



Summer Teams Advice

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1.3-6**

Thank you very much for joining a Summer Team! It is a wonderful opportunity for gospel partnerships with students and doctors in other countries as we serve God and his people. We hope this information sheet will help you as you prepare to go.

Background

CMF has been putting teams together for camps and conferences in Europe and Asia for many years. These events are organised by the local Christian medical or student groups in those countries, and CMF is able to recruit and link together UK students and doctors who wish to go. Each team is led by a team-leader, who is usually an experienced CMF doctor. They will be responsible for co-ordinating and advising the team, and liaising with both CMF and the camp organisers.

CMF encourages and facilitates Summer Teams, but is not a travel agency or a missionary sending agency. Therefore individuals will need to take personal responsibility for the following:

Costs

Team members are responsible for all their own costs. However, CMF is often able to help with fund-raising, and in the past most costs have been covered this way. We can set up a webpage for you, for online donations. We would then provide letters to give to potential supporters at home or church; and we would email local CMF doctors. Your team leader should be able to liaise with us to organise this.

Visas

Countries outside the EU will often require visas, as will many within the EU if you do not hold a passport from an EU member state. Details can usually be found on the country's embassy website or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website. Costs can be significant, and will vary depending on the country you're travelling to, and your own nationality. You will often need to allow a few weeks for your visa to be approved.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

Passports

Wherever you're going outside the UK and Ireland, you will need an up-to-date passport. Many countries also require your passport to remain valid for six months *after* your trip.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Passports/index.htm>.

Tickets

If you are going to be travelling together as a team, you will need to plan with the team leader how you are going to buy tickets. If travelling separately, you will need to book your own ticket. Booking late often makes tickets much more expensive.

Driving licence

If you are planning to drive, make sure you have the required licence. Check on the embassy website.

Safety

Some countries are at higher risk for personal violence, theft, road traffic collisions etc. The FCO website is a good source of advice.

Health

Some countries may have particular health risks or vaccination requirements. These may not be available from your GP on the NHS, although they might provide the service for a fee; some university health centres might offer a free service. The FCO website is a good place for advice about what is needed, as well as the embassy website.

Insurance

Some countries require evidence of travel insurance – check the embassy website. Regardless of whether it's compulsory, we would recommend good travel insurance anyway. If you are travelling within the EU, then make sure you have an EHIC card (if you are entitled to one).

<https://www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do>

Local Customs and Culture

Some countries may have customs very different from those you're used to. Alcohol use and appropriate dress for local Christians are sometimes areas of potential stumbling. Your team leader should advise you accordingly.

Wealth

Be aware that some countries are much less wealthy than the UK. Flaunting cash and expensive gadgets is not just unwise (risk of theft), but also unloving.

Relationships

Be cautious of getting romantically involved while abroad. There have been some wonderful relationships begun on Summer teams that have even resulted in marriage. On the other hand, some people have been quite badly hurt by cultural or other misunderstandings. Try to be as inclusive as possible in your personal relationships on camp, as we seek to encourage local students and doctors in the Gospel.

...and let's pray for each other as Paul did!