



**Ready for take-off:**  
Preparing students for  
intercultural learning in Asia

## Logistical & Practical Preparation Case Study

### Excerpt from the data:

Student 1: *[The staff] did as much as they could to help us. It was just the fact that it was organised so late in the year. If it had been organised in March or February we would have had a lot more time. We would have caught up more. We would have done more research and I suppose prepared ourselves a bit better.*

Student 2: *In terms of our study tour the uni didn't really prepare us in any way at all. It was really only [the study tour leader] telling us about her past experiences. The uni told us where we were going; asked for our money and that was about it. All the other preparation came from [the study tour leader].*" - Undergraduate Students, Malaysia Study Tour.

### Scenario

A university department decides to hold a study tour to Malaysia later in the year. They begin the process by seeking expressions of interest from students who would like to participate. Very few students apply. As a result, no further work is done to develop the study tour. About two months before the original proposed date, the department receives unexpected 'New Colombo Plan' funding and decides to go ahead with the study tour by offering fully subsidized places for students. The interest is overwhelming and all study tour places are filled. In a very short time-frame, the study tour program is developed, relationships established with international partners, course materials adapted to the context and travel arranged. There is only enough time to hold a brief pre-departure workshop to answer address logistical issues.

### Points for discussion

1. What problems may arise if enough time is not allocated to logistical and practical preparation?
2. What responsibility does the university have to ensure that adequate time is allocated for preparation (for both staff and students)?
3. Brainstorm the 'must-dos' relating to logistical and practical preparation.
4. How might the situation described in the scenario have been avoided?
5. When students have no financial responsibility for their participation in a study tour, how might this impact on learning outcomes for themselves and the group?



The *Generic Preparation Guide for Staff & Students Going on Short-Term Study Tours to Asia* is brought to you by the *Ready for Take-Off: Preparing students for intercultural learning in Asia* project. To find out more about the project, you can:

- Visit the project website <http://interculturallearningasia.edu.au/>
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