



Thinking Beyond Borders Essential Eligibility Criteria

Thinking Beyond Borders' mission is to empower and inspire students through education to address critical global issues.

The physical, mental and emotional health of TBB students and staff is a top priority. Students will travel, work, live, and learn in unfamiliar environments, in developing countries and poor communities around the world. TBB students will be challenged physically and emotionally at various stages in each program. Each student must be committed to and capable of working hard, taking responsibility for themselves and their actions, and working as part of the group to achieve the goals of the program.

The Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) are applicable for all TBB students. The EEC are intended to explain the physical- and safety-related expectations for TBB's activities. A qualified student is one who can meet the EEC for participation in the program, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Essential Eligibility Criteria

Each student must...

1. Be able to identify and respond to environmental risks and hazards independently, including but not limited to: unsafe terrain, extreme weather and dangerous animals.
2. Be able to recognize risks presented by other members of the group including fatigue and state of mind.
3. Be able to follow the oral instruction of TBB Program Leaders and partner organization staff with regards to local safety issues, including but not limited to: minimum number of people to be travelling in a group, unsafe areas of a city or community, safe transportation methods and common risks and threats.
4. Be able to take responsibility for one's own health, well-being, hydration and nutrition at all times.
5. Be able to administer and take responsibility for one's own prescription medication, except in emergency situations.
6. Be able to work effectively as part of a team and provide support and guidance to fellow students.
7. From time to time be able to sleep in 'back-country' environments: camping in a tent with a sleeping bag.
8. Be able to hike and carry one's own pack for up to four days at an elevation of up to 4,300 meters.
9. Be able to participate in and form a safe learning environment: verbal and physical threats are never appropriate.
10. Be able to share a room, tent, or other accommodation with other TBB students.
11. Be able to act respectfully and in a culturally sensitive manner in host families. This may include following guidance from TBB Program Leaders or partner organizations on behavior that might normally be deemed acceptable, but is considered inappropriate in the host culture.

12. Be able to cope with the stresses that exist when travelling for up to 7 months in physical and cultural environments that are in stark contrast to one's life back home.
13. Be able to sit for extended periods of time on long-haul trans-continental flights. Many of the travel periods on TBB can last up to 48 hours.
14. Be able to travel independently in a small group of students for up to 72 hours away from the direct supervision of the TBB Program Leaders.