Vacation Travel Programmes, Frequently Asked Questions 2018-19

Can all students take part in Your Global Experience vacation programmes?

Yes! While not all trips are open to everyone, anyone should be able to find a trip available to them; this includes all undergraduates and postgraduates. Please note that there may be some visa restrictions for certain nationalities travelling to our destinations. Please come and talk to us if you think this may be an issue.

Can final year students take part in vacation programmes?

Yes! Even if you are in your final year there are still trips that you can participate in.

What is included in the cost of each Global Experiences vacation programme?

Each trip differs in what is included in the cost. Generally however, accommodation and all scheduled activities are covered. For our trips to India, Malaysia and China, most meals are also included in the price, but this is not the case for our trips to Europe or the United States.

What isn't included in the fee?

- Flights (please see below)
- Injections and medication: This will vary depending on which country option you choose. Participants should visit a travel clinic or nurse for advice before travelling. Many required injections are free of charge from your GP.
- Spending money for shopping, weekends and free time.
- Visa: You will need to complete your own visa application
- Travel to and from the UK departure airport

How much are the group flights?

Group flights are only provided for our long-haul trips outside of Europe and this cost differs by location. The following prices are estimates for the 2019 trips:

- Explore China with Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) - £700-£900
- Discover India with Manipal University - £600-£800
- Experience Asia in Malaysia - £650-£850

These costs may change but this will be communicated clearly.

What happens with flights if I am travelling from another country?

For some programmes you may choose to book your own flight for logistical reasons if you are flying from another country prior to the beginning of the programme. You must tell a member of the team; we will need your flight information so that arrangements can be made with our partners. You will be given the group flight information and you should arrive at the airport before/at the same time the group arrives and leave after/at the same time as the group departs. You may face additional costs to cover the individual arrangements made regarding your airport collections.
Do I need to pay a deposit?

To confirm your place on any of our trips, you will need to pay a £100 deposit which is refundable within a 7 day window. All of our trips have limited places. Information on how to pay your deposit will be communicated when you apply for a specific programme.

Can I get financial support?

You can read about the funding available to you on our website.

Will I need a visa?

You will need a visa when travelling on a number of our programmes. If you are a UK citizen however, you will likely not need a visa when travelling to Malaysia or any of our programmes in Europe.

Visas are not included in the programme fee. Information about obtaining a visa can be found at https://statravel.thevisamachine.com/. The initial price that is given at this website includes the company’s service fee. You can see a breakdown of the cost, which will tell you how much a visa for that country will cost if you do not go via STA Travel.

For non-UK students, visa information may differ depending on nationality, so you must do your own research to ensure that you have the correct documentation to enter your chosen country. If you have any issues please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to provide extensive visa support. We can however provide invitation letters and other supporting documents if this is required with your visa. Please email globalexperiences@lancaster.ac.uk.

How will I benefit from these trips?

The experience gained by going abroad with us can be used to demonstrate skills required for the Lancaster Award. Additionally, experience of overseas travel can help you develop many work skills that employers are looking for. After your trip, you will be invited to an employability session where you will learn how to express your new skills on your CV and in interview settings.

What sort of food can I expect to be eating?

As part of your Global Experience, you will be able to try new food and immerse yourself in the local cuisine. There is always a choice of meals so you should be able to find something you enjoy, but be prepared to try all sorts of new tastes.

I have dietary requirements, will this impact my experience?

Whilst some countries have a mainly meat diet, there are vegetarian and vegan options in all of the countries we visit. Likewise with any allergies, just make sure you let us know so we can help you find the food you can eat and inform the staff accompanying you on the trip.

I identify as LGBTQ+, will this affect my experience?

Every student has the opportunity for a Global Experience, but as with any trip to a different country you should be aware of different laws and cultural attitudes. Some countries to which our programmes visit criminalise members of the LGBTQ+ community, therefore, please ensure you have an understanding of the country’s laws and culture. We recommend you visit http://www.stonewall.org.uk/global-workplace-briefings for more information about what to expect.