

Travel & Work Overseas

IRE ~ a brief intro



IRE is a work experience - cultural exchange opportunity for people 19 to 28 with a bit of experience in rural industries & ready to stretch the horizons. It's happens via living & working in a place for 5 or 6 months plus your choice of travels. IRE's a hassle free setup so you choose the "mix & match" of ~ what, when & where!

1.04

- time of departure is flexible, many leave late March to fit northern hemisphere seasons
- normal placement 5 to 7 months in 1 country but flexible depending on seasons/climate etc
- 2 places in 2 countries over 12 months is a popular option, great contrasts & see heaps
- 2/3 day orientation seminar* after arrival to intro tax, visa's, travel, Ag, lifestyle/culture
- an "on site" supervision* visit a month later to see all is OK, about 5% to 7% are replaced
**depends on which OS partner & their fee*
- IRE serves 70+ Australians to travel each year. 210+ come here
- Average age 21 to 25 with places in crops, stock, hort., wine or equine. *
- 2 types of placement - industry experience *(in any of these) or agri-home (maybe 50-50 mix)
- most participants are from farms etc, some have tertiary training. 35%+ female
- need to have drivers licence, a minimum of a years "hands on" practical experience & be healthy

- minimum weekly allowance in Europe of around \$300 to \$350 for 40/45 hour week plus board & keep or from \$250 to \$500 in N America for 55 hr wk
- "trainee" often lives with family although not always in some industries eg hort. & wine
- normal workers compensation insurance is covered by hosts
- trainees have normal travel & medical insurance
- participants pay IRE a service fee up to \$825 incl GST (less if doing own travel & ins)
- overseas partners have fees varying from \$345 to \$670 (Europe) to \$545 to \$795 (Can-US)
- insurance is approx. \$88 to \$106 per month & tickets from \$1650 to \$2650
- with visa, all up cost for 2004 will be around \$5200 to N America or \$4100 to Euro. or 2 countries for 12 to 18 months would be around \$6250 incl ATW ticket

- visa - maximum 1 year in Europe or Canada, up to 18 months in US
- IRE placements are slightly different to a normal employer/employee relationship - closer
- hosts are screened & regular ongoing supporters & participants
- International Rural Exchange started in 1986 as an incorporated Australian community non profit association & is part of a worldwide network of 35+ specialist "rural exchange programs"
- IRE's members are in all states & are hosts or past trainees
- a Board of 9 elected at the AGM & appoints a full time National Coordinator to administer
- the present Coordinator has 25+ years experience in Aus & OS in rural exchange activity, education/training, rural lobby & community leadership and as a farmer, father & activist
- IRE has nationwide network of hosts & alumni to assist screen host & trainee applicants
- & works with 22 similar programs in N America, Central & W Europe, UK and S Africa

'but there's more ~ read on

*..... so how did it go for some Aussies
on their IRE experience*

Tom ~ Vic to Canada for crops

- *cultural differences & different farming techniques*
- *fishing & shooting in my own time or ice hockey & baseball on weekend*
- *13 states of America in 3 weeks holiday, amazing different animals*
- *brilliant way to start my overseas experience*
- *had a solid base & paid some cash to do what I wanted, not many other expenses*

Dave ~ SA to USA for crops & irrigation

- *really good, everything's all organised for you before you go*
- *really worthwhile experience. I recommend it to anyone*
- *just so much better than I ever expected*

Craig ~ Vic to USA for flower marts

- *'travelled the world on a paid working holiday*
- *'met lots of people from all over the place*
- *just an awesome experience, best thing you can ever do in your life*
- *'definitely recommend IRE to absolutely anyone*

Joanne ~ Tas to Ireland for show jumping

- *got a real home away from home*
- *for me living with a family was just great*
- *give yourself the challenge, try something different & a change of lifestyle*

Luke ~ NSW to Ireland for sheep & cattle

- *being part of another family worked well for me*
- *just so many different things to do after being at home*

Steve ~ Vic to Ireland & USA for dairy

- *met heaps of locals, it's a unique cultural experience*
- *England, Ireland & America in a short 12 months*
- *for me an excellent learning experience*

Matt ~ SA to Ireland for beef & sheep

- *saw so many places on the weekends*
- *really worked for me as the first time away from Aus*

Joclyn ~ WA to Denmark for dairy

- *really broadened my uni training learning many new things about animal production*
- *to help survive, don't forget to take to vegemite*
- *'was interesting training cows for robot milking!*
- *tough to start with but 'learned so much about myself*

Mark ~ Vic to Canada & Ireland for crops & dairy

- *girls just loved the accent!*
- *away from friends & family so 'really got to want to do it*

Scott ~ NSW to Holland for flower production

- *I gained on many fronts ~ a great professional advantage, new cultural awareness
lots of great new friends & saw heaps*
- *weekends for travelling then holiday in Europe after placement*
- *such a great way to learn a lot while seeing the world plus having some money*
- *'reckon everyone just needs to get out & do it ~ do it now, don't wait*

Ready for a change ?

*Print this off now & stick it on the fridge then
call IRE today for an application ~ 1800 815 123
or see us at ~ www.ire.org.au*