

Hello from Battambang!

We are pleased that you have inquired about our SOMD school that we run here at University of the Nations Battambang, Cambodia. The University of the Nations explains SOMD to be:

School of Ministry Development - During this school students discover and develop their gifts and talents in leadership roles. The course is especially designed for new staff at YWAM centres and is adapted to the context of the language and culture of the country in which it is taught. Some of the topics are: understanding the core values of YWAM, perspectives on missions, generational thinking, transforming cultures, personal fund-raising, worship and evangelism, personal ministry development, public speaking, spiritual authority, and conflict resolution.

The focus of SOMD here in Battambang is to help the transition into life and ministry in Cambodia. Coming to a new place with a new culture and new language can be challenging. Our heart is that you would get plugged into a great, cross-cultural community from the very beginning that would help you to form relationships with Cambodians and learn to function in Cambodian culture.

Our aim is to create an intentional community where we are seeking God and reaching out to the community together. This school is a forum to learn about where we've come from as a base, the foundational words of the Lord to us as a community, and the vision He has given us for moving forward.

So what does that look like?

SOMD will be one community that is made up of 2 groups of people: 1) international students and 2) Cambodian students. We will seek God together and do ministry together, but some aspects of the program will be specific to each group.

For the all international students, 20+ hours/week will be spent on language study. It is so important that we prioritize learning Khmer since it will open up the door for us to impact the Cambodian people on a heart level. If we want to reach the hearts of the Khmer, we have to speak their language. We will spend time doing individual language study with a tutor, one-on-one conversation with Khmer SOMD students, and interactive, immersion language activities as a group. We want to see you have every opportunity possible to succeed with the Khmer language!

In the afternoon, as an entire school, we will serve alongside the Youth Development Center—a YWAM ministry reaching out to the youth of Battambang through teaching English, Bible, dance, guitar, and other classes. The Youth Center is an amazing ministry that God has used to impact hundreds of youth in the city. Some of our leaders in YWAM today are people who met Jesus just a few years ago through an English class or Bible class at the Youth Center, went on to study DTS, and are now helping staff and lead various ministries at our base. It is so exciting to see what God is doing in the youth of this city!

We will also be spending time as a school in intercession, worship and spending time in the classroom to really gain a good foundation of discipleship, leadership and how God is calling us as YWAM

Battambang to live together as a community and spend our lives for His glory specifically in this nation and the ends of the Earth.

What does it mean financially?

The total school fee for SOMD for International students from “Country A” is \$1,100 USD*. Complete payment will be required within in the first month of the school. *Subject to change with visa prices.

We are excited you are interested in joining us and really believe that this program will help you thrive as you transition into life here—relationally, culturally, linguistically, and spiritually. Upon completion of SOMD at U of N Battambang all students are able to apply to be staff members with U of N Battambang, if desired.

Thank you,

The Base Leadership Team and Molly Van Hemert (SOMD leadership)