QUESTION	ANSWER
Scholarship activities	
If we travel somewhere else in Europe from the UK, attending other botanic gardens. Are flights/accommodation covered?	Flights and associated travel cost such as accommodation is covered for specific learning activities that directly contribute towards your specific scholarship goals. Visiting a botanical garden simply recreationally does not count as a scholarship activity, so make sure you provide in your scholarship plan the details of your specific learning intentions and any arrangements such as, for example, be a meeting with an expert to learn from or network with or a tour of specific facilities or equipment.
If i spend a day travelling between one country and another, does that count as 1 scholarship day?	Only days that you engage in scholarship activities (placements, conferences, networking, etc) count towards your minimum of 20 days of scholarship activities.
Can we do placements in two separate trips? i.e. 2 weeks 2025, 2 weeks 2026	Yes, absolutely.
How long do we have to compete our scholarship?	You need to complete all scholarship travel and/or activities by 30 April 2026 and to complete yourscholarship video, graduation interview and survey by 31 May 2026, as per scholarship agreement
It has been recommended that we leave gaps in our schedules in case opportunities come up. Is there a recommendation for how long these gaps might be for/how frequent? How do we enter these on the trip planning doc?Following on from this, how much notice does BBM need for changed plans while overseas. For example if we are offered an opportunity in a few days' time, is that possible?	We suggest you leave yourself some flexibility in your plan for opportunities that arise. There are, however, no rules around if / how frequent or how long gaps should be. You don't need to indicate gaps in your scholarship plan. Just enter any arrangements you made. Note, however, that only confirmed scholarship activities (not any flexibility gaps) count towards your 20 day minimum placement. If considering a change of plans, you must let BBM know as soon as possible. If a change of plans impacts a placement you have already confirmed you MUST contact BBM BEFORE discussing possible changes with the host/s.
Does travelling to botanical gardens and not necessarily working at the garden count towards the 20 days?	The 20 minimum scholarship days are those days for which you provide evidence of specific learning activities that directly contribute towards your specific scholarship goals. So if you are visiting a botanical garden simply recreationally in the way any other visitor would, this would not count as a scholarship activity. If, however, you were traveling there to meet an expert to learn from or shadow, that would count.

If we complete our 20-day work experience, are we able to stay longer to work for money and continue to learn?	Absolutely! Just must, however, 1) ensure this is permitted by your visa, 2) keep us informed of your whereabouts and 3) continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first. You must also ensure that your visa allows you to work for money.
Who should we ask for help to get in touch with businesses and the right organisations overseas ?	To find placements research your industry and trends, and then you can try alumni, industry contacts or you can cold call through LinkedIn or company websites.To get help with how to approach your chosen targets talk to alumni or BBM team.
What is the typical travel time is for someone doing a Global footprints scholarship?	There is no typical trip length. Some scholars stay overseas for three weeks, others have stayed six months or more. You must complete a minimum of 20 days of placements or industry activities.
Is it common for scholars to undertake some paid work while away, and is this allowed?	It is not common but many have done so, and BBM does allow it.
Personal and leisure travel	
Will return flights be covered even if we spend the last part of the trip on recreation?	Yes! Just must, however, 1) ensure this is permitted by your visa, 2) keep us informed of your whereabouts and 3) continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first.

If we travel somewhere else in Europe from the UK, attending other botanic gardens. Are flights/accommodation covered?	Any activities that directly contribute towards your scholarship goals count. This can include site visits, meetings with experts, conferences, shadowing, etc. Visiting a botanical garden simply recreationally does not count as a scholarship activity, so make sure you provide in your scholarship plan the details of your specific learning intentions and any arrangements such as, for example, be a meeting with an expert to learn from or network with or a tour of specific facilities or equipment.
Can we finish our scholarship activities by the 30th April 2026 but continue to remain overseas afterwards (self-funded)?	Absolutely! Just must, however, 1) ensure this is permitted by your visa, 2) keep us informed of your whereabouts and 3) continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first.
If i have a stopover on my way to the UK and stay somewhere for 5 days for a holiday, then continue to UK from there does the scholarship cover these flights	Yes, as long as they are booked on one ticket as a stopover. If it's two separate tickets and it's for a holiday genrally not. If in doubt discuss with Sam.
What percentage of our funds can go towards recreational activities,or do we need to fund our recreational activities ourselves?	Scholarship funds can only be used for scholarship activities such as placements and/or industry activities and associated expenses (travel, accommodation, food, conference tickets, etc.) Personal travel and recreational activies are at your own expense.
For returning flight does it have to be straight after our plan date is completed or can we have one month for example of recrational time funded purely by us?	You may undertake personal / leisure travel before, after or in between scholarship activities at your own expense. Many scholars have added extended personal travel to their scholarship trip. Just must, however, keep us informed of your whereabouts and continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first.

Is there a ratio of work/"holiday" we should aim to keep?	For your scholarship you must: 1) Complete of a minimum of 20 days of placements / industry activities, 2) Submit associated placement agreements and safety checklists until you 3) Complete your graduation requirements (video story, graduation interview and impact survey.) Your personal travel is up to you, and this may occur before, after and/or in between your scholarship placement days. Some past scholars have travelled for months after their placement, and as long as you adhere to your scholarship requirements within the given deadlines. Just must, however, keep us informed of your whereabouts and continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first.
May we visit multiple countries once our placement is completed (Europe)	Absolutely! Just must, however, keep us informed of your whereabouts and continue to submit safety checklists of any activities involving safety risks or hazards, including placements, paid work and recreational activities. Completing safety checklists for activities is a requirement until you return to Australia, or until you have completed your graduation requirements (video, graduation interview, impact survey, after which you will receive your remaining $500 of funds), whichever comes first.
Scholarship funds	
Would BBM funds cover any vaccines needed to travel?	Yes, if related to your placement and associated travel.
May we use our funds for intensive language courses overseas?	Scholarship funds can be claimed for any expenses directly related to your placements and/or industry activities. Fees for a course to acquire the language skills needed to succeed with your placement can be claimed, fees for a lanuage course for a country you wish to travel to for leisure cannot be claimed.
Is subletting rooms for short term stays covered by our accommodation costs if not what is the preferred airbnb/hotel?	Yes, this can be a great option. Just provide details of cost / arrangement / payment in writing.
General Travel	

What is considered an unsafe country?	The Australian Government issues country specific safety advice including advice on countries not safe to travel to. Check Smart Traveller website for advice specific to your chosen destination. Counties categoriesed as **Level 3 or 4** are considered **unsafe** and you will **not be able to travel** there for your scholarship. At level 2, there are more or higher risks than what you would typically find in a large Australian city. We're not saying 'don't go' to this location. But you must do your research, identify if / how the increased risk impacts your specific plans and identify extra precautions you need to take. https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/consular-services/travel-advice-explained#level2
One video supported 2-factor authentication for security (which is the case for most things now.) I have found this to be a pain in the past though, if it texts you but you're not using your Australian sim.Any ideas about dealing with this?	Options to explore:Check with your phone provider if they include WiFi calling and if switching between regular and e-sim is possible while overseas.Contact your bank and ask if they can send messages to your e-sim number while you are away OR if you can use Face ID or a secondary email address instead of sms OR if there is the option to use an authenticator app.
What is the typical number of countries people visit during their Global Footprints scholarship?	There is no typical number of countries. Some scholars travel to a single destination, others have visited more than 15 countries (Europe).
It has been recommended to us by past scholars to not book return flights. Is this okay?	That's fine as long as a) it is compliant with your visa conditions, b) you put an indicative return date into your scholarship plan, and c) you have budgeted for increased flight cost to buy a ticket at shorter notice.
Budgeting	
What happens if we run out of money?	You must plan and budget to avoid this situation. A buffer of 10% of your scholarship budget is recommended to cover any unforeseen emergencies. There are no additional funds available from BBM if you run out of money.
How can we estimate daily expenses eg. food?	Try a combination of online resources like country specific expat / travel groups on socials and tools like Numbeo. https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/

Visas	
Who to ask (within or outside BBM) for visa help/advice?	The ONLY reliable source of visa information is the embassy of the country you are travelling to.
Can Sammy the travel agent provide advice on visas?	The ONLY reliable source of visa information is the embassy of the country you are travelling to.
Tax	
is the scholarship funding a taxable income We had a look and were unclear.	This question should be answered by tax agent or accountant. BBM staff are not qualified to give advice on tax matters.