapes in shades of teal and light blue. Overlaid on this are several white silhouettes of people in various poses: one person is jumping or falling at the top right, another is playing a trumpet in the middle right, and others are in various seated or standing positions at the bottom right. The overall style is modern and artistic.

Part C

Preparation for
Your Trip

Preparation

PREPARATION

As we all know, the success of any trip away, especially an overseas trip, all comes down to the planning and preparation you undertake before you leave.

This section contains general information on the preparation that is required so you are ready to head off on your adventure!

Please refer to the FAQ's at the end of this section as this may answer some of your questions you or your parents may have. If you don't find the answer there, contact your Branch Coordinator SISEP as they are there to help.

WHAT TO PACK?

Below is a guideline for some items we suggest you pack:

- » Warm clothes
- » Thick socks
- » Thermals
- » Beanie
- » Gloves
- » Scarf
- » Layers for dressing
- » Hiking boots – good for cold, snow and wet conditions
- » Venturer Scout Record Book – Award scheme opportunities may arise

- » Power Adaptors – google the type you will need for the country you are visiting. There are also combo adaptors that may be handy if you are visiting more than one country i.e. United Kingdom and Denmark

UNIFORM

- » Check all the badges are in the correct place
- » Make sure your uniform is clean and ironed
- » Wear your Full uniform when departing and arriving at airport
- » Wear your Full uniform to Scouting functions with the SISEP scarf
- » 2 International and 1 SISEP scarf, name badge, uniform badge, SISEP tape will be given to you before you leave

LUGGAGE

- » Make sure you check the amount of luggage you can take on your flights. These details will be included on your itinerary from the Travel agent. Generally for economy flights it will be 1 piece of checked luggage i.e. 20kg. There is usually a restriction on what you can carry on to the flight – most airlines set this as 7kg
- » **Label** your luggage with your name and mobile number – perhaps tie a coloured ribbon around the handle to assist with easy identification at the luggage carousel

Preparation

POWDERS, LIQUIDS, AEROSOLS AND GELS

Most Australians are familiar with the restrictions on liquids, aerosols and gels in carry-on baggage for international travel. However, please be aware that new limits for powders have also been introduced recently under Australian law. These restrictions apply for all departures.

A summary of these requirements is listed below. Refer to the Home Affairs website for further details: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/travelsecure/carry-on-baggage/travelling-with-powders-liquids-aerosols-gels

Quantity Restrictions – Powders

- » There is no limit on organic powders, such as food and powdered baby formula
- » There are quantity restrictions on the amount of inorganic powder that can be carried, such as salt, talcum powder and sand
- » Inorganic powders must be in containers of 350 millilitres, 350 grams or less.
- » The total volume of inorganic powders must not exceed 350 millilitres or 350 grams per person
- » Passengers cannot tip powders out to fall under the 350ml threshold as the restriction is calculated on total container volume



Quantity Restrictions – Liquids, Aerosols and Gels

- » Liquid, aerosol or gel items must be in containers of 100 millilitres, 100 grams or less.
- » Containers must fit into one transparent and re-sealable plastic bag like a snap-lock sandwich bag.
- » The four sides of the bag's sealed area must add up to no more than 80 centimetres (e.g. 20x20 cm or 15x25 cm).
- » Only one bag is allowed per passenger

Preparation

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scouts Australia has a travel policy and the National Coordinator SISEP will arrange your travel insurance for you through the National Office. Details of the travel policy will be sent to you via your Branch Coordinator.

PASSPORT

- » Do you have a current Passport? **Check** that it is still valid and the expiry date is at least 6 months after you are due to return home.
- » When you are submitting your application into OLEMS, there is a section for you to enter your passport details. If you don't have a passport when you are starting your application, make sure you go back in and enter the details when you receive your passport.

DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT!

- » Keep your passport secure at ALL times. When you arrive at your host family's home, ask if they have a safe where you can store it or another secure location so you do not lose it while staying in their home.
- » Take a photocopy of your passport and pack this in your suitcase and leave a copy with your parents.

- » If your passport is lost or stolen, notify Australian Government, parents and your Branch Coordinator immediately.
- » Once you have your host family details, register your journey with DFAT at Smartraveller <https://dfat.gov.au/Travel/Pages/travel.aspx>

DO NOT FORGET TO ADD THIS REFERENCE NUMBER INTO OLEMS.

You will find the area to enter these details under the Travel Details Tab, scroll to the bottom to the Smart Traveller Registration area and enter the reference number in to the Trip Registration Number Box.

VISAS

For information on visa requirements, please refer to the link below:

<https://dfat.gov.au/travel/visas/Pages/visas-for-australians-travelling-overseas.aspx>

Your Branch Coordinator will also be happy to discuss visa applications with you.

Preparation

LONDON EXPERIENCE (ONLY FOR YOUTH MEMBERS GOING TO EUROPE)

- » You will be looked after by English leaders
- » You must stay in groups at all times
- » Do some research and perhaps put together a list of what you would like to see/do, but keep in mind that it will not be possible to see everything
- » Do not pre-book any tours before you leave Australia
- » Accommodation is usually provided at Baden-Powell House and the cost of this is paid within the contingent fees

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR FAMILY

- » Take an unlocked mobile phone with you
- » Consider purchasing a local SIM card on arrival
- » Turn off international roaming as it is very expensive
- » Wi-Fi is generally very available – use Messenger to text/call when in Wi-Fi range
- » Speak to your phone company about the best options based on the country you will be living in. Don't expect your hosts to allow you to make calls from their phone

MOBILE PHONES/DATA COSTS

- » Check with your mobile phone provider before you leave Australia so you fully understand the data costs you will be charged while overseas. They will be able to advise you on the most economical way to use your phone based on the country you are going to.
- » Below is a link to Telstra so you can check out some of their international roaming packages <https://www.telstra.com.au/international-roaming>
- » Youth members are encouraged to use Skype or Messenger (or similar) for making overseas calls as this will be a lot cheaper than using your mobile.
- » This will also eliminate having to use your Host Family's home phone and paying them for any calls you make.

Preparation

MONEY

- » How much money you take will come down to your family budget. As a starting point, perhaps \$100 per week would be sufficient depending on the country you are going to
- » Go into your local Bank and ask about getting a Travel Card. They will be able to assist you with setting this up and ensuring you have the correct currencies loaded on to it. They will also be able to explain to you how it can be topped up while you are overseas.
- » Also advise the Bank of your travel dates if you are going to get a credit card. They can then contact you if they notice any unusual transactions appearing on the card.
- » If you are going to London after your Home Stay, you will also need to allow money for this. Keep in mind that London is very expensive so perhaps you should set up a “budget” with your parents before you go so you don’t go above your daily allowance.

RESOURCES

- » Prepare a PowerPoint presentation (or similar) on Australia for use at school or Venturers
- » Try and get a Map of Oz and some brochures
- » Flag kit/Symbols of Oz of National Anthem – from local federal member
- » Also try Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- » Your Host Family will have lots of questions about where you are from so the above will be very useful

A TASTE OF HOME

- » Cook an Oz style meal for your hosts
- » Lamingtons, Pavlova, Anzac Biscuits (with small Oz flags on top), a main course of some sort, keep it simple
- » Plan out your menu and practise before you leave home! Remember, some ingredients could be expensive or hard to get, so have a backup plan!

Preparation

PHOTOS

- » Don’t forget to put together some photos of your family, friends, home, pets, local street scenes etc
- » Activities you participate in i.e. this could be with Scouts or a sporting group you belong to
- » Venturers – Photo of your hall and any fun activities you have been on with your unit
- » Your school
- » Have them all set up in a special folder on your tablet so you are all ready when you get there!

GIFTS

- » For host family
- » For school and scout friends
- » Share ideas
- » Remember you will be away at Christmas time

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- » Remember, this is a Cultural experience, not academic
- » Participate as much as you can, given the language barrier
- » Follow all rules and be respectful
- » Wear school dress code/uniform
- » Ask if you can assist in English classes at lower levels
- » Classes in Danish / Japanese - it is important to try and take part.

CONTACTING YOUR HOST FAMILY BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- » Make contact with them as soon as you find out who you will be staying with. They will already have information on you from your SISEP coordinator
- » Locate their address on Google Earth
- » Ask them about school arrangements i.e. is there a uniform, how you will get to and from the school
- » Ask them about attending Scouts while you are there
- » Find out age of children in the house and if there is a birthday while you are there
- » Ask if they have any pets? Don’t forget to put into your application if you have any pet allergies
- » Communicate any special needs that you may have e.g. medical or diet (although they will receive it on your profile)
- » While there, you are a family member so offer to help out where you can e.g. helping with the dishes. You should make your bed every day!
- » You may be asked to pay for extra activities or holidays so let your parents know so they can arrange for any extra money you may need

Preparation

AIRPORT – OUTBOUND STUDENTS | INBOUND STUDENTS

A Branch Coordinator (or their representative) will go to the airport in full uniform to welcome overseas youth members and also for their departure to assist with check in. They (or their representative) will also be at the airport for the departure of Australian youth to assist with their check in and also to welcome them back. Your host family will also be at the airport to pick you up and drop you off where possible.

In some cases it will be necessary for Branch Coordinators (or their representative) to assist with youth moving through other state's airports.

Coordinators are requested to ask host family members in the Scouting movement to also wear full scout uniform to the airport.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR HOST FAMILY'S HOME

Below are some suggestions for questions you may want to ask when you arrive. Some of these you may already know before you arrive if you have been in touch with your host family before your arrival: What do I call you? Mum, Dad or use of first names?

What am I expected to do in and about the house daily other than:

- ✓ Make my bed
- ✓ Keep my room tidy
- ✓ Cleaning the bathroom after use?

Bedroom

- » Do I need to purchase any coat hangers or are there enough for my use?
- » Where can I store my suitcases etc.?

Bathroom

- » What is the most convenient time for me to use the shower/bath?
- » Where may I keep my personal bathroom toiletries?

Meals/Kitchen

- » What are the meal times?
- » What can I do to assist at meal times:
 - » Set the table?
 - » Clean away after the meal?
 - » Help with the washing up?
 - » Pack the dishwasher?
 - » Dry the dishes?
 - » Put away the dishes?
 - » Empty the garbage bin?
- » At other times, may I help myself to food and drink (non-alcoholic) at any time?
- » What are the arrangements for lunch at school? If I take my lunch, do I make it or do you?

Laundry/Washing/Cleaning

- » What do I do with my dirty clothes until washing?
- » Do I need to do my own ironing?
- » May I use the washing machine or iron at any time and do I need to ask first?
- » Do you wish me to clean my room / change bed linen? When is convenient?

Settling In

Household Rules

- » Are there any areas of the house strictly private e.g. bar, office/study?
- » What times do I need to be out of bed on school mornings, weekends, during holidays?
- » What time is bedtime and “lights out”?
- » What are the rules for me going out at night during the week and the weekend?
- » What time should I be home at night? (Special occasions by special arrangements)
- » How often may I go out during the week?
- » Should I phone if I am going to be late home?
- » May I use the TV at any time?

Telephone/Internet

- » What are the rules about the use of the computer and internet? Do you have skype, or unlimited download time?

Schools and Transport

- » What is the method by which I get to and from school?
- » What forms of public transport are available to me?

Likes and Dislikes

- » Do you, as Host Parents, have any dislikes e.g. chewing gum, inappropriate dress at meal times, music being played too loudly?
- » Is there anything you would like me NOT to do?
- » What likes and dislikes do my host brothers/sisters have?

Family

- » What dates are the birthdays of my Host Parents and my Host brothers and sisters?
- » If we go out as a family, who pays such things as entrance fees, tickets, meals etc.?
- » Is there anything else you would like me to know?

Returning

AFTER YOU RETURN

You will be required to submit a report on your exchange experience.

- » This is Not negotiable – Reports are **due by the end of February**
- » Those in Japan present a report whilst still in Japan (share before presenting with your co-ordinator)
- » Keep a diary while you are away to help you remember what happened on your trip
- » The report should cover an overall view of your experience, make sure you include some photos!
- » Get it out of the way ASAP on your return home
- » Share your experience – make sure you apply for an International Explorer Award

We look forward to welcoming you in to the SISEP program soon!!

Country Factsheets



DENMARK FACTSHEET

Local Laws – Age Restrictions

Driving

- » You must be at least 17 years of age to drive in Denmark and have a full driving licence valid in your country of residence.
- » **Participants are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle or riding or being a passenger on any motorcycle or scooter**

Alcohol

- » You must be at least 16 years of age to buy alcohol at shops in Denmark and at least 17 years of age to buy alcohol in bars and restaurants. You must be at least 18 years of age to buy alcohol with a percentage higher than 16.5%.

Cigarettes

- » You must be at least 18 years of age to buy tobacco or cigarettes in Denmark.
- » Participants are prohibited from smoking of cigarettes or other similar substances.

Age of Consent

- » The age of consent in Denmark is 15 years of age. The mandatory age of consent if in a position of authority role is 18 years of age.

Child Protection Contacts

If there is an immediate threat to a child call the emergency call centre at 112.

If you or another child is the victim of Child Abuse (in particular Physical, Sexual or Grooming abuse), all reports of a Child Abuse nature are to be forwarded to Police by calling 114 or visiting the local Police Station.

If there is an immediate threat to you or another child, call the emergency call centre and if you or another youth member is the victim of Child Abuse, call the emergency call centre.

Country Factsheets



JAPAN FACTSHEET

Local Laws – Age Restrictions

Driving

- » You must be at least 18 years of age to drive in Japan.
- » **Participants are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle or riding or being a passenger on any motorcycle or scooter**

Alcohol

- » You must be at least 20 years of age to buy alcohol in Japan.

Cigarettes

- » You must be at least 20 years of age to buy tobacco or cigarettes in Japan.
- » Participants are prohibited from smoking of cigarettes or other similar substances.

Age of Consent

- » The age of consent in Japan is 13 years of age, however local prefectural laws do vary, up to 18 years of age.

Child Protection Contacts

If there is an immediate threat to a child, call the emergency call centre at 110.

If you or another child is the victim of Child Abuse (in particular Physical, Sexual or Grooming abuse), all reports of a Child Abuse nature should be forwarded to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department General Advisory Center (Non-emergency help hotline) on 03-3501-0110 (Weekdays 8:30 - 17:15) or visit the local Metropolitan Police Department.

If there is an immediate threat to you or another child, call the emergency call centre and if you or another youth member is the victim of Child Abuse, call the emergency call centre.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ'S

Is my country of choice guaranteed?

Once you have stated in your application your country of preference, your choice will be dependent on host families that are available in that country. Your Branch Coordinator will advise you if the country you wanted isn't available and will provide an alternative for you. You are under no obligation to continue with your application if you are not happy with this alternate country.

How do I check if I am eligible to apply to go on exchange?

If you meet the eligibility requirements listed in this Guide, then yes, you can apply.

Are there any language requirements?

You are not required to be proficient in the language of the country you have applied for to undertake the Program, however it is preferable that any applicants wishing to travel to Japan have at least a basic understanding of the written and spoken word, or have hosted a Japanese student.

Does my family have to host someone while I am away?

No, but in order for this program to be successful, host families in Australia are always needed. More information on becoming a Host Family is in our Host Family Information Guide. Please ask for a copy.

What will my host family be like and how are they selected?

For Inbound and Outbound Students, your application will be matched up with a host family's application to try and choose a family who will fit with you best. The Branch Coordinator will meet with you and your family and have a Skype meeting with families overseas to get a good idea of a potential family for you.

Can I go with a friend?

Yes, but there is no guarantee you will be located close to this person.

What support will I get while overseas?

Inbound and Outbound students will have regular calls with your Branch Coordinator. Your parents can also contact the Scouts Australia National Office or the International Commissioner of Australia at any time with any concerns they may have.

Can I speak to a former exchange student?

Of course! We are happy to connect you with one of our former exchange students that have participated in the program. They will be happy to share their experiences with you and can provide advice on all manner of detail regarding being an exchange student to your destination. This will often occur at your preparation meetings.

How to Deal with Homesickness?

It's human nature to experience "culture shock" and have some down days, even when you are in an exciting new country! So if you find yourself in the middle of a train station, crying on the phone to your mum, don't fret, its normal!

There are ways you can turn your trip into one filled with adventure and life long memories.

- » **Immerse yourself in the culture** – It may seem obvious, but actually focusing on where you are, and what an awesome opportunity it really is to be overseas can help you let go of any reservations.
- » **Give it some time** – you can't expect to go to a new and perhaps foreign place and expect to feel great straight away.
- » **Have faith in your abilities**, and just go for it. You won't regret it!!

What happens if I am having issues with my Host Family?

Your first contact should be the Branch Coordinator who will then contact your parents to discuss the problems you are having.

It is very easy when you are feeling homesick and unsettled to decide there is a problem and then call your parents at midnight and they are on the other side of the world and not able to help you. This isn't fair on you or your parents and will not make you feel any better. What usually happens is you go back to sleep after the phone call feeling a lot happier you have had the phone call and your parents lie awake all night worrying about you and wondering if they should be booking a ticket to fly over to see you!

Sometimes these calls home make you feel better and your parents will reassure you that it is ok to feel like you do.

If something has happened that you are not comfortable with, make sure you have all the details of what is happening very clear in your mind before you call. Sometimes it can just be a misunderstanding which you could sort out by yourself by talking to your host parents.

Remember, your host family do not want you to be unhappy in their home or with members of their family. The best course of action is always to approach them and talk it all out.

The background features a vibrant, abstract pattern of wavy, organic shapes in various shades of blue and green. Overlaid on this pattern are several white silhouettes of Scout-related activities: a Scout in a uniform on the left, a Scout performing a handstand in the center, a Scout playing a trumpet in the lower right, and a Scout with a bow and arrow on the far right. The overall aesthetic is modern and energetic.

SISEP
Youth Member
Information Guide
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