

## 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 Christian workers in Cambodia.

There are over 370 students from over 30 countries at HOPE. While many of the students are from Christian families, students of other faith backgrounds are also represented in the student body.

### **What nationalities are represented among the teaching staff?**

Currently, we have staff from the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Korea, Kenya, Singapore, Finland, Indonesia, South Africa, Philippines, and Mexico.

### **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 Bachelor's Degree in the subject to be taught plus a Postgraduate qualification in Education for all Secondary teaching positions
- Hold a certification or teaching license 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 and a Criminal Background Check from your passport country including working with children clearance.

### **What curriculum is taught at HOPE?**

An Internationalized 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 Grades 9 and 10, we use the Cambridge International programme of study for IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) and for Grades 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 licensed as a Cambridge International Examinations Center and certified to offer the International Baccalaureate.

## **Would I have to go through a sending mission organization or church to come work at HOPE?**

While you do not have to be sent by an organization or church, HOPE does encourage 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 sometimes HOPE may not be able to 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 staff with a monthly living allowance which is sufficient to cover housing, utilities, day to day travel, food and other monthly expenses. Of course, individuals have different spending habits and this should be taken into consideration when developing your budget. Some support raising may be required to meet your standard of living. If you are being sent through a mission organization, they often have their own rules and guidelines for how much support you will need to raise.

The approximate allowance from HOPE are as follows and may be prorated based on the time served:

Single Teacher: \$1040 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. \$250 per child per month\*,  
\*paid for the oldest 2 children.

Family with children and both teaching: \$2030 + approx. \$250 per child per month\* \*paid for the oldest 2 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 but prorated on the amount of time served at HOPE. After completing one year of service HOPE will contribute toward approved professional development up to \$1000 USD per year (upon Director's approval).

Airfare allowance for the staff member only will be provided 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 to 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 house helper 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 also 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.

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:

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

Email:

ICT will be set up with a HOPE email address and you will have access to the internet. We recommend that all staff bring their own laptop.

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 the airport or shops all over Cambodia. Many of our staff use Facetime and other media 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, a bicycle is very inexpensive to purchase and is an easy way to get to and from school and to the market or get your own moto.

Public transport via ‘moto’ (motorbike with a driver) or ‘tuk tuk’ or rickshaw – 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 and Taxis 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 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!