

Asia SPAN Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL

How will I ever adjust to life overseas?

The living conditions and the culture in other countries are quite different from the West, but all ASI personnel go through an intensive orientation prior to entering a particular country.

Q. Do I need to learn the national language to work in another country?

English Teachers will not need to use the national language in class because your students will have a few years of English already. For other professionals (humanitarian workers) national co-workers will have basic English. However, the national language will be needed for daily living. An introductory language course during orientation will get you started.

Q. Will I be able to study the national language while overseas?

A. It is possible to hire a tutor or make some arrangements to study the national language with a few others.

Q. If I am accepted, will I be placed in a location with other ASI personnel?

A. We operate on a principle of "team", and place personnel in locations with at least 1 or 2 others in the same vicinity. Generally, you will not be placed in a city on your own.

Q. Is housing provided?

A. Housing is provided at or near your place of work.

Q. Will I have easy access to medical assistance if needed?

A. Standards in the hospitals are not what you may be used to, but are generally adequate. You must have medical insurance from your home country.

Q. Is communication monitored by the local government, if at all?

A. You must assume that all incoming and outgoing e-mails, letters and faxes are read and all telephone conversations are listened to and recorded.

Q. Should I bring Bibles and other material to give to the nationals?

A. We do recommend that you bring a *few* extra English Bibles with you.

Q. How do nationals react to a westerner living nearby?

A. Nationals view westerners as guests in their countries. They are usually kind and gracious and will try to make you feel comfortable. Your neighbours will be curious about you and you will be stared at on the street. You may feel like you are always being watched.

Q. Can I buy English books? If so what kinds?

A. Generally, no, except for some "classic" English novels. We strongly suggest that you bring some Christian books, CD's as well as devotional material. Christian material for personal use is permitted.

LIVING

Q. What basic foods are available?

A. Meats (pork & chicken), fish, vegetables, fruits (seasonal). Some items from the "West" are available, but the further you are from a big city, the less likely you will find what you may be looking for.

Q. What other daily living and household items are available?

A. Shampoos, soaps, brushes, towels, toothpaste, etc. are commonly available. Every town has plastic ware as well. Most basic items are available but of lesser quality.

Q. What will my apartment come equipped with?

A. Apartments come furnished with beds, chairs, tables, basic lighting, desks etc. This usually includes basic kitchen items as well.

CHILDREN

Q. Are day-care facilities for babies available, or could a baby sitter be hired?

A. There is no baby day-care as westerners think of it. You will be able to hire a baby sitter however, please consider that other cultures have different methods of care and discipline and may not be what most Canadians are accustomed to.

What about our children's education?

A. Generally families 'home-school' their children. There are a variety of correspondence programs and online courses available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Q. What opportunities for ministry & evangelism, Bible studies & discipling are there in Restricted Access Countries today since we cannot share openly or start a church, and the government is essentially not open to Christianity?

A. In other cultures relationships are important. Building relationships takes time but it can be very rewarding. Ministry opportunities depend on you and what the Lord opens up for you by way of relationships. Personnel have had, and continue to have, opportunity for individual and small group Bible studies. Teachers share discreetly in classes and openly in their homes **when people come asking questions.**

FINANCES

Q. How will I receive my monthly 'salary'?

A. Teachers in government units will receive their monthly salary from their school. The added support that you raise will be deposited into your bank account by the ASI Canadian office. The other amounts you raise for retreat, re-entry flights, etc. can be held for you in an ASI account.

For project personnel, your support will be deposited into your bank account each month. This amount will depend on the support you have raised.

Q. Will I pay federal income tax while overseas?

A. For Canadian personnel, ASI uses a payroll company to deposit pay into your account. This company also calculates and deducts federal income tax from Canadian employees. At the end of the year, a T4 slip will be issued to you.