International Practicum Placement Program
APPLICATION HANDBOOK

Spring 2019

Faculty of Education

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Applicant Profile Deadline: November 19, 2018 (or earlier)
Submit Paper Copy To: Faculty of Education Advising Office,
Attention Pamela Hoy

Evaluation Forms Deadline: January 21, 2019 (or earlier)
Submit Hard Copy To: Faculty of Education Advising Office,
Attention Pamela Hoy
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International Practicum Calendar Potential Dates for Spring 2019 Term

Please see the solid brown and brown mini-square line for approximate dates pertaining to the International Practicum Placement. Please note that the dates may alter slightly depending on the location of the placement.
International Practicum Placement Program Information

The International Practicum Placement (IPP) program offered by the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University (VIU) supports the university’s goals of internationalizing the curriculum, specifically in ‘adding international dimensions and intercultural components’. Specific to the Faculty of Education, the IPP program supports pre-service teachers hoping to gain an international teaching experience during their initial teacher education program.

The proposed program structure and timeline has been developed as a ‘value added’ component to the existing field experience structures within both the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and Post Baccalaureate (Post Bacc.) initial teacher education programs. Prior to departing for an IPP, participants will complete a shortened three week BC based practicum in support of their field experience as it has developed throughout their respective programs. Upon successful completion of this, program participants will travel to their host locations to complete an approximately four week international practicum placement for the month of May.

This is an exciting opportunity for any pre-service teacher hoping to gain international teaching experience and exposure to different cultures, values and practices, as well as actively reflect on their practice and understandings of good teaching. It is also an opportunity to participate in an additional practicum placement.

The Faculty of Education began supporting international practicum teaching opportunities in the Spring of 2009 at a BC Offshore School in China, followed by the addition of a community service based experience in Belize in the spring of 2010. Traditionally these opportunities were separated by program but as of the Spring of 2016, applications can be made to either one or both opportunities by current Year 5 Post Bacc. and Year 4 B.Ed. students.

Statement of Faculty:

International practica are excellent opportunities for students to experience contact with different cultures and life ways in foreign countries, which includes the experience of teaching and schooling as conceived by the host nation. The instructors and facilitators of the IPP program endeavour to enhance exposure to these cultures through various educational settings in schools and work hard to ensure their students' safety and well-being. Canadian standards of safety and comfort are an ideal that may not be possible elsewhere and students may endure some discomfort (e.g. heat, limited personal space, rationing); this is also true of standards of living. Cultural relativism is central to anthropological ethics and behavior in the field. Students who choose to participate in these opportunities should be aware of these ethical issues, recognize differences in cultures, and modify their behaviour accordingly. ‘Culture shock’ and travel stress are a natural reaction to a field school experience in a foreign environment. Students should expect to experience both to some degree and be mindful of their ‘guest’ status in both the host country and host school locales.

Application Note

Please read the entire application package carefully and complete all the necessary forms. Full disclosure of all information is essential in order for the participating faculty members to best manage personal issues related to your health, well-being, and safety. Finally, the principle guiding placement is ‘best fit’ between the candidate, host school and country. **Incomplete or late application forms will not be accepted and final placement is subject to Faculty of Education and Faculty of International Education approval.**
BC Offshore or International Curriculum School Practicum Placement Option

This placement option takes place at various locations, many of which are in Asia. Participants are placed either in pairs or individually and will indicate upon application their destination preferences. Participants are expected to teach the BC or International curriculum and are able to teach in grades and/or subject areas outside of their current BC based field experience placement should their academic credentials permit. There is no VIU faculty accompaniment in this option.

Participants will teach up to 50% of full-time and are expected to participate fully in the daily life of the school. Evaluation of teaching is predominately formative (i.e. no formal evaluation report to be written) and upon completion of the practicum, participants will be provided with a reference letter by their host school.

Participants can expect their host school to provide accommodation for the duration of the practicum placement but all other daily living expenses will be the responsibility of the participant. Such expenses can include (but are not limited to) daily food, transportation to and from accommodation, utility use (hydro, water, etc.), etc. Cost for travel and travel plan arrangements to and from VIU (home) to the host country and school are also the responsibility of the participant, as are potential travel visa costs. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be familiar with the travel visa requirements, such as the duration of stay permitted, etc.

Potential Practica Sites for Spring 2019 include (but not limited to):

- **Maple Leaf School Dalian**
  - Dalian, China (830 km east of Beijing), (Elementary & Secondary placements)
  - BC curriculum based
  - Opportunity also includes $1000 remuneration for participants who are hired by the Maple Leaf Educational System upon graduation from VIU.

- **Maple Leaf School Luoyang**
  - Louyang, China (370 km east of Xian & Terracotta Warriors), (Secondary placements)
  - BC curriculum based
  - Opportunity also includes $1000 remuneration for participants who are hired by the Maple Leaf Educational System upon graduation from VIU.

- **Bohunt School**
  - Liphook, England (70 km southwest of London), (Middle & Secondary placements)
  - UK curriculum based

- **Chitkara International School**
  - Chandigarh, India (north India, 250 km north of New Delhi), (Elementary & Secondary placements)
  - India international curriculum based
Community Service Based Practicum Placement Option

This placement option takes place in one location. Participants are placed in a cohort and are accompanied by a VIU Faculty of Education member. Participants are expected to teach curriculum as outlined by the host school. These schools have been created to meet the unique needs of children and families who live in extreme poverty.

Participants will teach up to 50% of full-time and are expected to participate fully in the daily life of the school and local community. Evaluation of teaching is predominately formative (i.e. no formal evaluation report to be written) and upon completion of the practicum, participants will be provided with a supplementary practicum report and reference letter.

In most cases, food, local transportation and accommodation will be organized for you. In some circumstances, participants will be expected to organize their own accommodation, where all participant members will stay as a cohort. Additionally, expenses may include (but are not limited to) daily food, transportation to and from accommodation, utility use (hydro, water, etc.), etc. Cost for travel and travel plan arrangements to and from VIU (home) to the host country and school are also the responsibility of the participant, as are potential travel visa costs. Participation in fund raising activities is an expectation of participants to support the needs of the school as well as help lessen the financial burden of this opportunity. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be familiar with the travel visa requirements, such as the duration of stay permitted, etc.

Potential Community Service Based Practicum Sites for Spring 2019:

- Northern India or Punjab Region (exact location to be determined)
  - Rural India
- Australian Aboriginal Schools (exact location to be determined)
  - Outback Australia
Application Components & Deadlines (Due Dates)

Application to the IPP program is comprised of five (5) components involving both the Faculty of Education AND the Faculty of International Education. Some components are to be completed online and others in hard copy form. Carefully read completion instructions for each component. Details for Spring 2019 are:

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION COMPONENTS:**

1. **Applicant Profile Form**
   - Fillable PDF form available at [https://education.viu.ca/sites/default/files/internationalapplicantprofileform_may2019fillable.pdf](https://education.viu.ca/sites/default/files/internationalapplicantprofileform_may2019fillable.pdf)
   - Completed and submitted by applicant (you) in person or by mail (as per the correspondent address stated on the form)
   - Due to Advising Office (building 356, room 208) at the Faculty of Education, attention Pamela Hoy, by Monday November 19, 2018.

2. **Field Experience Supervisor or Sponsor Teacher Evaluation Form**
   - PDF form to be provided your Field Experience Supervisor and/or Sponsor Teacher. Available upon application to the International Practicum Placement Program.
   - Completed and submitted by your Field Experience Supervisor or Sponsor Teacher in person or by mail (as per the correspondent address stated on the form)
   - Consider providing your Field Experience Supervisor with a pre-stamped envelope to expedite the mailing process
   - Due to the Advising Office (building 356, room 208) at the Faculty of Education, attention Pamela Hoy, by Monday January 21, 2019.

3. **Faculty of Education Professor/Instructor Evaluation Form**
   - PDF form to be provided your Faculty of Education Professor/Instructor. Available upon application to the International Practicum Placement Program
   - Completed and submitted in person by either Fall 2017 or Spring 2018 teacher education program Instructor/Faculty of Education member of your choice
   - Due to the Advising Office (building 356, room 208) at the Faculty of Education, attention Pamela Hoy, by Monday January 21, 2019.

**FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMPONENTS:**

* to be completed by successful applicants to the International Practicum Placement program
* exact details to be communicated directly from Education Abroad at VIU

4. **Travel Insurance**
   - All participants must participate in a VIU Faculty of International Education mandated travel/medical insurance policy
   - Enrollment and fee payment instructions will be provided by the Faculty of International Education

5. **Education Abroad Application Form & Education Abroad Self-Assessment**
   - Online form at [https://isweb.viu.ca/StudyAbroad/apply.asp](https://isweb.viu.ca/StudyAbroad/apply.asp)
   - In the first section Program & Destination Country, select ‘Practicum/Internship (Location Abroad)’ followed by your first choice of placement option
• Complete as requested by the Faculty of International Education, including the entire ‘Education Abroad Self-Assessment’ form, and click submit by Monday March 1, 2019.

6. **Acknowledgement of Responsibility and Assumption of Risk for Study Abroad Programs Form**
   - Paper form provided by Faculty of International Education
   - Completed by applicant (you) **upon acceptance** to the International Practicum Placement program
   - Submitted in person to the Faculty of International Education (building 255), attention Leslie Burgoyne or via email at educationabroad@viu.ca prior to departure

**Applicant Evaluation and Participant Selection**

The number of students who can participate in the IPP opportunity is limited. Acceptance for an IPP is a privilege. All potential candidates for international practica will be evaluated by members of the Faculty of Education. Final acceptance into the International Practicum Placement program is subject to Faculty of Education approval.

**Participation Eligibility:**
Eligibility to participate in the International Practicum Placement program will be evaluated based on:
- academic standing (officially evaluated via included form)
- previous practicum success (officially evaluated via included form)
- estimated time for completion of degree
- satisfactory completion of pre-requisite course work
- suitability for specific practicum placement and host country
- compatibility with fellow students
- compatibility with host country, schools, accommodation arrangements and setting

**Terms of Participation:**
Students hoping to participate in the International Practicum Placement program must have/be:

1. **Completed all Teacher Regulation Branch prerequisites** for their designated program (i.e.: Elementary prerequisites, Secondary prerequisites, elective and/or academic credits for B.Ed., etc.);
2. Completed all teacher education program coursework with a minimum of B+, with no incomplete (INC) grades awarded for previous program coursework;
3. Successfully meet the outcomes of **ALL Field Experience Courses** (e.g.: EDFE 515, EDFE 411) and have completed a very successful BC school based practicum in December 2018;
4. Investigated and be knowledgeable about the following in relation to their host country and specific region for their host school: vaccination requirements/recommendation; travel reports and advisories; availability of medical and social services as required (don’t assume all the same medical and social facilities/supports will be available as here); personal medical insurance details; and travel visa requirements;
5. Investigated and be knowledgeable about the responsibilities of representing VIU;
6. In possession of a valid Canadian passport containing at least two blank pages and be valid until at least December 1, 2020 and,
7. Prepared to participate in pre, during and post placement activities as host by the Faculty of Education and/or Faculty of International Education.
Potential Denial to Participate/Cancellation:
Participation in an IPP is not guaranteed, even upon successful selection to participate. Potential items resulting in denial to participate include (but are not limited to):

- Change in travel risk rating/travel advisory issued by Canadian Government (see http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories)
- Conduct violating the VIU Student Academic Code of Conduct Policy (see https://www2.viu.ca/facultyhelp/CodeOfConduct.asp)
- Unprofessional conduct befitting a professional teacher as outlined by the Faculty of Education (see https://education.viu.ca/sites/default/files/bed_pb_student_handbook_2018-2019_final_0.pdf), the BCTF Code of Ethics (see https://www.bctf.ca/ProfessionalResponsibility.aspx?id=4292) and the TRB Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators (see http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/Standards/StandardsDevelopment.aspx)