

HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is HOPE here to serve?

HOPE International School was established in 2002 to support world mission by providing quality, Christ-centered education for children of international Christian workers in Cambodia.

There are over 400 students from over 30 countries at HOPE. While the majority of the students are Christian, students of other faith backgrounds are also represented in the student body.

What nationalities are represented among the teaching staff?

Currently, we have teachers from the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Korea, Singapore and Zimbabwe.

What are the requirements for teachers at HOPE?

We require teachers to have:

- a Bachelor of Education or equivalent for all Preschool and Primary teaching positions
- a Bachelors Degree in the subject to be taught plus a Postgraduate qualification in Education for all Secondary teaching positions
- Hold a certification or teaching licence as appropriate

In addition to the above requirements, HOPE requires that its teachers are committed Christians in agreement with HOPE's statement of faith and are fluent in English, which is the language of instruction at HOPE.

What curriculum is taught at HOPE?

An Internationalised version of the British curriculum is followed throughout the Primary and Middle school. The Curriculum is objective led, based on clearly defined, progressive learning objectives. Our programs promote both cooperative and independent learning.

For Years 9 and 10, we use the Cambridge International programme of study for IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) and for Years 11 and 12, we use the IB (International Baccalaureate)

Who is HOPE affiliated with and/or accredited by?

HOPE is accredited by Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). HOPE is a licensed as a Cambridge International Examinations Centre and certified to offer the International Baccalaureate.

Would I have to go through a sending mission or church to come teach at HOPE?

HOPE does expect teaching staff to be supported spiritually and financially through a mission organization or home church. This provides a 'safety net' of prayer, encouragement and financial support from the teacher's home country that HOPE cannot provide. Some of the missions that are part of our governing body or that have current HOPE staff members are:

Assemblies of God (AoG)
Christian Missionary Society (CMS)
Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF)
Interserve
SIL (affiliated with Wycliff)
Pioneers
TeachBeyond
Serving in mission (SIM)
Cambodia Action

If you have a mission or church that you would like to partner with to come teach at HOPE, please contact us, as we are always looking to expand our mission partnerships.

Does HOPE provide any financial assistance?

HOPE provides teachers with a monthly living allowance which is sufficient to cover housing, utilities, day to day travel, food and other monthly expenses. Some support raising may be required to meet your standard of living. If you are being sent through a mission organization, they will have their own rules and guidelines for how much support you will need to raise and you need to discuss this with them.

Allowance amounts from HOPE are as follows:

Single Teacher: \$1010 per month

Married couple with no children, only one person teaches: \$1150 per month

Married couple with no children, both teaching: \$1890 per month

Family with children, only one person teaches: \$1290 + approx. \$250per child per month*

Family with children and both teaching: \$2030 +approx. \$250per child per month*

*paid for the oldest 2 children

The base salary increases by \$25 per month upon completion of a 2-year commitment. The child allowance is only paid for a maximum of two children.

In addition to this monthly living allowance, HOPE provides children of teachers with tuition discounts for the first 3 children, prorated on the amount of time the parent serves at HOPE. For full-time staff, a 100% discount is given. The staff member is responsible for 25% of the capital fees for the first 2 children.

Work permits, Visas and health insurance will also be covered by HOPE and after completing one year of service HOPE will contribute toward approved professional development up to \$1000 USD per year (upon Director's approval)

Airfares for the staff member only will be covered after the completion of each two year period.

What might my living/housing situation be like?

Locating and securing housing is yours and your missions responsibility, although the school helps where possible or needed. Most HOPE teachers do live in housing close by the school.

Be sure to find out what types of appliances and furnishings will be in your house/flat as “furnished” can mean a wide variety of things and “unfurnished” can mean that there are no appliances whatsoever.

Having a worker help with cleaning and/or cooking is your decision (and that of your housemates if you have them) to make but is very normal in Cambodia and affordable.

What clothing is most appropriate for teaching at HOPE and for Cambodia in general?

From a cultural/geographical standpoint:

Because the average daily temperature in Cambodia is 35 degrees C/95 degrees F with high humidity, cotton tends to be the most comfortable as it 'breathes' better than polyester

The Cambodian culture is fairly conservative with regards to dress for women so that means no skirts above the knee and no clothing that reveals your tummy area.

There are 2 rainy seasons...the short rains in March and the long rains in June - October. You will want to either bring an umbrella or plan on getting one once here.

From a professional standpoint, acceptable attire at school consists of:

- Skirts and dresses to the knee or longer
- Loose trousers (but not jeans)
- Covered shoulders (no spaghetti straps or tank tops)
- No tops that are revealing when you bend over in class
- No shorts unless teaching PE

How can my friends and family back home stay in touch with me? Will I have access to the internet at HOPE?

Letters and parcels:

Teachers can send and receive mail via the HOPE post office box. .

Email:

You will be set up with a HOPE email address and will have access to the internet although we ask that you do not download large files or use Skype/social media during the school day. We recommend that all staff bring a lap top with them to use whilst serving at HOPE.

Telephone:

Most teachers buy themselves mobile phones as soon as they arrive or bring a phone with them that is unlocked. You can register and buy sim cards easily and prepaid cards can be purchased at shops all over Cambodia. Many of our staff use Skype or Facetime to stay in touch with home.

How would I get around during the school year?

You have several options available for local transport:

Your own two feet – although everything is not within walking distance, but a bicycle is very inexpensive to purchase and is an easy way to get to and from school and to the market.

Public transport via ‘moto’ (motorbike with a driver) or ‘tuk tuk’ – this is an easy way for getting around town during the daytime although some drivers are not always cautious in their style of driving!

Buses are available for long distance travel within Cambodia and to neighboring countries.

Purchase a vehicle – if you are here long term, you might want to consider buying your own vehicle. Be prepared to pay higher prices than you might at home because of import duties that are added into the sales cost.

There is a quite a gap in price between fairly new second-hand vehicles (US\$10,000-20,000) and older second-hand vehicles (US\$6000-10,000) which, while cheaper, may have maintenance issues.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact us!