



Global Service Corps

Teach English Abroad Program

Global Service Corps (GSC) Volunteer participants (VPs) discover Cambodia by living, working and learning among Khmer people in their own communities. The Teach English Abroad Program (TEA) provides direct education to Cambodians, building the skills of local teachers and students in the English language.

According to a report by The Bangkok Post, Cambodia has the worst English language skills in South East Asia. The low ranking of English literacy in Cambodia is due to various obstacles facing the already poor education system. These include lack of English curriculum in state schools, insufficient teaching materials, and shortage of qualified teaching staff.

VPs in the Oudong Teaching English Program spend their time in the bustling yet rural province of Oudong, approximately 90 minutes outside of Phnom Penh, where you will go after spending the first few days of the first week of your program in orientation. VPs teach English at a local Buddhist monastery (wat) and at two sites of the Universal Education School (UES): A daytime “kindergarten” school with students ranging from ages 8 – 14 and an evening school with students ranging from ages 14 – 20. (The term “kindergarten” in Cambodia refers to the education level and not the age of the student.)

VP’s Role

The VP’s service role is to share their knowledge and expertise as a native English speaker. Your ability to provide cultural context and assist with Western pronunciation will prove helpful for students developing their use of the English language. The teaching English role requires flexibility, creativity, and adaptability. Students will range in age and English level, so VPs have the opportunity to work with different age groups. However, previous teaching experience is not required. VPs are provided with a GSC Teaching English Manual with suggested lesson plans and participatory activities along with the school’s curriculum, and are also given guidance in teaching English during in-country orientation. VPs will then teach different classes in the afternoon and early evenings at some of the nearby schools as well as teaching young monks at the nearby wat (monastery).

You will be encouraged to be creative utilizing the curriculum by sharing your own background and experiences. However, the greatest need of these students is to practice English with a native English speaker, so this should be the emphasis of the classroom activities.

This placement has a required **four week minimum commitment**.

Housing and Meals

You will be provided a room in a local homestay with an electric fan, and a mosquito net. Three meals per day will be prepared by the homestay host, or will be eaten occasionally at local restaurants. While there is no wifi available in the accommodations, VPs with smart phones can access the internet with a Cambodian SIM card. A nearby technical school associated with the school where you will be teaching also has internet available for .75 cents/hour. Laundry can be done by hand or at a local cleaner.

Sample Schedule

While day-to-day activities and starting times are subject to change, a typical day as a Teach English Program participant in Oudong might look like the following:

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Eat breakfast
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Free time and teaching preparation time
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Teach primary level English to students age 6 – 14
11:30am – 2:30 pm	Lunch, free time and teaching preparation time
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Teach primary level English to students age 6 - 14
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Teach beginning English to young monks at the wat
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Practice conversational English with mostly secondary school-aged students
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner and free time



Phnom Penh Arrival and Program Orientation Information

If you are flying to Cambodia, the GSC in-country coordinator or GSC driver will meet you at the Phnom Penh International Airport on Sunday to transfer you to the designated hotel for your orientation in and around Phnom Penh. If you arrive early, between Thursday and Saturday, you will be picked up at the airport but will be responsible to make your own hotel arrangements prior to meeting up with GSC staff and VPs on Sunday evening for dinner. Meeting instructions will be clearly communicated to you by GSC U.S. headquarters staff prior to your departure. The cultural orientation takes place from Monday through Wednesday and will include basic Khmer language lessons, an introduction to Cambodian history, and a sightseeing tour of Phnom Penh area including the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields. In the later part of the week you will be introduced to your placement site and begin your service work.

Sample Two Week Itinerary

Arrival Day (Sunday)	Arrival in Phnom Penh. VPs are met at Phnom Penh International Airport by the GSC In-Country Coordinator (ICC) or GSC driver and transported to the hotel. Unpack and relax. Your first night in Phnom Penh will culminate in a Khmer dinner with fellow VPs and the ICC.
Day 1-3 (Monday-Wednesday)	The ICC meets all VPs in the morning after breakfast in the hotel and starts the day with an hour of Khmer language lessons. The ICC then escorts you for a day of touring. The tour includes visits to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, National Museum, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the Killing Fields at Cheoung Ek and other areas of interest in Phnom Penh. Move to the accommodations at your placement site Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.
Day 4-5 (Thursday-Friday)	Introduction to your project and begin to volunteer at your project site
Day 6-7 (Saturday-Sunday)	Free days to explore Phnom Penh or the rural site, participate in community activities.

Days 8-12 (Monday – Friday)	Participants join in the activities of the partner organization and quickly become friends with children, residents, and staff.
Day 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday)	On the second weekend, VPs will be escorted to Siem Reap for a weekend away, leaving on Friday evening. On future weekends VPs are free to explore the surrounding areas either individually or in groups. (The trip Siem Reap trip is available only for programs of four weeks or longer. Two and three week VPs have the weekend free.)
Final Day of Program (Sunday)	On your final Sunday of the program, you will say goodbye to your new friends and the GSC Cambodia Team. Depart Cambodia.

Please note that this is a sample itinerary. Schedules and activities are subject to change due to local conditions, participant preference, and programmatic changes.

Program fees include: Airport pick-up, drop off, and project transportation; accommodations including all meals; language and cultural orientation and training; donations to partner organizations, weekend excursion (for programs four weeks or longer); and, project administration.

Program fees do not include: Airfare (\$1,000-\$2,500), travel insurance (\$150-\$350), background checks (\$15 - required for all participants) and visas (\$30-\$100 depending on length of stay).

Please visit the GSC website, www.globalservicecorps.org, or the [GSC Facebook page](#), which will further acquaint you with our programs and provide a glimpse into life as a GSC service-learning participant.