

HOW TO GUIDE #22

THE INTERNATIONAL AIR CADET EXCHANGE

WHAT IS IACE?

The International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) aims to link air minded youth organisations from across the world during an annual 2 week exchange programme that usually takes place from the second week of July. A total of 500 cadets and 50 escorting officers take part in the exchange, with the UK selecting around 65 cadets and 8 escorting officers.

The IACE was established on 11 April 1946 by the UK Air Training Corps and the Air Cadet League of Canada. The first exchange programme took place in the summer of 1947 between 46 cadets and 2 escorting officers from each country. After the United States of America joined in 1948 and Sweden joined in 1950, the IACE Association was formed to govern the exchange programme that now includes the following 15 member countries; *Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.*

COST OF THE EXCHANGE

The main cost to each participant is airfare and this usually ranges from £400 - £850 depending on the country they are selected for. Travel insurance is provided by HQ RAFAC.

A range of branded IACE and RAFAC items are required for the exchange and these costs around £50. These items include; polo shirts, soft shell jacket, tie and a 35ltr backpack.

Other items that participants will need to provide themselves to complete the IACE uniform are; 2 white shirts, black trousers or skirt and black shoes.

A reception centre is set up near to London to allow participants to gather and receive briefings on the day before they depart. The cost of this overnight accommodation and any feeding is met by HQ RAFAC.

Each country is responsible for all activities, accommodation, travel and feeding once participants arrive in their host country. The only additional cost to participants will be any spending money they may wish to take with them.

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ IACE places are very limited and participants can only take part in one exchange as a cadet and one as an escorting officer.
- ✓ UK Cadets must be at least 18 years of age by the start of the exchange and under 20 years of age by the last day of the exchange.
- ✓ Escorting Officers must be a minimum of 25 years of age. RAFAC SNCOs must hold the minimum rank of FS and RAFAC Officers must hold the minimum rank of Fg Off.

IACE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Each country is expected to deliver a programme that includes aviation based engagement and a range of social, educational, recreational and cultural activities.

SELECTION AND ALLOCATION

The IACE Association holds a conference each year and this is when the number of exchange places for each country are agreed. In October each year, HQ RAFAC allocates cadet and escorting officer places to each ATC Region and HQ CCF (RAF) and names are expected to be confirmed by the following March.

Additional information can be found at iacea.com and in *ACTO 53*.

