

NAPSA...Real Students, Real Benefits

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is a member organisation of the International Pharmacy Students' Federation (IPSF), and is a participant in worldwide pharmacy student initiatives, one of which is the Student Exchange Program.

What is student exchange?

Through the Student Exchange Programme, the International Pharmacy Students Federation (IPSF) works to increase opportunities for improvement in pharmacy education through facilitating students and young pharmacists to undertake international professional experiences in pharmacy. Currently, close to 50 associations in different countries throughout the world like NAPSA participate in SEP and over 500 international exchanges take place every year.

The aim of SEP is to promote understanding and cooperation amongst pharmacy students and all health care professionals. The exchange program offers a unique educational and cultural experience in addition to the regular pharmaceutical knowledge. It also helps to broaden the students' understanding of pharmaceutical and social conditions in different countries.

The programme runs throughout the year, but most exchanges take place between May and September. Each exchange is from one to three months in length. Students may select from work sites in retail, hospital, industrial and university based pharmacy settings. Room and board are usually provided by the host; some countries also provide a small amount of pocket money. Travel expenses and insurance are the responsibility of the student.

NAPSA members can get involved in student exchange by hosting an overseas student on exchange or by applying to go on exchange to another country.

GOING ON EXCHANGE

When can I go on exchange, can I fit it into a placement or university holidays?

The timing of your exchange depends upon when people in the country you are going to can host you. You will need to speak to your university to determine if your student exchange can count towards placement.

What do I have to pay for to go on exchange?

This depends largely on which country you are travelling to. You are responsible for covering your airfares, travel insurance and having enough spending money to cover other expenses such as board. You also need to

work in with your host country in regards to visa arrangements and pay the appropriate fees.

HOSTING A STUDENT

What do I have to do with my student?

Every Student exchange differs and therefore it is up to both you and the visiting student as to what you do throughout their visit. Some things which you should consider before applying to host a student are as follows.

- Assisting your visitor to find suitable transport to and from work (whether this be personal transport or local busses etc).
- Introducing your student to peers and friends through social events etc
- Showing your visitor around your city - introducing them to Australia

How long will the student be living with me?

The average length of an exchange is 6 to 8 weeks and it is up to you to nominate the length you are able to host a student for. Preferably the student will be with you for their entire exchange but it is also an option for them to be hosted by multiple households on their exchange.

Do the students pay board?

The international student will be asked to pay \$55 a week board to cover the cost of food etc to the hosting household. This board will be paid upfront.

Do I have to find the student a place to work?

Your local NAPSA Branch exchange officer in conjunction with the NAPSA IPSF Chair will organise where the student will work for the duration of their stay and the hosts with which the exchange student will stay with.

Do I get to pick who I would like to host for exchange?

You are able to indicate which country, age, sex etc you would prefer for the student you are to host. You will also be given information on the student prior to the exchange.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

- Visit the IPSF Committee section of the NAPSA website for Fact Sheets for Going on Exchange, Hosting an Exchange Student or for Host Pharmacies at www.napsa.org.au or
- talk your Local Branch Exchange Officer [Insert Name and Email address] or
- email the NAPSA Chair of IPSF at sep@napsa.org.au