

IIFA Volunteering 2008

Frequently asked questions

The answers to most frequently asked questions are below. Don't forget to also look at the website: www.leedsmet.ac.uk/iffa and if you are still unsure about something please email us as iffa2008@leedsmet.ac.uk

Questions

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Answers

Who can apply?

Current Leeds Met students and Regional University Network students can apply. Leeds Met graduates can also apply. All members of Leeds Met staff on a contract can also apply

How do I apply?

When we're ready to recruit we'll put application forms and guidance notes for applying on the website for you to download.

After the deadline for application forms we'll make a shortlist of volunteers to invite to an interview. We'll let you know a day or so after your interview about whether you've been successful.

What if my application isn't successful?

If you are turned down at interview stage, we'll keep you on a back up list in case anyone drops out.

What happens if I get accepted then change my mind?

Try and find out as much as you can before you apply so that you are certain you want to go at that stage. If you are successful in the interview we'll give you a two week period to get the paperwork back to us and to pay for the trip. If you change your mind during this two week period there shouldn't be a problem although, the sooner we know, the better so we can offer the place to someone else. **We will not book your ticket until we have your paperwork and your fee.** If you change your mind after this period then you will lose the money you have paid up until that point. It's always best to speak to us if you have any concerns at any point. This way, we can help you to make decisions before you lose any money.

If you have not returned your paperwork and paid the fee by the cooling off deadline we will not book your flight ticket (tickets are non-refundable or transferable) and we will offer the place to someone else.

How much does it cost and what's included?

We will endeavour to get the lowest possible price. We add up the cost of flights, transfers, accommodation, reasonable living expenses and local transport. We then divide this by two and the volunteer pays half and the uni pays half. This is why we can't give an exact price until nearer the time although we do our best to give a good guesstimate.

The following things aren't included: travel insurance, spending money, cost of any independent travel. Sometimes it works out better if volunteers pay for their own food or local transport and then reclaim half the costs retrospectively but we'll let you know well in advance.

Will we get to do any site-seeing?

Yes. There will be some time for site-seeing and cultural activities incorporated into the trip. There may also be the option for volunteers to return home a bit later and squeeze in some independent travel.

Is it really hard work?

Yes it can be but it is also extremely rewarding!!! Each volunteer's experience is different. For some, the days are long and might be mentally tiring, for others the work is more physically demanding, sometimes the conditions (like the temperature) make it hard work. For most of the volunteers there will be some degree of culture shock and in most cases volunteer work or at least the training starts after a long journey! So yes, it's certainly not a holiday but we're sure you'll rise to the challenge!!

Do I need to get travel insurance?

Students – it is a requirement of the trip that you get insurance, adequate for your volunteering time and all independent travel associated with the trip. We can give you some websites to get you started.

Staff – the Leeds Met travel insurance policy will cover the time you are volunteering and your journey. If you opt to add on some time for independent travel, you will need to get your own travel insurance

Can I have a team hoodie or t-shirt?

Yes, all volunteers will be given a t-shirt that they will be expected to wear whilst they are volunteering. A hoodie will probably be provided for travel.

Can I do some independent travel after the volunteering?

Yes it is likely that there will be the option of a later return date so that you can travel after your volunteering. Please note that if you opt for a later return, you must plan and fund that extra time yourself.

What support will I receive when I'm out there?

There will be a designated team leader from Leeds Met. This person will have helped to plan the volunteering programme. You'll have the chance to get to know them before you go. In addition staff from Wizcraft the events company for who you are working will be there to support you. There will also be volunteers who will take on a supervisory role too, we call them "big brothers" or "big sisters" and they'll be a good source of support if you need it. And finally, at least one person from the team back in the office in Leeds will be on call 24/7 should you (or your next of kin) need to contact us in an emergency.

What training will I receive?

There will be a team briefing with information about your host organisation and practicalities e.g. what to take. Before you travel and there will be compulsory training days (when you arrive in Bangkok) where you can get to know Wizcraft, your team, team leader and what is expected of you during the volunteering.

Why is the university being so generous?

Part of Leeds Met's ethos is that every student and member of staff has an "international experience". On top of that we are passionate about volunteering both locally and abroad and about creating pioneering partnerships like the one with Wizcraft and the IIFAs.

Can I claim points towards my Global Citizen Award?

Yes, if you're not sure what this is, have a look at www.leedsmet.ac.uk/gca but in short it's a way of getting recognition for your extra learning, cross-cultural and civic activity during your time at Leeds Met.

Isn't air travel bad for the environment?

Yes, it's one of the most polluting forms of travel! We do recognise the fact that despite all their good work, the travel done by our volunteers is bad for the environment. For this reason we ask volunteers to take part in the "green challenge" to try and reduce their "carbon footprint".

If you have any other questions please contact us:

lifa2008@leedsmet.ac.uk