Frequently Asked Questions

I’ve heard the name Study Tour…what does it actually mean?

A study tour is an opportunity for a group with common interests to visit a destination or location together to focus on that area of interest. Participants will have an opportunity to learn, understand and view different experiences, approaches and solutions relevant to their field of study at Box Hill Institute.

A group of students from the Centre for Biotechnology and Animal Sciences at Box Hill Institute will join together to travel and participate on a two week study tour program in the UK. Box Hill Institute aims to link students in with industry partners in both locations and plans for the participants to attend workshops, and several classes during the program. Visits to animal hospitals, animal shelters, pet centres and a visit to the UK Wolf Conservation centre are also activities we are hoping to include in the program. Students will also have the opportunity to enjoy local activities, such as Buckingham Palace and the horse guards just to name a few. The study tour will offer a global perspective on the animal sciences industry and will provide a unique opportunity for Diploma and Certificate IV students to network and establish key links to the UK Veterinary Nursing industry. Where possible, this program will link into a training unit of competency, and on completion of projects, students may gain credit for their participation.

Study tours at Box Hill Institute are short, jam packed and offer lots of learning experiences for our students to step outside their usual routine…what they do, what they eat…who they meet…what they see.

So how does this Study Tour work?

We are planning for students participating in the study tour to complete the program in approximately two weeks.

With a study tour program, all students travel to their destination/s and return on the same flights together as a group. Travel arrangements are made for the whole group by Box Hill Institute.

Accommodation will be arranged at one location at any destination and the group will all stay together at that address. Accommodation will be budget style, shared accommodation to keep participant cost down as far as possible. Frequently accommodation changes each day as the group move from one location to the next.

Box Hill Institute is planning for students to spend time in a classroom environment as well as taking part in practical workshops where available. An opportunity to network and establish some key links with the UK Animal Sciences industry will be one of the study tour outcomes.
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A formal presentation of project work completed as an outcome of the study tour will be made at Box Hill Institute when the study tour concludes, all students will be required to participate. **This is a requirement of the scholarship.**

What BHI courses do students have to be enrolled in to apply?

- Diploma of Veterinary Nursing (General Practice)
- Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
- Certificate IV Companion Animal Studies

Is a Study Tour right for me?

- Am I adaptable?
- Am I flexible?
- Can I deal with uncertainty?
- Am I resourceful?
- Am I interested in meeting new people?
- Am I interested in other cultures?
- Am I open-minded?
- Am I physically fit and healthy?
- Do I have clear and realistic goals/objectives for this experience?

If you have answered yes to these questions, then participating in a study tour may be right for you! It is important for you to take **responsibility** for the **success** of your participation. Having **realistic expectations** plays a big part in how enjoyable this experience will be.

I’m an International student at Box Hill Institute – can I still apply?

Eligible applicants from Box Hill Institute must be 18+ years of age and **Permanent Residents** of **Australia** or **Australian citizens**. The aim of the program is to give local students an opportunity for an international exchange opportunity.

Is there any funding available to assist with the costs?

This program is being funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the VET Outbound Mobility Program. Ten selected Box Hill Institute students will access travel scholarships to put towards flight/accommodation expenses. Box Hill Institute will also be investing in the study tour, covering travel insurance for all participants, covering costs for staff to accompany the group, negotiating the itinerary and planning and conducting pre-departure programs for the group. Box Hill Institute will also assist you to seek industry sponsorship or support where possible, providing information to employers and assisting with written letters.

In our experience, employers, local businesses and RTOs (Registered Training Organisations) are often interested in supporting students to participate in exchanges, either through approving annual leave or making a financial contribution to assist with student expenses. It is worth spending some time writing letters to seek sponsorship, and having conversations with everyone about your intention to go on an exchange.
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Participants will be responsible for costs not covered by any scholarships. The actual costs of a study tour will depend on a number of factors, some which you will personally select yourself. These include meals, entertainment activities, and things like shopping, souvenirs and non mandatory activities – those which you choose to do as part of your participation. Estimates are available at information sessions or you may like to discuss your personal situation with the International Exchange Coordinator in the Study Abroad Office.

Who else is going to be there?

There will be up to two staff from Box Hill Institute who will lead the study tour to the UK. Students will spend some time meeting and working with staff to plan their project prior to travel.

Prior to departure from Melbourne, you will have a number of opportunities to meet with the other students in the group from Box Hill Institute. We may also have a networking site available for you to share information with the other students prior to and during the program. We will get you set up with access and show you how it works before you travel if you are not familiar with this sort of site.

Where is everyone staying?

We are looking at budget accommodation options for our group for the study tour. This will probably be hotel or hostel style accommodation. We are looking at twin-share and triple share arrangements – any options to keep the costs down.

All Box Hill Institute students will stay at the same location for the study tour. Students will not be allowed to make their own accommodation arrangements to stay with friends, relatives or with other providers. Accommodation arrangements will be confirmed closer to the departure date, and you can decide if you want to share with one or two others, and who they will be. Reservations will be made for the BHI group by the Study Abroad Office liaising with our travel agents to ensure we receive the most competitive price available.

When will I get to meet everyone?

The Box Hill Institute group will get to know each other during the mandatory pre-departure sessions arranged before travel. These are usually held over at least two or three separate evenings. Some groups like to arrange an additional get together, for example, have a meal together prior to departure.

Can I book my own flight and accommodation?

All participants joining the Box Hill Institute team will travel as a group from Melbourne on the same flights, both outbound and also for the return journey. The group will stay in the same accommodation which has been reserved by Box Hill Institute. There are no exceptions to this arrangement.

Travel and accommodation bookings will be coordinated for the group through the Study Abroad Office.
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Up to two Box Hill Institute staff members will accompany the group for travel, cultural activities and site visits throughout the program.

Can I extend my stay in the UK after the study tour program finishes?

All Box Hill Institute participants will return on the designated flight to Melbourne at the conclusion of the study tour program.

Do I need a visa?

Students will enter the UK as a tourist and will not require a student/other visa to participate in the study tour."Additional visa requirements may apply if you are a permanent resident.

What about Travel Insurance?

All Box Hill Institute students participating in a Student exchange will automatically receive travel insurance. Students are responsible for the costs of medical treatment resulting from a pre-existing medical condition. Depending on your own personal circumstances, you may choose to purchase additional travel insurance cover.

What will the weather be like?

September/October is early autumn in the UK and it is quite difficult to predict the weather. You could still have some mild temperatures during the day but the evenings could get chilly and the likelihood for rain is quite high.

Will I need text books or any other study materials?

We suggest you take items such as writing materials and paper with you for the program. You may also need to consider taking additional resources if you are completing a project. This may include reference material or a memory stick to save files or photos, a laptop computer if available, or camera for recording project information. These items will be discussed at pre-departure sessions and will vary depending on individual student projects.

Should I bring a laptop computer?

If you have a laptop computer at home, you may like to bring it with you. You may find it useful to complete any project requirements as well as keeping in contact with your family and friends via the internet. There may be opportunities for students to also access computers at internet cafes, or even at the accommodation.

What’s the cheapest way to keep in contact with home?

Internet or phone cards can be some of the less expensive ways to keep in contact with family and friends at home.

Changing Your Money

Changing foreign currency can be done at most banks prior to travel. There are also foreign-exchange booths at Melbourne Airport (prior to your departure from home) in the international terminal.
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Money Tips
Credit cards (particularly Visa and MasterCard) are widely accepted, and ATMs all over Europe accept credit and Cirrus cards. Confirm the best option for you with your own bank prior to departure from Melbourne.

Emergency contacts
Study Abroad and Scholarship Coordinator
Academic Affairs
Tel: 61 3 9286 9601
Email: gen@boxhill.edu.au

Any useful links?
Box Hill Institute http://www.boxhill.edu.au
World Time Server http://www.worldtimeserver.com/
Universal Currency Converter http://www.xe.com/
Smartraveller Website http://www.smartraveller.gov.au
UK Tourism http://visitbritain.com

* If you are a permanent resident of Australia special visa requirements may apply to you. It is your responsibility to check this based on your circumstance.