

TRAVEL Rules and Guidelines

Student Program



In general:

- Travelling is only permitted **during holidays** but never during school term unless you get written permission from the school.
- All travel **must be approved** by host family, AFS volunteers, AFS national office and natural parents. **DON'T BOOK BEFORE YOU HAVE APPROVAL!**
- Travel **must not interfere** with compulsory AFS events or with participation in activities arranged by host parents.
- All applications for travel need to be made **at least 1 month before** the desired travel date.
- Once we receive a valid travel application, AFS national office will send a **Travel Waiver** to your national family to sign.



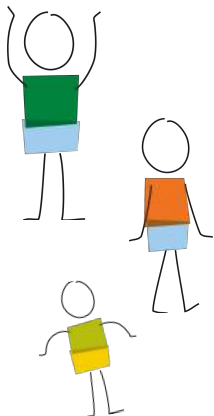
Allowed:

- Travelling with host family within Australia (no Travel Waiver needed)
- Travelling with host family to approved countries (Travel Waiver needed)
- Travelling with school (no Travel Waiver needed)
- Travelling with a trusted youth/ community group (Travel Waiver needed)
- Staying over night with another AFS family or trusted family (e.g. relatives of your host family) (depending on the case Travel Waiver needed)
- AFS organised travel (no Travel Waiver needed)



Not allowed:

- Travelling alone or with another minor is considered unsafe and therefore not allowed.
- Travel to non-approved (unsafe) countries (please contact AFS for details)



Visits from family or friends

- AFS Australia discourages visits from relatives and friends during the program as it can disrupt your exchange and may cause difficulties for host families and the local support structure
- Relatives and friends can not visit unless they have obtained prior consent from AFS.
- Any visits that are approved by AFS should only take place at the end of the program.

I want to travel, what do I need to do?

1. Read these guidelines and check if your travel plans can be allowed
2. If so, seek verbal approval from your host family and host school
3. Seek verbal approval from local AFS volunteers
4. Complete travel application form and send to AFS
5. Wait for the final approval of AFS National Office (AFS will ask your parents to sign a Travel Waiver)
6. Book your trip and enjoy your travels :)

Program Release

Students are able to release from the AFS Program at the end of their stay, if:

- they are **picked up by a natural parent**, or
- they **continue to stay with their host family**

A program release needs to be discussed with and approved by your natural family and AFS Australia. If approved, a program release form needs to be signed by the natural parents.

A program release has the following conditions:

1. All AFS services and insurance end on the program end date. This means you will need to get travel insurance to cover the remainder of your stay. Unfortunately AFS insurance can not be extended.
2. Your visa becomes your own responsibility. Please contact Immigration to make sure your visa is valid for your plans post program.
3. There is a program release fee that will need to be paid to the AFS sending country (fee varies from country to country).
4. All costs associated with changing your flight will not be covered by AFS.
5. Once program released all domestic travel will be at your own expense.