

## **Mattersey Hall Short Term Mission Trips Policy 2019**

Short-term missions trips are organised by Mattersey Hall Bible College for the spiritual development of students. It also adheres to the college's vision to be missionally focused. The college will seek to provide a number of mission trips that will have focus on varied missiological issues. The aim is to expose the students to the joys and challenges of working cross-culturally and to serve and learn from the ministries that are generously welcoming and hosting them.

### **Purpose of the Mission Trips**

- To fulfil the vision of the college, which is to be missionally focused which is in accordance with the Biblical Mandate
- For students to have varied experiences to develop their faith and spiritual maturity.
- For students to have exposure to cross cultural mission contexts in order to be trained and developed for ministry
- For all participants to support, bless and encourage the hosts and workers in the mission context
- For all participants to partner with their hosts to fulfil the long term aims, objectives vision for their hosts

### **The Missions Course**

- The Short Term Mission trips are an integral part of the training programme at Mattersey for full time, part-time and PG certificate students. It is not open to Distance Learning students.
- All BA students are expected to go on three mission trips as part of their time at college.
- The first year BA students will have academic assignments to carry out, which will be based on their trip. These assignments count towards the BA course.
- The second year BA students have an option to choose a Missions Trip Module which is a 10 credit BA module. However, all second and third years are still required to take part in a trip which will count towards the college diploma.
- All participants are required to take part in the Mission Orientation sessions and a debrief session.
- The students get to choose mission trips in order of their personal preference but the Missions Coordinator will make the final decision to allocate students to teams based on these choices. The Mission Coordinator will consider the following when allocating teams
- The training sessions are a requirement of the course
- The training sessions will be held at regular times in the term prior to departure.
- Preparation Sessions will include Biblical Mandate for mission, team building, training on issues of culture, health and safety, child protection, context specific training, conflict resolution, project brief, guidelines of behavior, etc
- There will be a mission de-brief session when students return from the trip and a missions feedback session in the chapel.

### **Mission Trips and Funding**

- The costs of the trip (Flights, accommodation, travel and food) for European missions are included in the college fees.
- Long haul mission destinations will have additional costs
- Insurance will be covered by the colleges corporate policy in most cases. A medical declaration form is required for students to be covered by the insurance policy. If students make false declarations regarding their health and personal details the policy may be nullified.
- The costs of the trips doesn't include inoculations, visas, travel documents, gifts, etc. Students will need to organise and pay for these themselves.
- Students will be restricted in taking part in the trips if their college fees, board and lodging and facilities are not up to date and/or if their travel documents (passports, visas and EHIC cards) are not up-to-date.
- There will be no refunds for students who cannot go on mission trips for any reason including unforeseen circumstances for in the circumstances like maternity leave, paternity leave, visa restrictions, missed flights, domestic emergencies, family emergencies, etc

### **Students not attending Mission Trips**

- All students are expected to take part in mission trips 3 times in the course of their BA course.
- Where unforeseen circumstances have taken place the first year students and the second year students who have chosen the mission trip module, will be required to carry out a piece of academic work that will relate to mission trips.
- Where a student requests leave for Maternity, Health, Care for Dependents, etc, the procedures outlined in the college handbook will need to be adhered to.

### **Guidelines for Behaviour**

- All mission participants will adhere to the advice on the Risk Assessment sheets which will be context specific
- Under no circumstances will alcohol be consumed whilst on mission
- Participants are expected to refrain from entering into any romantic relationships whilst on mission.
- Participants are expected to respect and follow the leaders' and the hosts' advise whilst on mission.
- If for any reason the team leader deems a participant is not conducting themselves in an appropriate manner, the college reserves the right to send the person back to the UK immediately.