



AVI

inviting change



**CONNECT.
EXPLORE.
DISCOVER.**



AVI Student Programs

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



MATTERS

A photograph of two women smiling warmly. The woman on the right is wearing a blue headscarf and a red patterned shawl, laughing joyfully. The woman on the left is wearing a patterned shawl and has her arm around the other woman's shoulder. The background is a textured wall.

We live in a world where globalisation and technology continue to close distance between continents and countries. At AVI, we believe overseas experience is essential to ensure your students develop the knowledge, skills and awareness to thrive in a global workforce.

Overseas experience helps your students gain a unique perspective in their chosen field of expertise, develop cross-cultural awareness and become career-ready global citizens.

Volunteering overseas not only benefits your students, it benefits your university and more broadly, our society.

PARTNERING FOR STUDENT MOBILITY

AVI provides a highly customisable, faculty-led student mobility service for universities. We work with you to develop a fit-for-purpose program that ensures your students engage in a fully immersive cultural experience and gain academic credit (where applicable), while also providing peace of mind they are supported by robust safety and security mechanisms.

Engaging with local partners, we ensure your program is culturally appropriate and supports existing community initiatives, leading to ethical, sustainable development outcomes.

Through our extensive network of government, corporate, non-government, community-based and civil society partner organisations across the Indo-Pacific region, AVI is able to meet your academic requirements and provide an extraordinary, real world learning experience for your students.

We know organising student mobility programs takes time and for some universities, academics are organising this in addition to their academic workload. AVI relieves you of this administrative burden and ensures each student is prepared for and supported throughout the placement experience.

Our expertise in program promotion, recruitment, mobilisation, cross-culture preparedness, in-country management and return home debriefing of volunteers means we are uniquely positioned to develop bespoke student

mobility programs to suit a variety of university needs.

There are many providers offering student mobility services, however an un-regulated industry has seen a steady rise of volunteer tourism or 'voluntourism' operators. These organisations do not have the same level of security and safeguarding AVI provides.

Indeed, partnering with a 'voluntourism' provider may lead to the growth of practices and institutions that do harm in developing countries. As a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), you can rest assured AVI meets the highest standards of quality in the development sector.

This means your program will be experience rich, ethical and contribute to long-term sustainability.

I think cross-cultural experience helps people become more empathetic and have a broader world view.

Gemma Bakehouse
Bachelor of Science
Macquarie University

I think it's important for universities to offer these programs to students because in-country experience is unbeatable. You can study material thoroughly in a typically academic way, and you'll never develop the same solidified understanding as you receive in-country.

Eva van Dijk
Bachelor of Arts - Asian Studies
The University of Melbourne

A photograph of two young women in a traditional kitchen. One woman, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a bright blue patterned sarong, is sitting on the floor and stirring a large, dark, thick mixture in a metal pan over a fire. The other woman, wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants, is sitting on the floor next to her, also stirring the mixture. The kitchen has a tiled counter with a decorative pattern, a wooden door in the background, and various kitchen items like pots and a broom. The lighting is warm and natural.

By partnering with AVI, your students will contribute to meaningful change by tackling some of the most challenging social issues facing our planet today.

It's super important for AVI to guide us to work in locally led organisations because that's where the biggest impact happens. It's so much more effective and sustainable because it's not other people projecting what they think should happen. It's completely coming from the ground up.

Darcy Brumpton
Bachelor of Arts,
The University of Melbourne

OUR TRACK RECORD

With almost 70 years' experience recruiting and mobilising Australian volunteers to 89 developing countries, AVI (formerly Australian Volunteers International) is a global leader in Responsible International Volunteering for Development.

Since 1951, we have safely sent more than 15,000 volunteers to strengthen the capacity of more than 3,000 local partner organisations around the world.

Managing numerous government and other donor contracts, including DFAT's Australian Volunteers Program, AVI is widely recognised as a trusted implementing partner with the networks, experience and relationships to build partnerships that work.

AVI has developed student mobility programs for some of Australia's leading academic institutions. Since officially launching its Student Programs offering in 2009, AVI has sent thousands of university students to 13 countries to take part in short-term assignments, producing career-ready professionals and responsible global citizens.

AVI has a track record of mobilising thousands of volunteers all across the regions we wanted to operate in. They have absolutely impeccable risk management frameworks and processes and partners of integrity. We knew we could be sure the work students were contributing to in partnership with local community-based organisations was actually meeting community needs.

Lindie Clark
Academic & Programs Director, PACE International
Macquarie University

STUDENT MOBILITY SERVICES

University funding application support

AVI has a comprehensive understanding of federal government funding initiatives for the Australian Higher Education sector, such as New Colombo Plan, and can provide support to strengthen your application.

Project Design and Development

AVI works closely with the university and host organisation in-country to design projects for students that are safe, achievable and have strong sustainable outcomes.

Recruitment and Selection

AVI can advertise projects and facilitate the selection process, liaising with the university on academic suitability and eligibility of students. The university and AVI work together to select successful applicants.

Pre-Departure Briefing

AVI's experienced learning and development professionals develop and deliver a pre-departure workshop in consultation with the university.

Mobilisation

AVI works with the university to ensure all participants complete medical clearances, police checks, Working With Children Checks and appropriate visa requirements.

In-country Orientation

AVI's in-country orientation program includes information regarding country-specific health advice, living and working cross-culturally, safety and security briefings and where required, introductory language lessons.

Program Support

AVI provides ongoing program support through in-country and Melbourne-based staff. An experienced AVI team member is on call 24/7 whilst students are in-country.

Returned Volunteer Re-Entry Briefing

AVI is an industry leader in its support for those returning from international placements. We develop and provide customised re-entry workshops with universities to ensure students are able to re-integrate into their community and maximise all benefits gained from their international assignment.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

AVI ensures projects are delivered on time and within budget through continuous monitoring and communication with partners. Data collection activities are conducted before, during and after project implementation, with periodic summary reports provided to the university.



SYSTEMS AND FRAMEWORKS



We host an online portal for students, which streamlines the application and mobilisation process, and enables easy and regular reporting, reducing your overall workload.

We work transparently with partner organisations and the university to establish the budget well in advance, so costs are understood by you and your students. AVI is not affiliated with any commercial tour companies seeking to gain commercially from student experiences.

We understand that while there is a benefit for partner organisations hosting students, there are also associated costs. Our partner organisations dedicate valuable time, effort and resources into facilitating meaningful student experiences. As part of AVI's ethical practice, we ensure partner organisations are fairly reimbursed for project-related costs.

AVI understands that price can create a barrier for students accessing outbound mobility programs. For this reason we work hard to keep costs as low as possible, without compromising on safety, quality and ethics.

Working with AVI has been really great. They prepared us with documents about the country, potential culture shock, how to deal with being away from home. The pre-departure briefing was really good. It made me feel the trip was really happening!

Darcy Brumpton
Bachelor of Arts
The University of Melbourne

WE TAKE SECURITY SERIOUSLY

AVI has decades of experience mitigating risk, managing security issues/incidents and responding to medical emergencies. We know how to keep your students safe in complex international settings.

We take a pro-active approach to risk management, including development of contemporary country security plans, in-country risk assessments and personal safety plans for students.

We are experienced in managing critical incidents in line with university protocols, response plans and escalation hierarchies. This includes ensuring clear and accurate communication with university staff, students and insurance providers during any event, incident or emergency.

We also provide additional safeguards including the provision of 24/7 on-call support for any medical, psycho-social or logistical emergencies.

Students are further prepared for their international experience by participating in a pre-departure briefing delivered by AVI's experienced team.

With a highly experienced team in Melbourne and on the ground, you can rest assured every student receives the support they need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I know as the academic deliverer of this subject that the students are being taken care of by someone from AVI and by a local partner organisation. If something goes wrong, they know exactly who to call.

***Dr Elizabeth Lakey
Academic Coordinator
Work Integrated Learning
Faculty of Arts, The University of Melbourne***

POLICIES THAT PROTECT



Often, good intentions can have unintended negative consequences for developing communities and many international student mobility programs can do more harm than good.

AVI is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards and delivers best practice in international development as demonstrated through our membership with ACFID, Re-Think Orphanages and leadership in the International Forum for Volunteering in Development.

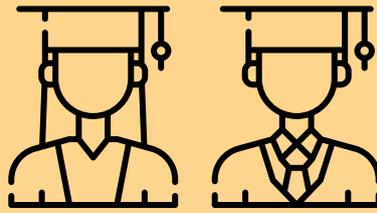
AVI has strong policies and practices in place regarding safety and security, child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, anti-corruption and fraud and diversity and inclusion.

All students are provided with a pre-departure briefing and in-country orientation to ensure compliance and understanding.

By partnering with AVI you can ensure your students experience a responsible, community-based learning opportunity.

Because of AVI's years of experience delivering international volunteering programs, we were confident they had the systems and processes in place to ensure our students were safe in-country and received a quality experience. With AVI, Macquarie has mobilised almost one thousand students and, in that time, we have not had one significant security incident occur.

***Dr Allison Simons
Associate Director, PACE International
Macquarie University***



2000+ STUDENTS

sent overseas to



13
countries:

Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Nepal, Philippines, Vanuatu, Vietnam
to volunteer with



60+

local partner organisations



In areas including:

Gender, Disability Inclusion, Climate Change, Community Development, Research, Monitoring & Evaluation, Youth, Conservation, Advocacy, Child Rights, Human Rights, Education, Health



Using skills from studies including:

Law, Marketing and Communications, Arts, Engineering, Science, Health, Social Science, Environment, Conservation, Business

Tangible skills students have gained from student mobility that link to creating career-ready people include communication, cross-cultural understanding, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and innovation, self-management, planning and organising

Interested in learning more?

Get in touch today at
StudentProgramsInfo@avi.org.au

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