

## **FAQ's**

The following are answers to some typical questions and concerns our applicants (and their parents!) have. If your particular concern is not answered here, and you need the information in order to decide to apply, please contact the Internship Coordinator and she will be pleased to help you!

Note: Once students are accepted, they receive an Acceptance Package designed to address many more detailed questions that only become relevant at that point (eg. packing list, visa information, etc). This page is not designed to answer those types of questions, but if you really need those answers before you apply, you may connect with the Internship Coordinator.

### **Program**

#### **What do you believe?**

ISM is a ministry of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. You can read our Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths [here](#).

#### **Is this a for-credit course that will count toward my university/college/seminary program?**

ISM is not an official school, and does not offer a for-credit program. However, we do meet the requirements for most university/college/seminary internships. If you are looking to complete an internship for your school, let us know, and we'll be happy to work with you!

#### **What language do they speak there and how will I manage if I don't speak it?**

In Thailand, the national language is called Thai. All students participate in a three-hour language class during their first week of school to learn enough language to introduce themselves and speak to a taxi driver.

If your internship is in a different country, your host will help you learn enough of the basics to do your work and get around safely.

If you are interning for six months or longer, we recommend you take at least one month of language school, but this can be discussed after you are accepted to the program.

The language barrier is a real part of serving as a mid- to long-term global worker. Allowing yourself to experience it, and process and learn from it, can be one of the most impactful growing experiences in your faith and your character.

#### **Will I have Internet access?**

Yes, all of our internship locations have Internet access. It may not be the best quality, or available 24/7, but it is possible to stay connected through email (and usually Skype or Facetime!) with people back home.

## **Personal Safety**

### **Am I in danger from political unrest?**

There is very little risk to anyone due to political unrest. We do not send students to politically volatile locations, and we liaise with our host ministries regarding any issues in the news we hear of, to understand better what is actually happening. Western news reports often play up the "drama," misrepresenting the level of danger to locals.

We do encourage all students to register with their governments as Citizens Abroad for the duration of their trip. In the event of a disaster, the government will know you are there and evacuate you, if necessary. This has never happened, and registration is optional, but it is recommended.

### **Will I ever be left alone?**

Students are never to be out on their own during the training session in Bangkok. Part of the ISM training program includes helping students learn to use taxis and other forms of public transportation successfully.

On your internship, your ministry host will provide you with specific safety instructions for your area.

### **How secure is my housing?**

Housing during the training session is at the local YWAM base. It is locked nightly and staffed 24/7. Each of the rooms we rent has a door with a lock. We have never had security troubles here.

Internship housing varies greatly depending upon the location of your internship. We work closely with the host ministry to ensure that your housing is safe, affordable, and reasonable for your situation.

### **How can my family reach me in an emergency?**

Your family will be able to reach you through email. You will also have a local cell phone number, and they can use it to reach you through texting or calling.

### **What should I expect at school?**

During the weekdays, you will be in class from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Each day begins with prayer and is followed by a wide variety of lessons taught by seasoned missionaries from a variety of organizations. Hands-on training is also a regular part of the program. There are a variety of evening events, as well.

**What should I expect on the weekends?** Saturdays include a variety of fun tourist adventures, for an additional cost (covered by your living allowance). These include a trip to the beach, the weekend market, and some other tourist adventures. On Sundays, you will attend church and other volunteer activities with ISM.

**What are the extra expenses?**

Your fundraising budget will cover all necessary expenses. However, if you wish to purchase souvenirs or eat expensive food, you should plan to bring extra personal spending money.

**What is the food in Bangkok like? T**

Thai food is flavourful and often spicy. It is served in small portions and almost always with rice. Main dishes include fish, pork or chicken. If you are a vegetarian, you will need to pick the meat out of your food at school. You should also be aware if you ask for vegetarian dishes at restaurants and on the street, they will still likely include fish/ oyster sauce and egg. Part of living cross-culturally means adapting your lifestyle to honour and respect those you are coming to serve, and unless there are medical dangers involved, it is wise to approach your diet as 'flexible' while you are overseas. There are corner stores all over that offer a variety of snack foods and drinks for much cheaper than Western prices.

**How do I keep clean?** Washing machines and showers are available at the YWAM base. In many areas, including Bangkok, you will be able to use Western toilets. However, in more rural areas, you may need to use squatty potties. Note that you should not depend upon washrooms being stocked with toilet paper; it is safest to carry your own with you. Toilet paper is usually thrown out, not flushed. Non-flushing toilets are "flushed" by using a small bucket to pour water into the bowl.

**How do I stay healthy?** Make sure you are up-to-date on all childhood immunizations. Check with your doctor to find out what vaccinations they would recommend, and use your discretion. Japanese Encephalitis and Malaria are not necessary. If you have a medical emergency, you will likely return to Bangkok from wherever you are serving. Please bring enough of any prescription medications and health supplements you will need to last for your entire time in South East Asia. ISM requires that you have overseas medical insurance.

**How can I contact my family?** During your in-class phase, WiFi is available at YWAM. The fee is included in the housing fee. There are many places to find internet around Bangkok, too, from Internet cafes to coffee shops. Once you leave Bangkok for your internship phase, you may have more difficulty accessing the Internet. If you have an unlocked (unlocked, 2G or 3G) cell phone, bring it with you. ISM also has several phones you can borrow while in Bangkok. Either way, ISM will have a SIM card ready for you to use while in Bangkok. Pay-as-you-go top-ups are easily available at any 7-11. If you are serving outside of Bangkok, you will need to talk to your host about cell phones and SIM cards. If you do not have Skype yet, it is worth downloading. It allows for free Skype-to-Skype calls, and is also a very cheap way to phone landlines around the world.