

2018 OVERSEAS STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In 2018 PLC Sydney is offering up to 81 subsidised exchange places to the following countries:

- Brazil (4 – 5)
- China (3 - 4)
- Denmark (up to 10)
- England: three schools: Bristol (2), Lancaster (3-4) and Isle of Man (2)
- France (6 - 8)
- Germany (6 - 8)
- Hong Kong (2 - 3)
- Italy (6 - 8)
- Japan (8 - 10)
- New Zealand (3 - 4)
- Scotland (2)
- South Africa (2- 3)
- The Netherlands (2)
- Vietnam (3 - 4)

Our Overseas Student Exchange Program offers **two** types of exchange:

1. **Language Exchanges** where students may have studied the relevant language and will be, or intend, *continuing* with this language in Year 11, and
2. **Cultural Exchanges**, where language study is not a prerequisite.

Funding

The Overseas Student Exchange Program is generously subsidised by the PLC Sydney Foundation. Parents are required to make a co-contribution to the costs of the program (including airfare and costs for hosting an exchange student, as well as providing spending money for their daughter during her stay abroad.) A list of parent co-contributions for each country appears on pages 7-9 of this document.

As a general rule, the airline tickets we purchase are non-refundable. This gives us the best possible price, thereby keeping to a minimum the cost of the exchange to our families. Please keep this in mind in the event your daughter is successful with her application and subsequently withdraws from the exchange after the airline tickets have been purchased. Please purchase travel insurance as quickly as possible.

Notes to Assist With Application Preparation

1. Please complete the **Overseas Student Exchange Cover Sheet** (attached) and submit with your application. The Cover Sheet will include the (a) **Statement of Permission from Parents**, and (b) **Student Details** including the overseas schools nominated, in order of preference, (c) **Child Protection Certification number** (see pre-requisite 7 on page 4).
2. The Cover Sheet and Student Application **should** be accompanied by a copy of the student's current passport. **All girls travelling to any exchange destination will require a current passport valid for at least six (6) months after the date of their return to Australia.** Please see Important Passport and Visa Information on page 5.

The requirements of the applicant are twofold:

1. **A signed Statement of Parental Permission from the applicant's parents on the Overseas Student Exchange Cover Sheet.**

This statement will give permission for your daughter to participate in the Exchange program should she be one of the successful applicants. As the program is a reciprocal exchange, the statement will also indicate the family's commitment to host an exchange student for the full duration of the exchange sister's stay in Sydney.

Special note for boarders: Parents of boarders must be aware that they have a responsibility to accommodate any incoming exchange 'sister' during school holidays and on some weekends during term time. It is an expectation that a boarder's parents will be in a position to show hospitality to the 'sister' even though the girl will be staying in the boarding house with their daughter.

Note: See note on page 4 regarding the Japanese exchange.

2. **A well-constructed and thorough Letter of Application from the student**

This should include information stating the student's involvement and general contribution to PLC Sydney. The applicant's letter must give reasons for wanting to go on exchange and should include any other information that she thinks might assist in the selection process. Poorly constructed paperwork will considerably disadvantage an application. This document should **not** be more than two (2) pages in length.

All application material must be lodged by **Monday 26 February, 2018.**

Please hand in your application to the office of Mrs Suellen White, Director of International Studies (Level 1 of the Freda Whitlam Building C - off the Science Courtyard);

or submit online via:

<https://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/microsites/global-education/international-exchange/how-to-apply>.

Some Conditioning Considerations

While there is some flexibility in exchange timings, this is not absolute. It can only be achieved in negotiations with partner schools.

Students undertaking Cambridge subjects may need to accept a shorter exchange period or a destination other than their highest preferences. Some options are not available to some Cambridge students due to the timing of the examination in November. Unavailable countries are the three

schools in England and Scotland. Exchanges to Brazil and Denmark will mean the students will be away just prior to the exams and exchange with South Africa will mean hosting while studying for exams. Global Perspective students are unaffected.

Shortened exchange periods may be necessary for students wanting to go to France and China. A separate, special arrangement will be made for Cambridge schools such as Japan, The Netherlands and Vietnam.

We cannot guarantee that all dietary preferences can be accommodated in all exchange destinations. PLC Sydney cannot oblige a host family to meet your requests.

This may limit your opportunities when considering exchange.

Selection Process

- All application material must be lodged by **Monday 26 February, 2018**.
- All applicants will undergo an interview process:
 - **Individual** interview with Mrs Chiba, Mrs White, Ms Nichols and Mrs Mophew.
- The final selection of exchange students and their destination will be made by the Principal on the recommendation of the interview committee. Selection will be on the basis of the student's letter of application and interview, and the overall contribution of the student to the life of the College. Thought will be given to the ability of the student to represent our College in another country. Consideration of the compatibility of the school with the individual student is also a significant factor.
- Students applying for Language Exchanges will be selected differently from students applying for a Cultural Exchange.
- Students are permitted to indicate their areas of interest for exchange destinations but the school will make its decision based on knowledge of the student and the destination school.

Pre-requisites

All participants must comply with the following pre-requisites:

1. All school fees must be fully paid and up-to-date.
2. Each PLC Sydney exchange student **must** host her exchange 'sister' for the **full duration** of her stay in Sydney.
3. Girls selected for exchange to Japan **must offer homestay** to the Japanese exchange students during the year. The girls from our sister school in Japan are away from their homes and families for a whole year. Therefore, it is essential that they are hosted by our families, as a break from the boarding house environment, and when the boarding house is closed, i.e. during the boarders' free weekends and the longer vacation times. The usual expectation is that families will host for at least 1 to 2 weeks.
4. The purchase of a PLC Sydney jersey (to wear while on exchange) is **mandatory** for students who are successful in being offered an international exchange opportunity. If a student already has a jersey from a previous tour (with or without writing on the back), this can be used. The jerseys will be organised through the College Uniform Store – please note, however, the cost of the jersey is approximately \$80 (unprinted) and is **not** covered by the parent contribution. There is also a printed version available which refers to the country and year, this jersey costs approximately \$96 and must be paid for when ordered.
5. All students must be prepared to affirm their intention to obey PLC Sydney School rules and those of their host school while abroad.
6. Students must be prepared to comply with the 'house' rules of their host family even if they are more strict than their own. Oppositional behaviour is to be avoided at all times.
7. Due to the changes to Government regulations, we are obliged to ask all households to obtain a Working With Children Check clearance number for **every adult 18 years of age or over** living in the household. Unfortunately students may not be permitted to proceed with a reciprocal exchange unless the numbers are included on the application cover sheet. Information about obtaining this clearance number was advised to all Year 9 Parents and Guardians in October 2017 in preparation for this requirement. This application form can be accessed from the Office of the Children's Guardian at:

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check/volunteers-and-students>

If access to the online system is not possible, call the customer service line on (02) 9286 7219 and an officer from the Children's Guardian will complete the form. Identity then needs to be verified at a Service NSW Centre.

Study Expectations

- All students who participate in the Overseas Student Exchange Program are required to keep up with their school work while they are on exchange. It is imperative they liaise with their class teacher prior to departure about the work which will be covered while absent and what the expectations are. All exchange students should engage a buddy who will assist with the collection of sheets or notifications and who is willing to send these to them. It is also a good idea to maintain some email contact with the teacher while away.
- All students participating in exchange will be expected, on their return to Sydney, to complete a **Research and Reflection Task** based on their experiences.
- An article for '**Aurora**' is required from each country's group of students.
- All students who participate in exchange are invited to complete the **International Scholar's Assignment** in addition to their Research and Reflection Task. This task will be wide-ranging and if a High Distinction standard is achieved, the student may be eligible for an Academic Award on Speech Day and consideration for a Bronze Medallion. **This task is essential** for those students who miss school due to exchange and need to **maintain eligibility** for the award of a **Gold Medallion** at the end of Year 12.

Important Passport and Visa Information

- All girls travelling to any exchange destination will require a current passport valid **for at least six (6) months after the date of their return to Australia**. All girls must **check with their chosen country whether or not a visa is required** — visas are required for Brazil, Vietnam and China for Australian passport holders.
- If your daughter is successful with her application, and if she does not already have one, please apply for a passport immediately.
- Students with an overseas (not Australian) passport must check the *visas* that are required in order to *leave and re-enter Australia*. Please consult with the College's ESOS Coordinator.
- These students **should also ascertain** if travelling on their country's passport requires a visa for their particular exchange destination.

Note: The Department of Immigration and Citizenship precludes full fee paying overseas students from participating in overseas exchanges while studying at PLC Sydney. This is due to the limited conditions under which their studies on their visa can be suspended. It is considered that their chance to study in Australia on a Student Visa is a privilege and already offers them the opportunity to experience a different culture while they are studying. **The only possible exception is a language exchange.** Please discuss with Mrs White.

Managing Expectations

The International Student Exchange Program is a significant undertaking and the expectation is that successful applicants are mature, responsible and self-motivated. In discussing the opportunity in your family, please give some consideration to this and the challenges an extended exchange period, and the work associated with it, will bring.

In addition, the selection process itself can be demanding and may ultimately lead to disappointment for some candidates. This year with more places being made available, fewer students will miss an exchange place. Parents will often ask, "What if my daughter isn't selected for her first choice exchange destination?" Principal, Dr Paul Burgis offers this advice:

"It hurts. And parents, recognising their daughter's talents and commitment to the school, and experiencing first hand her hopes, are sometimes at a loss to know how to speak to her. Until we have a 1:1 match between exchange positions and applicants, some will miss out on their first choice. By talking about our expectations, and not just our hopes, we can still celebrate success when it comes, but also help our children to create effective habits of mind in the lead-up to times when selections occur. Keep the emphasis on self-efficacy rather than personal happiness. When disappointments come, they are tough, but they are also an ideal opportunity for learning."

Hosting and Being Hosted

Parents and students should give careful thought to the issue of hosting. The College has no control over the students who are sent to us and while we take care with matching students, we cannot anticipate the personality, character or personal habits of the incoming student.

Students at PLC Sydney are well cared for by the adults around them and some occasionally find it difficult to look after another person such as their exchange sister. They should remember that they may need to make some adjustments to their everyday schedule so they can be hospitable and welcoming hosts.

Similarly when our students are abroad we cannot control the host family, where they live and how they manage their family interactions. Everyone's exchange experience will be different and the benefit lies in taking up the challenge. In the end, students will come back with increased resilience and a finer appreciation of their family and their school.

It is important to note however, that most exchanges are highly successful, with many girls and their families forming lifelong friendships.

Study Tours

In addition to submitting an application to the Overseas Student Exchange Program, we encourage you to look at the Study Tours available (<http://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/microsites/global-education/service-learning-tours>) as a possible alternative for girls who are unsuccessful in being offered an international exchange.

The service trips to Timor Leste for Year 10, Vietnam for Year 11 or THIMUN Singapore are particularly rewarding.

Exchange Program

- If you are having trouble submitting your application by the due date, please contact Mrs White: swhite@plc.nsw.edu.au.
- You may also submit your scanned application by email to Mrs White: swhite@plc.nsw.edu.au.

Some options are not available to some Cambridge students due to the timing of the examination in November. Unavailable countries for these students are the three schools in England and Scotland. Exchanges to Brazil and Denmark will mean students will be away just prior to the exams and exchange with South Africa is unavailable for Cambridge students. Global Perspectives students are unaffected.

NB: It is hoped that the following arrangements will remain suitable for all exchange schools; however, if we receive late advice from any of the schools that timing needs to be changed, we will advise applicants immediately.

LANGUAGE EXCHANGES

Students who wish to go on exchange to France, China, Italy and Japan may have studied the relevant language and will be, or intend, *continuing* with this language in Year 11.

China \$1300	<p>Nankai High School students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Nankai High School <i>(Includes cost of visa)</i></p> <p>Sometimes the China exchange operates as a normal exchange but if Nankai High School cannot send students to us, we offer placement for PLC Sydney students in its boarding house for five to six weeks. This incurs an additional cost of approximately \$1,700 per student.</p> <p>There is also a Beijing orientation at the beginning of the exchange which is arranged and paid for by our host school.</p>	<p>early July – mid August</p> <p>mid November - late December may need to wait for Cambridge examinations</p>
France \$2200	<p>Saint-Vincent Senlis students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Saint-Vincent Senlis</p>	<p>late May – early July hosting clashes with East Timor trip</p> <p>early November-mid December may need to wait for Cambridge exams</p>
Italy \$2400	<p>Russell-Newton (Florence) students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Istituto Russell-Newton</p>	<p>late August – early October may include a week of holidays</p> <p>late November – mid January</p>
Japan \$2000	<p>Meitoku Gijuku High School students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Meitoku Gijuku High School Plus Tokyo orientation trip costs (budget for about \$1,000)</p>	<p>February – December</p> <p>early October – mid December Cambridge students will sit examinations in Japan</p>

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

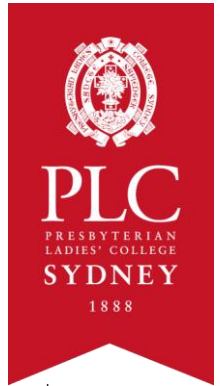
These exchanges are open to students where language study is NOT a prerequisite for the application

Brazil \$4500	<p>Bon Jesus IELUSC students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Bon Jesus IELUSC <i>(Includes cost of visa)</i> Plus Rio de Janeiro costs (budget for \$1,100 + Notary Public verifying documents, which is required by the Brazilian Government – budget \$400)</p>	<p>mid July - late August</p> <p>late September – early November Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations.</p>
Denmark \$3000	<p>The International Danish Academy of Vedersoe students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to The International Danish Academy of Vedersoe Plus Copenhagen 3 day tour costs (budget for \$1,000)</p>	<p>November (possibly 1-2 weeks) TBC</p> <p>September/October (3 weeks) TBC</p>
England \$2250	<p>Badminton School (Bristol) students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Badminton School</p>	<p>July - late August</p> <p>early November - mid December Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations</p>
England \$2250	<p>Ripley St Thomas (Lancaster) students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Ripley St Thomas</p>	<p>July – late August</p> <p>early November – mid December Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations</p>
England \$2500	<p>King William's College (Isle of Man) students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to King William's College</p>	<p>July – August</p> <p>October - November Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations</p>
Germany \$2200	<p>Gymnasium Im Schloss students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Gymnasium Im Schloss</p>	<p>early July – mid August</p> <p>end November – early January</p>
Hong Kong \$1000	<p>St Paul's Co-educational students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to St Paul's Co-educational</p>	<p>mid July - late August</p> <p>mid November - mid December may need to wait for Cambridge examinations</p>

CULTURAL EXCHANGES (continued)

<p>New Zealand \$450</p>	<p>St Andrew's College students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to St Andrew's College A bond of NZ\$525 (2017) is paid directly to the school.</p>	<p>early June - end June hosting clashes with East Timor trip</p> <p>mid July - mid August</p>
<p>Scotland \$2800</p>	<p>St. George's School students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to St. George's School</p>	<p>July – August</p> <p>early November – December Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations.</p>
<p>South Africa \$2500</p>	<p>PLC Sydney students go to Herschel Girls' School</p> <p>Herschel Girls' School students to PLC Sydney</p>	<p>May - June Not available to some Cambridge students due to examinations. October - November Studying for exams while hosting for Cambridge students due to examinations</p>
<p>The Netherlands \$2200</p>	<p>Rijnlands Lyceum students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Rinjlands Lyceum There is a European capital tour or camp organised by the school. This incurs an additional cost of approximately \$1,200 per student which is paid directly to the school.</p>	<p>late January – early March</p> <p>early October – end November Not available to Cambridge students due to examinations</p>
<p>Vietnam \$1000</p>	<p>Vietnam-Australia School students to PLC Sydney</p> <p>PLC Sydney students go to Vietnam-Australia School <i>(Includes cost of visa)</i> Sometimes this exchange operates as a normal reciprocal exchange but if the Vietnam-Australia School cannot send students to us, we offer placement for PLC Sydney students in its boarding house for four to five weeks, at no extra cost.</p>	<p>late May - late June hosting clashes with East Timor trip</p> <p>late October – late November This exchange may clash with Cambridge examinations BUT it may be possible to sit exams over there.</p>

2018 OVERSEAS STUDENT EXCHANGE APPLICATION COVER SHEET



STATEMENT OF PERMISSION FROM PARENTS:

I/We.....give approval for my/our daughter,
..... to participate in the PLC Sydney International Exchange Program. As
the program is a reciprocal exchange, we also give a commitment to host an exchange student for the full
duration of her stay here. This applies even if our daughter is a boarder at PLC Sydney.
(Please note Child Protection Certification is required).

I/We note that the purchase of a PLC Sydney exchange jersey is mandatory and can be ordered through the
College Uniform Store.

We cannot guarantee that all dietary preferences can be accommodated in all exchange destinations.
PLC Sydney cannot oblige a host family to meet your requests.
This may limit your opportunities when considering exchange.

I/We understand the requirement for our daughter to keep up with the necessary school work on exchange.

Signature: Signature:
(Mother/Guardian) Date: (Father/Guardian)

STUDENT DETAILS:

Day Student <input type="checkbox"/>	Boarder <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name		
Surname		
Address	Street number and name:.....	Postcode
	Suburb:
Contact details	Home phone	Student email
	Mother's mobile	Mother's email
	Father's mobile	Father's email

Child Protection Certification details:

WWC _____ D.O.B __ / __ / ____ Full name used in applying for WWC:.....
 WWC _____ D.O.B __ / __ / ____ Full name used in applying for WWC:.....
 WWC _____ D.O.B __ / __ / ____ Full name used in applying for WWC:.....

List below, in order of preference, the exchange countries for which you are applying:

1 2 3
 4 5 6

Final Checklist (please attach the following with this completed cover sheet):

- Your Letter of Application, and A copy of your passport if available (or as soon as possible)