



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Can I apply if I do not have international travel or work experience?

A Yes, members can apply without international experience.

Q Do I need a doctor's note for my application to be complete?

A No, you do not need to provide a doctor's note with the CTF/FCE application; however, medical disclosure is required on the application form as this information may assist the CTF/FCE.

Q Can I apply again if I have participated in PO in the past?

A That decision is made by the member organizations of the CTF/FCE who sponsor the PO program. However, the CTF/FCE often selects team leaders from the pool of experienced participants.

Q If I am selected and approved by my provincial or territorial organization, when will I get a confirmation from the CTF/FCE that I have been selected for an assignment?

A Applicants that the CTF/FCE has selected for assignment will be informed in mid to late January. You will be contacted by your team leader in early February and will begin working with your team in preparation for the assignment.

Q What is the cost to me if I am selected as a PO participant?

A All project-related costs including transportation, accommodation and meals both in Canada and overseas will be covered. This includes program-related costs such as vaccinations not covered by your health plan and travel visas required for certain countries.

Q How long does the project last? How much time would I need to be available?

A The pre-departure orientation takes place in early July in Ottawa. Following the orientation, teams typically depart immediately from Ottawa to their countries of assignment. With few exceptions most projects are concluded and volunteers can be back in Canada by the end of July.

Q Can I request to be assigned to a particular country if I am selected?

A No. The CTF/FCE places participants where they will have the greatest impact, based on various factors such as the needs identified by the partner organization in the country of assignment and the participants' background and areas of expertise. You will be informed of your country of assignment when you are notified that you have been selected. This is typically sometime in late January.

Q Do I need to have my vaccinations up-to-date before I can travel abroad?

A Yes. PO assignments in some countries require additional vaccines. The CTF/FCE will inform you of the vaccines you need well in advance of your travel date. All participants will be required to have proof of COVID vaccination.

Q What happens if I am selected but have to drop out at some point in the process?

A Unexpected events happen, and plans sometimes need to change. If you are selected for PO but later need to drop out for any reason, you should contact the CTF/FCE immediately.

Q Is there training before I go overseas?

A Yes. From February to June, you will receive information and will work closely with the CTF/FCE, your team leader and the other members of your team via email and videoconference as you prepare for PO. Also, the CTF/FCE provides a mandatory orientation for PO participants in Ottawa in early July, before your assignment starts.

Q Can my spouse/partner accompany me to my country of assignment if I am selected?

A No! Family members and friends are not permitted to accompany a PO participant.

Q Can I take a personal vacation as part of PO?

A The CTF/FCE arranges and pays for travel to/from the project destination. At the end of PO, you may decide to add personal travel to your itinerary at your expense.