



## SEP FAQ

### What is SEP?

It is the Student Exchange Program NAPSA offers you through IPSF (*International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation*). It gives students the opportunity to go and do placement overseas in a country of their choice, meet new people, network in other parts of the world and experience different cultures.

### When can I apply?

The database opens for applications at the beginning of October. The applications are open until December, so do not worry about time constraints, you will have plenty of time to apply.

### How does it work?

The Student Exchange Program is facilitated by the IPSF representatives for each country. The following is a step by step process on how to get into exchange with NAPSA.

1. Get in touch with the IPSF representative or visit the IPSF website ([www.ipsf.org](http://www.ipsf.org)) and the NAPSA website ([www.napsa.org.au](http://www.napsa.org.au)). You will find information on what IPSF is and what to expect from exchange.
2. Contact your local exchange officer. This is usually your branch IPSF representative or your NAPSA representative. They can help facilitate emails between NAPSA and you, and help you to understand the process a little better.
3. Do some research. Get a list of countries you would like to go to, places you want to see and why you want to go to that country. When processing your application, your motivation for exchange plays a huge factor in your selection.
4. Start preparing your application. Your IPSF representative can help with this. It is important your application is well written so when countries select students for exchange, you are a top candidate.
5. During October, you will be given the opportunity to apply on the IPSF database (<http://sep.ipsf.org>). Your application will only be approved once the application fee has been paid. The application fee gets paid to NAPSA and then your application process will start. Please keep in mind that an application on the IPSF database does not guarantee an exchange position and the application fees are non-refundable.



### **How do we choose where to go?**

Essentially, it is up to you where you want to go. The application process allows you to put in three preferences. From these preferences the countries you would like to go through review your application and if they feel you would be a likely candidate for hosting, they will contact you and your exchange process will start from there.

### **Can I go to America or the United Kingdom?**

America, Canada and the United Kingdom are very popular places for exchange and sometimes placing a student in these countries is not always feasible. If you would like to go to one of these countries I would suggest putting it as your first preference but having some different preferences as your second and third choices to give your application the best chance of being chosen.

### **How many positions for exchange do you have?**

Incoming exchange opportunities are endless. So if you want to meet someone new from an overseas country or you think your pharmacy may like to host a student, let the IPSF representative know and you could be on your way to hosting an international student!

Outgoing exchange is a little trickier. When the database restarts in October, we will have official numbers on how many students we can send overseas. Every year we place approximately four students.

### **When can I expect to find out if my application is successful?**

Once your application has been submitted to the database and your application fee is paid, the IPSF representative will approve your application on the database. After that, the country of your first preference will be able to peruse your application. If successful, they will contact me or you to start the application process. This can take up to a month from the time of your application and can also depend on when you are thinking of going on exchange.

### **What do I do if my application was unsuccessful?**

If your application is unsuccessful, you can re-apply next year if you are keen on going on exchange and perhaps preference some other countries. If you still want to be part of the exchange experience, take the opportunity to host an exchange student! Hosting an exchange student can be an enriching experience and can be something to consider if you are unable to go on exchange yourself.

### **What months of the year can I go on exchange?**



It is completely up to you! The opportunities for exchange are endless, as are the times of the year you can go. Generally people choose to go on at least a three week placement so it is important that you choose a time of year when you are able to get the time off so you can get the most out of your placement.

**Will you organise for me to get credit for my placement?**

Unfortunately NAPSA cannot organise for you to get credit for the placement. It is up to you to talk to your Head of School and to discuss the options prior to undertaking a placement to make sure that you will be granted the time off and be given credit for placement. The IPSF representative from your country of exchange may be able to supply you with some paperwork for the exchange, but we are unable to grant you the credit ourselves.

**Will there be any other expenses?**

Keep in mind that going on exchange can be quite costly. It is important to factor in these costs when going on placement. External factors such as flights, accommodation, meals and outgoings (if you want to make day trips on your time off) and transport should be considered when evaluating whether you can go on exchange or not.