

FAQs

Is my deposit refundable?

CMS will only refund your deposit if they are unable to accept you onto a team. If you withdraw from the team at any time after the payment schedule has started, you will lose any monies paid to that point.

When do you turn people down?

We are very rarely unable to accept people onto a team (providing they reside in the UK or Ireland. Some applicants from other parts of Europe may be accepted).

We seek health clearance for applicants from Interhealth - health experts who take into account your personal health situation and individual destination and climate when deciding to issue clearance. It is essential that you provide them with all relevant information to ensure that they can advise us and yourself of any concerns that may arise during your trip. CMS can not be held responsible or prepare for anything that remains undisclosed. If your health check, reference or application form raises any concerns we would seek to contact you to discuss matters before confirming your place on a team.

We reserve the right to interview if necessary and we may turn people down, especially if it becomes apparent that they are not suited to the rigors of the trip in question or bear a significant health risk to themselves or others. For 18-30 teams we will not confirm your place on the team until after the Briefing Weekend, when we have had a chance to meet you and to see how you get on with the rest of your team.

How long does my health clearance take?

Usually 2 weeks providing that Interhealth does not need to contact any third parties for further information. You will be notified of your clearance and be given advice where appropriate on how to cope with any existing conditions whilst overseas.

Will I need vaccinations and anti-malarials?

We will provide you with a Health Information pack from Interhealth detailing requirements tailored to your exact destination in plenty of time for your trip. You will be responsible for covering the costs of your inoculations and anti-malarials. CMS provide first aid kits to your team leader to be used for your team on location. We make sure that at least one person in your team will be trained in First Aid. CMS may also be able to provide mosquito nets (subject to availability).

Do I need to speak the language?

No, but sometimes it helps! Your host and /or leader will be able to translate for you.

I am a vegetarian, do I have to eat meat?

In some cases you can cause offence to people hosting you if you refuse the food they give you to eat. This is especially true in African countries where meat is expensive and considered essential when catering for a guest. We urge you to consider other people's worldview as a guest in their home when faced with this kind of situation. However, there are often sensitive and culturally acceptable ways to communicate your preferences to your hosts if you are open with your team leader and seek their advice and support.

Will I be able to contact my friends and family?

CMS hold details of your emergency contacts so that we can be in touch with you or them if needed. We recommend that you keep contact with home to a minimum, as frequent contact can keep you from fully immersing yourself in the host culture.



Do I need a visa?

CMS will take care of this for you in cases where it can be obtained in advance. You may need to provide some extra information for certain visas that is not mentioned on the application form. We will contact you as appropriate.

I have a problem with the Briefing/Debriefing dates, can I still go?

We require you to be at both weekends/days so that you are adequately equipped for your experience. Please call the office for specific advice.

I have no money! What do I do?

Don't panic! CMS offer fundraising advice and also have a bursary fund, if you are aged 18-30, that you can apply for if you need to top up your fundraising efforts. Get in touch if you think you will need to apply for this. We can also give you advice on other organisations who you can apply to for financial help. You will be surprised at how far a little fundraising can go!

I am not based in the UK or Ireland, what can I do?

Unfortunately CMS (UK) are unable to accept overseas applicants on to teams leaving from the UK (Some European countries excepted). We would be happy to put you in touch with other CMS offices around the world if appropriate.

Church Mission Society

Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ t: 0845 620 1799 f: 01865 776375

e: info@cms-uk.org www.cms-uk.org

General Secretary – The Revd Canon Tim Dakin Registered Charity No: 220297