

Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize 2024

Student study tour information

OFFICIAL

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that Aboriginal self-determination is a human right and recognise the hard work of many generations of Aboriginal people.**

To receive this document in another format, phone the Victorian Government information hotline 1300 366 356, or email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au.

**If you need help with communication**

Contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). For more information:

* visit [National Relay Service](https://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs) (https://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs) to choose your preferred access point, or
* call the NRS Helpdesk 1800 555 660.

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# About the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize

Thank you for your interest in the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize.

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize is an annual competition open to students enrolled in Years 9 to 12. The competition offers Victorian students the opportunity to:

* explore Australia’s wartime and peacekeeping history
* join a fully funded overseas study tour to significant war heritage sites
* connect with veterans and the ex-service community
* understand and remember the contribution of Victorian service people.

The 2024 competition is open between 4 March and 29 April 2024.

Students entering the competition will investigate how ordinary Victorians:

* united to crowd-fund and build the Shrine and other community war memorials
* achieved their goal during a time of grief, loss and financial hardship
* showed Anzac values of support, courage, endurance, resourcefulness and mateship.

Twelve selected students will join a funded overseas study tour in 2024. We expect the study tour to take place during the Victorian September school holidays. All dates are indicative and subject to change.

If selected, you will:

* be an ambassador for the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize
* share your experience with your school and the broader community.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Office for Veterans runs the prize.

For more information, visit:

* [Premiers Spirit of Anzac Prize](https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-spirit-anzac-prize) https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-spirit-anzac-prize, or
* [contact us](#_For_more_information).

# About the study tour

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize 2024 is awarded to 12 students.

These students will receive a fully funded 10-day overseas study tour, which includes:

* accommodation
* transport
* insurance
* activities
* meals.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing covers all tour costs.

Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize study tours aim to connect young Victorians with the legend and spirit of Anzac, which symbolises the courage and sacrifice of Australian service people.

Study tour experiences also broaden students’ education and personal outlook.

On the study tour you can:

* deepen your understanding of Australian and world history
* learn from experts, when visiting sites of historical and cultural significance
* travel with a diverse group of other students
* form meaningful connections
* gain new perspectives
* build your independence, collaboration and leadership skills
* have fun
* make memories to last a lifetime
* be immersed in another country’s rich culture and history
* gain understandings of other cultures.

# Before the study tour

## Award presentation ceremony

We hold an award presentation event in Melbourne to celebrate and acknowledge the 2024 prize recipients.

We invite students to attend the event with their parents or carers and a representative from their school. The teacher chaperones selected for the 2024 study tour are also invited to attend the event.

We distribute invitations once the Minister for Veterans office confirms the date and venue.

## Pre-tour briefing session

We encourage study tour participants to:

* be well prepared
* make the most of the experience.

Before the study tour, there is a half-day travel and cultural briefing session held in Melbourne. All study tour participants need to attend the briefing session. We encourage parents/carers to attend.

The pre-tour briefing session provides an opportunity for you and your parent/carer to:

* meet our team and your travel tour companions:
	+ students
	+ teacher chaperones
	+ tour manager
* get information on the travel itinerary, and cultural and safety advice
* learn about the code of conduct you’ll need to follow
* ask questions.

## What students need for the study tour

You need:

* an Australian passport with more than 6 months validity
* personal luggage for the 10-day tour, for your:
	+ clothing
	+ shoes
	+ toiletries
	+ medication
	+ anything else you need.

During the tour, we expect you to dress in neat casual clothing. Once we confirm the tour destination, we will advise you about what to pack for the weather and tour activities.

Financial help is available on request for students who need support to attend the funded study tour, for example to buy:

* a passport
* suitable clothing
* footwear
* luggage.

### Mobile phone

Your smartphone needs to:

* have good battery life
* be unlocked
* be able to accept a travel SIM card to use overseas.

**Note:** If you can’t bring a smartphone on tour, please tell us in advance.

### Pocket money

You may choose to bring pocket money for:

* snacks
* souvenirs
* other small expenses.

You are responsible for any spending and emergency money you bring with you.

### Prohibited items

You must **not** bring:

* alcohol
* cigarettes/tobacco products
* e-cigarettes/vapes
* undocumented medications – that is, medications you have not documented on the medical form or emailed to Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au
* illegal substances
* drones
* dangerous items – for example, knives and scissors.

# During the study tour

## Study tour inclusions and associated costs

The overseas study tour includes:

* accommodation
* transport
* insurance
* activities
* meals.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing covers these costs.

## Travel itinerary

We expect the study tour to take place during the Victorian September school holidays. All dates are indicative and subject to change.

Students travel as a whole group. They depart and return from Melbourne Airport. Parents/carers drop-off and collect students at an agreed meeting place.

If required, the department arranges accommodation in Melbourne for participants travelling from rural or regional Victoria. There is no cost to families.

We will confirm the travel itinerary, but expect it to include:

* 7 nights in the destination country
* group travel to visit significant historical sites.

**Note**: If a student needs to return home early due to illness or disciplinary action, the department will inform their parents/carers. Parents/carers may have to pay for the student’s return costs.

If a student is unable to take part in the study tour, they forgo the opportunity and there is no cash replacement.

## Accommodation

Provided accommodation includes:

* 4 to 5-star rooms, with security considered when booking
* twin share rooms, with students of the same gender, close to the teacher chaperones’ rooms.

**Note**: If a student feels unable to share a room with another student, they should let us know **before** the tour.

## Adults accompanying the tour

The 12 students on the study tour will always travel with:

* 3 teacher chaperones
* a tour manager
* local tour guides.

Standby teacher chaperones can join the tour if needed.

Teacher chaperones support student participants during the study tour and will:

* supervise student participants, including overnight
* always be aware of the whereabouts of student participants
* care for students, including:
	+ meeting their needs
	+ encouraging appropriate relationships
	+ encouraging positive group dynamics
	+ managing any behavioural issues
* ensure all participants are valued and supported so they can fully:
	+ take part
	+ learn
	+ develop
	+ succeed
* recognise the diverse backgrounds, needs and circumstances of student participants
* help to ensure the safety and wellbeing of student participants
* understand the study tour Risk Register and follow emergency management plans
* support the tour manager, local tour providers and the department to deliver a study tour for students that is:
	+ safe
	+ supported
	+ educational
	+ fun
* follow the Teacher Chaperone Code of Conduct.

## Care, safety and wellbeing

Care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount.

All adults on the tour will have current Working with Children and Police checks, for example:

* teacher chaperones
* tour manager.

All students have the right to feel safe from abuse and neglect. You should speak to a supervisor if you feel unsafe for any reason on the study tour.

We recognise the diverse backgrounds, needs and circumstances of student participants. If selected, please tell us of any requirements you need to help you take part in the study tour, including:

* religious
* cultural
* dietary
* health
* access.

If you have questions or concerns about the care, safety and wellbeing of students on the study tour, email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au.

## Code of conduct – students

Students taking part in the study tour need to follow a code of conduct, to:

* help ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of students and teachers on the study tour
* best represent the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize, and the Victorian Government.

Students in serious breach of the code of conduct may have to return home before the study tour ends. This is at their parent/carer’s expense.

## General health and safety information

We ask students to:

* have all necessary vaccinations before leaving on the study tour and show documentation
* follow health and safety advice and good personal hygiene
* tell us of any dietary or access requirements
* tell us about medical conditions or needs, carrying all necessary medication on tour
* take a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) **before** joining the tour
* if symptomatic with a positive RAT result, you should not take part in the tour
* if during the tour you have COVID-like symptoms, we ask you to take a RAT and stay in your room while symptomatic
* always stay with the tour group, never going out, or using public toilets, alone.

The tour manager and the supervisors will know about local medical facilities and hospitals.

If a student needs to visit a medical facility or remain in the hotel due to illness or injury, they are always accompanied by a teacher chaperone. The departments notifies the student’s parent or carer.

We check travel advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade before and during the study tour. We use this advice to change the tour itinerary if needed.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during the study tour, the tour manager and teacher chaperones contact the department. The department notifies parents and carers.

## Insurance

The department’s insurance provider, VMIA, covers **all** travel insurance. This includes medical insurance for each student and teacher chaperone.

The safety, health and security of students and teachers takes precedence over:

* insurance policy clauses
* involvement by an insurance company or school.

# After the study tour

## Post-travel briefing

A study tour can spark a renewed energy for learning and sharing the experience. After the tour, you are asked to attend a half-day briefing in Melbourne to:

* celebrate the success of the study tour and debrief on the experience
* share how you plan to be an ambassador for the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize
* continue the learning experience and friendships formed
* learn from other students and teachers, sharing their learning and insights.

# More information or help

Before you apply, learn more about the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize study tour:

## Contact us

* Phone the Victorian Government information hotline 1300 366 356.
* EmailSpirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au. You can provide a phone number and the best time for us to return your call (during business hours).
* **If you need an interpreter**:

Email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au to request a call back, advising us of your preferred language.

* **If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired**:

Email Spirit of Anzac Prize soap@dffh.vic.gov.au to request a call back and tell us the National Relay Service you would like us to use to contact you.

## Subscribe to our updates

Keep up to date with the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize, [subscribe to the email update](https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/B918D1EA3CFD2558) https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/B918D1EA3CFD2558