



Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Beyond Queenslea Drive Exchange Program

What is the aim of the program?

Christ Church Grammar School offers the opportunity to students in the first three terms of Year 10 to be immersed in school environments in other parts of the world. The intent of the program is to provide an international experience for our students. The boys experience a unique opportunity to become part of another culture and another school community. As well as gaining friends overseas, the boys gain a personal sense of growth and improved international awareness. The Exchange Program is seen as an important addition to our special learning environment for boys at Christ Church.

How does the program work?

The program is a very simple one: students attend another school for a period of time – anything between four and 10 weeks – and fully immerse themselves in the life of that school. Students may be boarders or live with host families for this time (or in some cases a mixture of both).

Do I have to host a visiting exchange student?

A condition of engagement in this program is that participating Christ Church families will host returning exchange students from our partner schools at some point during the school year – obviously at a time when their son is at school. This hosting period again may vary between four weeks and the length of one of our school Terms (10 weeks).

The exchange is reciprocal, so in agreeing to take part in the program, a family is agreeing to host a student in return. In the event that a school does not provide a reciprocal visit, a participant may be asked to host a student from a different school.

Any family of a boy hosting overseas students requires both the parents and any person/s living in the home over the age of 18 years (at the time of the hosting) to have a Working with Children card.

If you already have a WWC card (that has not expired), there is no requirement for you to apply for the volunteer one, but we do need a **copy** of your current card emailed/scanned (make sure it is clear) or posted to Mrs J Hudson, Executive Assistant to Mr Neil Sagers, Exchange Co-ordinator as proof.

You can obtain a WWC form from Mrs Hudson by emailing her at jhudson@ccgs.wa.edu.au and she will post the forms to parents who are hosting who do not have a WWC card. A volunteer WWC parent will be required to pay a fee of \$11, which will be reimbursed by the school into your school account as a **credit** for each person hosting.

Where do students undertake an exchange?

Christ Church currently organises exchanges with schools in England, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the United States, as well as language immersion programs in France, Japan and China. We continue to be open to new opportunities as they arise and will seek to develop new relationships with additional exchange schools.

How long is an exchange period?

Most exchanges are for approximately six weeks, while exchanges in the UK and South Africa are generally one term (ten weeks).

How many students are allocated to a school?

Boys are generally sent in pairs and travel together. This provides a level of support while travelling and at the destination.

Will boys be affected at school?

The exchange experience is a valued school-based activity and a key part of Year 10. Boys may find that they need to work hard on returning to Christ Church to catch up on work missed. Boys take their devices with them and stay in touch with current teachers and classes. Many exchanges do include some or all the April, July or October holidays.

What costs are involved?

The cost to participating families is in travel and incidentals, as the fees are considered reciprocal with our partner schools. For a Christ Church parent, fees continue to be paid to Christ Church for the period of time that the student is away. Neither Christ Church nor the host schools will exchange tuition or residential fees.

What are families of exchange students responsible for?

The family of exchange students will be responsible for:

- the cost of travel to and from the host country
- booking airfares for their son and registering with the airline
- pocket money for incidental expenditure
- the cost of any pre-arranged school camps or trips, where applicable

What is the host family responsible for when hosting a student?

The host family will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the exchange visitor is collected at the airport and returned there at the end of his stay
- providing daily requirements for the visiting student such as accommodation, all meals, travel to and from school
- providing the visitor with opportunities to visit places of interest and offering a positive experience in the host country

Are exchange students covered by travel insurance?

Exchange students are appropriately covered by the school's corporate insurance policy as provided by the underwriter, *Grange Insurance Solutions Pty Ltd*, while they are on exchange overseas in our Beyond Queenslea Drive exchange program. There is a small excess charged for overseas insurance.

Which overseas schools are part of the BQD program?

We continue to be open to new opportunities as they arise and will seek to develop new relationships with additional exchange schools in the future. Currently our exchange schools include:

- **United Kingdom**
Tonbridge School, Brighton College

- **South Africa**
Kearsney College, Bishop's Diocesan College, Michaelhouse, and St John's College
- **USA**
St Christopher's School (Richmond, VA); Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville, TN) and St Mark's School (Southborough, MA)
- **New Zealand**
St Paul's Collegiate School (Hamilton), Scots College (Wellington)
- **France**
Saint-Jean & La Croix (language immersion positions)
- **China**
Beijing Huijia Private School (language immersion positions)
- **Japan**
Hotoku Gakuen (language immersion positions)
- **Canada**
Upper Canada College

When are exchange allocations confirmed?

Most exchange allocations are confirmed by the end of November. The allocation of an exchange school will be dependent on the host schools accepting an exchange arrangement for the following year. The reciprocal nature of the Exchange Program requires our partner schools to select candidates who would like to attend Christ Church as an exchange student. This may take several months to finalise, as schools will need to advertise, receive applications and obtain a short-list of candidates. Schools in the UK, USA and Canada commence a new school year in September and usually take a while after the start of their year to confirm a final exchange arrangement.

How do students apply for the BQD program?

Applications for the Exchange Program will be open in early September and an information session for Year 9 boys will be conducted at the Co-curricular Information Session on a Friday afternoon.

The parents of interested Year 9 boys will receive documents outlining the Exchange Program and inviting any interested boys to submit an *Expression of Interest* form by Friday of the third week of September.

Boarders are welcome to apply. If a boarder is a successful applicant, Christ Church will assist by providing boarding accommodation during school time. The family may be asked to take the exchange student out during breaks or weekends where possible.

Submission of an application is taken as an agreement with the terms of the exchange and a willingness to host an incoming exchange student.

How will students be selected for exchange?

All applications will be reviewed, and input will be sought from Heads of House in selecting applicants. Applicants will be selected on their good character and standing within the School. Based on the feedback received from the Heads of House, a short list of exchange students for the year will be finalised. The successful applicants will be informed as soon as possible after the conclusion of the review process.

Can students indicate preferences for exchange schools?

The *Expression of Interest* form offers applicants the chance to name preferences for exchange destinations. The School will attempt to accommodate preferences when making allocations and exchange preferences will be negotiated with applicants. Where those preferences cannot be met, the School reserves the right to suggest alternatives.

What arrangements will be made by the School?

Christ Church Grammar School will:

- endeavour to make the best possible match for host and exchange students
- co-ordinate the overall program and ensure that positions are available at the host schools
- welcome the visiting students
- provide a suitable timetable for visiting students and integrate them fully as students at Christ Church
- accept ultimate responsibility for the exchange student. Principals at either school have the right to terminate the exchange and send the student home at the parents' expense for any major infringement of rules or breach of expectations
- provide boarding where applicable
- make Christ Church expectations clear to the host school. All visitors will bring and wear their own school uniform. Where no uniform is worn, exchange students must comply with their school dress code and apply common sense

What will the School not do?

- the school will not take responsibility for any bookings or flights
- provide exchange students with a *cash-free card* for the canteen. Exchange students will be given the option of paying with vouchers
- make academic assessments of visitors. While they will attend classes, they will not be formally assessed or reported on

Neil Saggars

Director of Activities & BQD Exchange Co-ordinator