

Q. How many volunteers are needed to form a group?

Our groups consist normally of between 3 to 10 volunteers. We find 6 to 8 volunteers to be the ideal size.

Q. What period of the year are your Outreach Projects carried out?

Our projects can be arranged for any time of the year. Most of our participants tend to apply for the summer months of June, July and August, so if your group is wanting to come during this period you will need to apply early.

Q. Are there any forms to be filled out prior to coming to Vietnam?

To participate on one of our Outreach projects, we will need you to fill in a number of forms. These forms will be sent to you on request. There is a standard application form which is to provide us with your personal details, as well as some other volunteer contract forms.

Q. Will we need any vaccinations prior to arriving in Vietnam?

There are a number of vaccinations that you will need before you come to Vietnam. You should discuss this matter with your travel consultant, personal physician, or travel vaccination centre to determine what is best for you and also to check on the latest developments in Vietnam.

Q. Can we arrange our own accommodation and meals?

Each year we receive requests from dental volunteers asking if they can arrange their own accommodation and food but unfortunately this is not possible, not only because we have very strict guidelines, set by local governments, which we must follow, but also because it is very important to know where our volunteers are and where and what they are eating. Your health and safety is our greatest concern, as it not only affects you but also your patients.

Q. Can we volunteer if we are only students and if so, will we have supervision?

Those volunteers who are still students will carry out their dental aid work under the supervision of an experienced, licensed dentist. We will provide a qualified dentist to supervise each project, offering advice when and where needed. As well as this, we also highly recommend that our groups try to bring their own experienced, licensed dentist with them as well, to help avoid any misunderstandings with interpreters, but we understand that this is not always possible.

Q. Do we need to bring any medication with us for in the case of a needle stick injury? Does the foundation provide any necessary protection and medication if these situations arise?

We require that you bring the necessary protection or medication for in the case of a needle stick incident. If such an incident occurs, you will be brought to a hospital for treatment but it is always better if you have this kit on hand as well.

Q. Do you have a contact address which we can give to our elective advisor?

For contact purposes, please use the following:

Joy Degenhardt  
127/38/11 Ni Su Huynh Lien, Phuong 10  
Tan Binh, Tp Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam  
Telephone: 84-983-680208

Q. Our university will need proof of our participation on this project. Will this be provided?

Each volunteer will receive a certificate of participation on completion of one of our projects. As well as this, a letter of your participation will be provided for this purpose which you can give to your university.

Q. What sort of accommodation will we be staying in during our project?

Hotels used during our projects are all of a very good standard, and include air-conditioning, satellite television (with at least 2 box-office movie stations in English), minibar in room, hot and cold water, laundry service, shower, safe-deposit box, high speed internet, etc.

Q. Is Vietnam safe for tourists?

Vietnam is very safe for tourists. Even though the Vietnamese people are not so good with English, they are generally very friendly and hospitable. There will always be at least one of our staff with you at all times who can help you with translations or anything else that you need. Everyone has mobile phones here so if you need to call anyone, you can do this easily. You can even bring your own mobile phone with you to keep in contact with your family, friends, as well as each other if need be, and to make calling cheaper you can even buy a Vietnamese prepaid sim card to install in your phone so you call at Vietnamese rates. In the case that family, school officials or friends need to contact you while you are in Vietnam, we will provide you with the full contact details of our office in Ho Chi Minh City as well as for one or more of our staff members who will be accompanying you on your project.

Crime is very low in Vietnam but if you are to be subject to a crime then theft is probably the most likely to occur. If you are careful, you will have no problems, but, of course, if you have valuables and you leave them lying about, you will face the same chance of theft as in any country.

8. How will we be travelling while on our project?

You will travel by air-conditioned van or car throughout your project.

9. Are there medical services available if need be?

There are general hospitals as well as medical clinics available in every province we work in.

10. I realize that we spend most of the day from breakfast till dinner with you, which is for our safety. Whilst staying at the hotel, who would be our main contact if anything were to go wrong? If our University needs to get in touch with you, or with us, whilst we are abroad who would be the contact from your company?

There will always be one of our staff with you, or readily available, in the case that you need to contact someone or need to be contacted. Our staff members will also be sharing the same

hotels as you. All contact details will be passed on to you before you leave your country of origin.

11. I have heard that Vietnam can be subjected to tropical storms. What is the chance that we will be caught up in a tropical storm or other natural disaster?

Vietnam is sometimes subject to tropical storms and typhoons but there is very little chance that such storms will affect you or your project. If working in Central Vietnam between September and November, there is slightly more chance that this may occur, but these storms can be seen coming for a number of days before they strike and can easily be avoided.