

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Queensland-Quebec Student Exchange Program

Offshore Component: 8 December 2018 to 22 January 2019
Onshore component: 12 March 2019 to 21 April 2019 (tbc)

The Queensland-Quebec Student Exchange Program offers Queensland students in Years 9–11 the opportunity to participate in a **fully funded** 6-week exchange with students from Quebec, Canada. The exchange provides students with a unique opportunity to be fully immersed in the French language and Quebec culture. To be eligible, students must be currently studying the French language in a Queensland state high school (or college or academy).

Selected participants will travel to Quebec from 8 December 2018 to 22 January 2019 where they will experience school life and live with their homestay families. In exchange, Quebecer students will travel to Queensland from 12 March 2019 to 21 April 2019 (tbc) where they will attend school with their homestay buddy and experience the Australian lifestyle.

Students will receive a return economy airfare to Quebec, travel insurance, homestay accommodation including most meals and placement in a senior high school in Quebec.

Four teacher chaperones (sourced from Queensland state schools) will also have the opportunity to accompany the Queensland students during their travel to and from Quebec. Two of four Queensland chaperones will accompany the students travelling to Quebec in December where they will continue to monitor and assist the students for ten days after the student's arrival in Quebec. During this period, the chaperones will be offered professional development opportunities in schools. The remaining two chaperones will arrive in Quebec in January where they will undertake professional development opportunities at schools before assisting the students in their return journey to Queensland. Up to five days TRS funding will be paid to the selected teacher's school during their absence, if required.

Eligible state high schools may nominate **up to three** students in Years 9–11 (preferably across all three year levels) and **one** teacher, to apply.

Student's responsibilities

Whilst staying with your host family in Quebec it is expected that you will abide by any rules or obligations of that family. This includes sharing of household tasks, participating in excursions (especially if they have been organised for your benefit), respecting curfews (regardless of the liberties you may enjoy at home), and cooperating with other family members, especially those with whom you may be sharing a room.

Apart from any rules which may be set down by the host family and host school, students have an obligation at all times to represent their family, school and state in an exemplary manner through their personal conduct and language. Student conduct at all times should be in accordance with the [Code of School Behaviour for state school students](#).

During the exchange you must:

- attend school full time with your exchange partner for the full duration of the exchange program in both Quebec and Australia
- attend all timetabled classes and abide by all school rules for the duration of the exchange
- make efforts to express yourself in the language of the host country

Queensland students must NOT travel to other parts of Quebec without being accompanied by an adult from the host family or a representative of QLD's international partner, Education Internationale.

Please note that students of the Queensland-Quebec Student Exchange Program are not permitted to smoke, consume alcohol or take illicit drugs at any time. Smoking and consuming alcohol are illegal activities for persons under the age of 18. Students risk forfeiture of their place in the exchange should they be found smoking, drinking alcohol or taking illicit drugs.

Any student whose behaviour or attitude is found to be unacceptable risks an early return to Queensland. **Parents will be responsible for any additional costs incurred for an early return journey.**

Homestay roles and responsibilities

Your primary responsibility is to provide students with a safe, welcoming and friendly home. It is particularly important that you treat students as valued members of your household. In return, they are expected to show you and your family respect, courtesy and consideration.

It is expected that the homestay family cover the normal expenses associated with family life as you would your own child. If you are unsure, a good rule of thumb is that if you invite the exchange student to dinner, you pay, but if they make plans to go to dinner with friends, the exchange student pays.

The homestay family must ensure a fully English-speaking environment for the exchange student and ensure that English is the usual language of communication in all activities (television programs, conversations, etc.).

Blue cards

It is the responsibility of the students family to ensure all members of the household aged 18 and over hold a current blue card or exemption card prior to the exchange student entering the household (refer <https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/>). No cost is incurred when applying for the Blue Card as you are a volunteer.



Although Canada does not have a 'Blue Card' system, the exchange organisers in Quebec undertake a homestay screening process and criminal history check that is equivalent to Queensland's 'Blue Card' system.

SELECTION CRITERIA	
Student	Chaperone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal's and teacher's endorsement ○ Academic performance in French language ○ Demonstrated ability to manage homesickness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teach French ○ Principal's endorsement ○ Suitability to chaperone ○ Demonstrated ability in leading international school exchanges

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	
Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant must be competent in French and English. ○ The application form must be completed in full by the applicant and submitted by the closing date. ○ At the completion of the exchange, participants must produce a post-exchange report on their experience and share the learnings and experiences of the exchange with their school community. ○ Applicant must meet all eligibility requirements outlined within the application form.
Chaperone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant must have a demonstrated ability to effectively chaperone an international student exchange. ○ The application form must be completed in full by the applicant and submitted by the closing date. ○ Applicant must meet all eligibility requirements outlined within the application form.
Parent/Guardian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One or both parents/guardians must consent to their child's participation in the exchange. ○ One or both parents must agree to provide homestay accommodation to their child's Quebecer partner from approximately 12 March to 21 April 2019 (tbc).
Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teacher/s must support student's application as a suitable participant in the exchange.
Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal must endorse student/teacher as suitable to participate in the exchange as a representative of Queensland and is obliged to report possible conflicts of interests. ○ If no-valid and current travel document is held by the nominated student, the Principal must ensure that the student is supported by the school to obtain the required documents for the country of travel by no later than 4 weeks prior to the travel date. ○ Principal must agree to accept the attendance of Quebec students in school from 12 March to 21 April 2019 and acknowledge any Year 9 Queensland students will be absent from school from 3 December to 7 December 2018.

COSTS	
The Department will pay for	Participant will pay for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return economy airfares to Quebec ○ Travel insurance incl. snow cover ○ Homestay accommodation including most meal ○ Up to ten nights' accommodation for chaperones ○ Daily allowance for chaperones whilst undertaking chaperone duties ○ TRS payment (if required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passport ○ Visa costs (if required) ○ Vaccinations and/or other medical requirements ○ Some meals ○ Personal expenses

Nominations close Friday 02 March 2018

ENQUIRIES: Ms Nicole Bratchford, Project Officer, International Services
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