

Alternative Animation Placement Cambodia

Challenges Abroad Australia - RMIT Partnership

- **Duration:** 3 week placement
- **Placement Location:** Battambang, Cambodia
- **Dates:** January 13th – February 3rd 2018
- **Project Days:** Monday – Friday (weekends free to travel and explore)
- **Program Cost:** \$2250
- **Optional Extension:** 1 week overland tour of Cambodia

Background Information

Students will be working in the Peak Ek community, a commune spanning northwards from Battambang city. This area is not exposed to tourism. It is a low-income area with most families working in agriculture and living in traditional wooden stilt houses, often with several generations under one roof.

Within this area we work in partnership with a number of local organisations including NGO's, government schools, supplementary education facilities, health clinics and Buddhist Monasteries.

In Cambodia, government primary schools operate a shift system, with students only studying for half of the day, (either in the morning or the afternoon). Many of the teachers we support have been trained in outdated pedagogy with majority of classes being simply rote-learning with limited use of extra-curricular activities. Our aim is to provide a holistic education that includes engaging and fun activities that enable children to find a medium to express themselves and develop their creativity.

Students on this program will have the opportunity to share their passion for creative media with disadvantaged children.

Program Description and Objectives

Through their volunteer activities, RMIT students will have the opportunity to teach children about animation, focusing on drawing skills and stop-start animation. Students will focus on providing engaging, fun and interactive lessons that will engross children and teachers, breaking the cycle of rote-learning and providing them with a new medium to express themselves and tell their stories.

The long term objectives of this program are to:

- Foster creativity and inquisitive learning within our partner schools, improving the rate of attendance and enthusiasm for learning
- Enhance the English language skills of local staff and students
- Ensure that there is mutual benefit and mutual learning for the local community and RMIT student participants

Program Structure

Students will be provided a week by week schedule, including topics to prepare, roughly 1 month before the program.

RMIT students will undertake their volunteer experience in both government schools and supplementary education centres to:

- Lead low-fi animation and media workshop classes
- Get hands on and help with facilities upgrades
- Organise a showcase of their own and Cambodian student's work for their families and community members

Benefit to Students

- Develop your portfolio in a meaningful way
- Enhance your professional and personal skills
- Be inspired! Immerse yourself in another culture and a community untouched by tourism
- Contribute to CAA's community development strategy

Cost Inclusions for Students

- ✓ Preparatory briefing materials
- ✓ Pre departure session
- ✓ Most meals (3 per day during the week)
- ✓ All in-country transfers
- ✓ All accommodation (weekend accommodation optional- students usually opt to travel)
- ✓ In-country 24/7 support
- ✓ Safe, structured travel program

Cost Exclusions for Students?

- ✗ Flights
- ✗ Vaccinations- seek your own medical advice
- ✗ Travel Insurance - provided by RMIT Global Mobility

- ✕ Visa
- ✕ Optional Travel Week – at end of program
- ✕ Weekend Meals & Accommodation (if students choose to travel elsewhere)

Optional Travel Week (runs at end of program)

Optional Travel Week: \$800 [Saturday to Friday]

Cost includes: All transport, 6 nights' accommodation, meals and guide.

- Extend your trip and take part in an amazing tour of Cambodia. Your journey starts in Phnom Penh where you will explore Toul Sleng, the Killing Fields and the Royal Palace. You will have a chance to see Irrawaddy dolphins and trek across stunning Cambodian scenery discovering elephants, waterfalls and much more along the way. Your trip finishes in Siem Reap where you can fly home or continue your travels.
- A minimum of five students is required to run this travel week.

Support for Students

Pre-departure Support

- Each participant will receive a welcome pack via email once they pay their deposit to CAA.
- They will also have a dedicated CAA rep to support them prior to their departure
- Each participant will receive a detailed briefing pack with information about the country they are visiting and their project 4-6 weeks before departure
- Comprehensive Briefing by CAA including information on preparing to depart, project detail including objectives and expectations of students

In-Country Support

- The local management team will support students throughout the entire program beginning by being met on arrival at the airport and dropped back there for their departure flights
- Accommodation and meals will be arranged to provide students an opportunity to experience the local culture and life while being safe and secure
- Each student will receive a comprehensive induction and orientation to give them an understanding of the country, its culture, their tasks and objectives, the overall itinerary and importantly about remaining safe and healthy.
- Through a process of weekly reviews and debriefs, the students will be guided and supported to ensure maximum results and learning for all

Post Program Reflection Process

- Exit interview in country and completed review document
- On their return participants will have a debrief session to reflect on the overall learning and mutual benefits of this experience.
- Through CAA's online questionnaire provide CAA with feedback to ensure our mutual objectives and aims for the program have been met.