

Professional Experience in Isolated and Rural Schools (PEIRS) Program

About PEIRS

The PEIRS program encourages pre-service teachers to undertake school experience in participating rural and isolated schools by providing support for accommodation and travel. The intention of the program is to support students who must relocate to undertake their placement.

The placement of a pre-service teacher in a participating school is subject to negotiation between the school and Faculty of Education placement co-ordinator.

Participating schools manage the costs associated for each eligible pre-service teacher and are reimbursed for these costs at the end of the program.

The PEIRS program is managed by People Services and Support in conjunction with Learning Services and representatives from the Faculty of Education, University of Tasmania.

Participating Schools

LEARNING (NORTH)

Bicheno Primary School	Mountain Heights School	Stanley Primary School
Bridport Primary School	Redpa Primary School	St Helens District High School
Campbell Town District High School	Ringarooma Primary School	St Marys District School
Flinders Island District High School	Rosebery District High School	Strahan Primary School
Forest Primary School	Scottsdale High School	Wilmot Primary School
King Island District High School	Scottsdale Primary School	Winnaleah District High School
Mole Creek Primary School	Smithton Primary School	Zeehan Primary School

LEARNING (SOUTH)

Bothwell District High School	Glen Huon Primary School	Triabunna District School
Cygnnet Primary School	Glenora District School	Westerway Primary School
Dover District School	Oatlands District High School	
Dunalley Primary School	Swansea Primary School	
Geeveston Primary School	Tasman District School	

Entitlements under PEIRS Program

Travel

Pre-service teachers may claim for a number of return trips from their usual place of residence to the school where the professional experience placement occurs. In these circumstances pre-service teachers should make their claim directly to the school in which they are undertaking the professional experience placement. Claims should be made on the [PEIRS Reimbursement Claim Form](#). Flights (King Island and Flinders Island placements only) should be arranged and paid for by the school as the cost to pre-service teachers could be prohibitive.

The number of paid trips available to pre-service teachers is dependent on the particular placement they are fulfilling, as outlined in the table below:

Professional Experience Program	Duration	Return Trips by car	Return flights (King and Flinders Island placements only)
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood/Primary/Specialisations) Final Placement	6 weeks	3	2
Master of Teaching Final Placement	5 weeks	3	3

Accommodation

The intention of the program is to support students who must relocate to undertake their placement.

Participating schools will arrange accommodation for pre-service teachers as appropriate. Accommodation options are:

1. Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) accommodation i.e. hostels or residences – school may claim reimbursement up to \$150 per week on the [PEIRS Reimbursement Claim Form](#), to cover general costs of maintaining the property, including maintenance, utilities and cleaning costs; or
2. Rental accommodation at a hotel, motel, apartment, B & B or other registered rental property can be utilised where approved by HR Policy and Projects. Costs associated with rental accommodation will be paid for by the school directly to the supplier. Schools claim

accommodation costs on the [PEIRS Reimbursement Claim Form](#). A tax invoice together with proof of payment needs to be attached.

A Homestay host accommodation arrangement may be organised. For more information about this type of arrangement please contact [HR Policy and Projects](#).

Accommodation arrangements other than those listed above are not to be entered into by the school. Where the school is experiencing difficulty identifying suitable accommodation for the period of the placement, advice should be sought from the HR Policy and Projects team on the most appropriate course of action. If suitable accommodation cannot be found, the PEIRS placement should not go ahead.

Basic Provisions Package

A “Welcome” package of essential items, such as tea, coffee, butter, bread and milk may be provided, depending on the style of accommodation. A maximum of \$50 reimbursement may be claimed upon production of the receipt along with the [PEIRS Reimbursement Claim Form](#).

Matters not included

PEIRS Program Funding **DOES NOT** Cover:

- Ongoing food, grocery costs;
- Telephone or other communication costs;
- Entertainment costs; or
- Daily travel costs.

Responsibilities

People Services and Support – Department for Education, Children and Young People

- Co-ordinate policy and guidelines governing the program, including funding, in liaison with the Faculty of Education.
- Provide advice regarding eligible expenses/claims with participating schools.
- Approve payment of funds to schools participating in the program.
- Review and evaluate the PEIRS program.

Faculty of Education – University of Tasmania

- Liaise with participating schools and pre-service teachers about potential professional experience placements.
- Finalise professional experience placements with participating schools and pre-service teachers.
- Monitor students’ progress, in conjunction with school personnel, while on professional experience placements

- Provide lists of professional experience placements to Learning Services.

Participating Schools

- Schools which are likely to have a teaching vacancy in the following year are strongly encouraged to nominate to take a pre-service teacher.
- Arrange flights as required (Bass Strait Island Schools).
- In consultation with the pre-service teacher, arrange suitable accommodation with reference to accommodation options.
- Pay accommodation costs directly to the provider.
- Organise basic provisions pack (where applicable).
- Directly compensate pre-service teachers for their travel on receipt of a claim form from the pre-service teacher in accordance with eligibility criteria.
- Submit a [PEIRS Program Reimbursement Claim Form](#) to People Services and Support for the total cost of services provided under this program at the conclusion of the placement.

Pre-Service Teachers

- Nominate for professional experience placements in participating schools.
- Contact participating school and confirm the support and accommodation that will be provided under the program.

Contact

For students

Please discuss your interest in a rural or isolated placement with the Professional Experience Office at University Tasmania via email professional.experience@educ.utas.edu.au or phone (03) 6324 3794 to determine whether you would be eligible for PEIRS support.

Once your placement is confirmed, contact the school to discuss PEIRS support.

For Schools

Please contact the HR Policy and Projects team within the Department for Education, Children and Young People via email HR.Policy@decyp.tas.gov.au.

Supporting Information and Tools

- [PEIRS Program Reimbursement Claim Form](#)