

**International Practicum Placement
Program Application Package
2016**

**Application deadline (China, Kenya and
Nicaragua):
Friday, December 4, 2015 at 4:00 pm**

PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETE APPLICATIONS TO:

Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator
Faculty of Education
c/o 108 Winters College
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3

Updated October 2015

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What is the International Practicum Placement?

York University is a strong advocate for intercultural understandings, social justice and the development of global perspectives in teaching and learning. Therefore, the Faculty of Education at York University is working to provide international learning opportunities, where teacher candidates will be able to learn about themselves as individuals and as teachers and to develop understandings of learning and schooling within the context of other education systems and learning environments.

Consecutive program students and Concurrent program students who are completing their ED 3 year in the Faculty of Education have the opportunity to participate in the International Practicum Placement (IPP) in May 2016 as the culmination of their learning in the Faculty of Education.

Who can participate?

- Current **Consecutive** Faculty of Education students at York University
- Current **Concurrent** Faculty of Education students who have completed their ED 3 year, who will be able to travel in May 2016 (e.g., no exams to complete)

What is involved in this opportunity?

- In the spring of 2016, you will travel with other Faculty of Education students to one of three international locations in order to complete your final teaching block in a local school.
- Locations in the spring of 2016 will likely include: **People's Republic of China, Kenya and Nicaragua**
- Spaces in the IPP are limited; there is a competitive application process in place. Students will be required to complete an application process, which includes one or more interviews

Do I need to speak another language in order to participate?

- No.

What do I need to do in order to participate?

- Speak with your Professor/Practicum Facilitator in order to obtain an application package and program details, or access it on the International Education SharePoint site (<https://sharepoint.edu.yorku.ca/sites/fedstudents/int/SitePages/Home.aspx>)
- Students must have completed all aspects of their degree requirements and courses prior to travelling, except the remaining teaching hours. (These hours will be above and beyond those required by the Ontario College of Teachers for Ontario teaching certification)
- Complete and submit your application, including references by the deadline. **Incomplete or late applications may not be considered.** References can be submitted in a sealed envelope, or sent directly to Dr. Diane Vetter in the Practicum Office
- Selected candidates will be asked to complete an interview
- Successful applicants will be required to attend mandatory pre-departure sessions prior to participating
- Students who are selected must also participate in all orientation sessions and sign a travel waiver prior to participating.

How much will it cost?

- You *may* have the opportunity to apply for York International Mobility Award (YIMA) funding, which will help to offset some of the costs. **We are unaware of the amount of YIMA funding that may be available this year. We will let students know as soon as we have details**
- You will be required to pay for your airfare, housing, travel medical insurance and other living expenses directly.
- **Housing will be provided for placements in China; in Kenya and Nicaragua, students will stay in homestay and will pay rent and board to the local family.**
- **You may be able to apply for an external bursary from external not-for-profit organizations.** However, students are encouraged to calculate the full expense in order to confirm that their participation is possible.
 - Students will also have time in order to conduct fundraising for themselves prior to their travel. Any of these activities are not the responsibility of the Faculty of Education or York International, and must be wholly planned by the students themselves.
- Part of the application process includes completing a budget; you will calculate the expenses that you will likely incur in order to anticipate your expenses

Please note:

- Students who participate will not be excused from any of their school placement hours or assignments prior to departure. They must travel for the month of May (four weeks); dates are not negotiable. *Please note: The practicum hours completed internationally will not count towards the Ontario College of Teachers accreditation.*
 - One exception to the change in dates: There is often a national holiday that falls at the beginning of May in China. Arrangements will be made with the partner institution to confirm the best day for students to arrive, based on the date of the holiday, so the arrival date may move by a day or two.
- Students must submit all assignments to their professors *prior* to travel.
- Students may not travel early or stay later at their placements; accommodations are arranged only for the duration of the placement.
 - At the end of the placement, students are welcome to take additional time to travel in the local area and beyond independently and at their own risk.
- Students who are approved to participate will be required to:
 - Attend one or two pre-departure sessions. **Attendance is mandatory!**
 - Complete one reflective assignment during their experience, which will be submitted to the Practicum Office upon their return
 - Attend a follow-up meeting in Toronto upon return, with the group of students who have travelled to the various locations.

Locations:

Where are the placements?

- In Kenya, students will be placed in towns surrounding LEWA, and they will spend their weekends at LEWA.
- In Nicaragua, students will be at schools in Pearl Lagoon or Bluefields.
- In China, students will be at schools in Jiangsu Province.

Students will be placed in pairs.

Application Checklist

ONE COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY, AND MUST INCLUDE:

- Completed application form
- One confidential “Faculty Reference Form” (See Appendix 1)
- Completed “Professor/Practicum Facilitator Acknowledgement Form” (See Appendix 2)
- Resumé
 - Condense your resumé into a maximum of two pages. Include relevant information about your education, work experience, volunteer experience, skills, qualifications, languages, hobbies, interests, prizes, scholarships, and awards.
- Copy of a practicum evaluation
- Statement of Interest (See Appendix 3)
 - Your “Statement of Interest” should be a maximum of two pages, and should include:
 - Your reasons for applying to the International Practicum Program
 - An explanation of how you would benefit academically, professionally and personally from the program
 - A listing of any anticipated challenges to your personal and professional learning as a direct result of this international experience
 - Make direct reference to the article **American Students Abroad Can't Be “Global Citizens”** by TALYA ZEMACH-BERSIN from The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 7, 2008
<http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/predeparture/pdf/GlobalCitizens.pdf>

Keep an extra copy of your package for your own records

Note: Do not submit the Cost of Living Worksheet (Appendix #4) with your package. Complete the form and bring it to your interview for discussion.

Teacher Candidates with any special needs must indicate any required support immediately after receiving an offer of acceptance letter in order for appropriate accommodations to be made.

Please submit applications to:

Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator
Faculty of Education
108 Winters College

If you have any questions regarding the application process, send an email to: dvetter@edu.yorku.ca

Application Form

Personal information in connection with this form is collected under the authority of *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *The York University Act, 1965*. York University will use this information to process your application and to decide your eligibility for the International Practicum Placement. Once your eligibility has been decided, York University may disclose certain information to the host institution, as may be applicable. If you have any questions about the collection of this information by York University, please contact:

Information and Privacy Coordinator
York University, Ross N926
4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3

Personal Information

YOUR NAME: _____
Last Name | First Name

STUDENT INFO: _____
Student Number | Program of Study (e.g., PJ/J/I, IS)

Subject Areas of Teaching Certification

CONTACT INFO: _____
Telephone Number(s) | Email Address

ADDRESS DURING TERM: _____
Street | Apartment Number

City | Province

Postal Code | Telephone

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____
Street | Apartment Number

City | Province

Postal Code | Telephone

BIRTH INFO _____
Place of Birth | Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY)

STATUS IN CANADA: Canadian Citizen Permanent Resident Other: _____
(Please Specify)

CITIZENSHIP

Please list all countries (other than Canada) of which you are a citizen

Reference

You must submit your reference in a sealed envelope, and the referee must sign the envelope across the seal. Referees may also submit their reference directly to Diane Vetter by email at dvetter@edu.yorku.ca or at:

Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator
Faculty of Education
108 Winters College
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3

You are not required to make copies of references. Forms are provided for your reference to fill out in this package, or your referee may choose to write a separate letter. References may come from a York faculty member or Professor/Practicum Facilitator. If you are unable to attain such a reference, contact Laura to discuss other options.

Please write the name of the person whom you have asked to complete the Letter of Reference below:

Name of Referee:

Notice to Applicants – Please Read Carefully

I understand that: (please check)

- If accepted for the International Practicum, I will receive a letter of acceptance from the Faculty of Education, York University to apply for the required student visa or residence permit.
- Should my application be successful, the Faculty of Education will keep my application on file for up to two years. Should my application be unsuccessful, my file will be kept for six months from the date of notification after which time it will be destroyed.
- The Faculty of Education reserves the right to compile anonymous statistics relating to gender, and field and level of study of successful and unsuccessful applicants, and to release these statistics for legitimate academic, reporting, program assessment, and publicity purposes.
- I must notify the International Education Coordinator, Faculty of Education, immediately in writing if I no longer wish to be considered for this program.
- I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that I will have successfully completed the mandatory practicum minimum requirement in Ontario schools as required for Ontario teaching certification by the Ontario College of Teachers.

I hereby certify that the information given on this application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge. All information I have provided in connection with this application is subject to verification and audit by York University. Pursuant to *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31, s. 42(b)), I give York University my permission and consent to disclose information I have given on this application to the referees and references I have named, when necessary for York University to verify the completeness and accuracy of my statements and to obtain input on my academic qualifications. I understand that my application for the International Practicum Program will be cancelled if misrepresentations are discovered, and I agree to provide supporting documentation to York University upon request. This consent expires one year after the date of my signature.

Signature

Date (MM/DD/YY)

Appendix 1

Faculty Letter of Reference Form

Please note:

1. The student named on this form is applying for the Faculty of Education International Practicum Program. The student has given York University consent to contact you to act as a reference.
2. To assist the selection committee in making its decision with regard to the student's participation in the program, we would appreciate your evaluation of the student in a few areas that are important to their success as an exchange student.
3. Once completed, you may submit a PDF version of the form to Diane Vetter at devetter@edu.yorku.ca or place the original copy of the reference in a sealed envelope and sign across the seal. If sending a hard copy, you may return the reference to the applicant so that he or she can submit it with their application, or submit the form directly to:

Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator
Faculty of Education
108 Winters College
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3

4. Our International Practicum Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate BEd students in the Faculty of Education to experience the academic and social life of another country while fulfilling their degree requirements at York University.

Student and Referee Information

STUDENT NAME:

Last Name

First Name

REFEREE INFORMATION

Last Name

First Name

Telephone Number(s)

Email Address

Faculty/Department

Student Assessment

Please check off the boxes below to assess the student's competence in the following areas in comparison to other students whom you have known at similar stages in their studies.

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Very Good	Outstanding	Unable to Comment
Self-Motivation:						
Articulation:						
Perception:						
Adaptability:						
Responsibility:						
Self-Reliance:						
Intellectual Curiosity:						
Class Participation:						
Interpersonal Skills:						
Cross-Cultural Sensitivity:						

I am confident that this student will have completed all requirements for Ontario College of Teachers' certification* prior to leaving to participate in an International Practicum Placement:

For the entire month of May for a placement in Kenya, Nicaragua or PR China

Please note that if you have concerns that this student will not meet the requirements on time or would not represent the Faculty of Education well in an international teaching placement, we ask that you not refer him/her for a placement. Please note that there will not be a York faculty member in the country of placement.

Please feel free to attach additional comments on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature

Date

* This placement will count towards the final teaching block, which is required for the BEd degree, but all Ontario-based hours and coursework must be completed in advance of departure.

Appendix 2

Professor/Practicum Facilitator's Sign-Off Form

Student Information

STUDENT NAME:

Last Name

First Name

CONTACT INFO:

Telephone Number(s)

Email Address

Please Note:

One of the requirements is that teacher candidates discuss with their Professor/Practicum Facilitators the implications of participating in this program. Professor/Practicum Facilitators of each affected course are asked to acknowledge their support for the application on the form below

Professor/Practicum Facilitator Support Form

Course	Professor/Practicum Facilitator's Signature	Comments (Optional)

Please include additional comments here:

Professor/Practicum Facilitator: By signing above, you are acknowledging your support for the student's participation in the International Practicum Placement (IPP) program. You are confident that the student will have completed all OCT and degree requirements prior to departure in mid-May. You are confident that the student will represent York University well in an internationally-located school, and *without* having a York faculty member available in the hosting country. **If you would like further information**, please contact Diane Vetter, Practicum Coordinator at 416-736-2100 x88638 or dvetter@edu.yorku.ca

Appendix 3

Statement of Interest

See the attached PDF file entitled: **American Students Abroad Can't Be “Global Citizens”** by Talya Zemach-Bersin from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 7, 2008.

<http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/international/predeparture/pdf/GlobalCitizens.pdf>

Use it as a reference for your Statement of Interest. The statement may be a maximum of two pages and should include:

- Your reasons for applying to the International Practicum Program (IPP)
- An explanation of how you would benefit academically, professionally and personally from the program
- A listing of any anticipated challenges to your personal and professional learning as a direct result of this international experience
- Direct reference to the article.

Appendix 4

Cost of Living Worksheet

Please note:

Please do not submit this form with your application package. This worksheet is designed to help you gain an understanding of the costs of the program and to help you examine how you plan to use your resources to cover your expenses. This form will not be used for selection purposes.

Please fill out this form and bring it to your interview for discussion.

Successful candidates may be eligible to apply for York International Mobility Award (details on York International website). Details will be provided when known. During the four weeks of the practicum, you will receive basic accommodation at nominal charge, paid directly to a local family in Nicaragua and Kenya. Accommodation is provided free of charge in China. Please see information in the application package about other funds that *may* be available to students.

STUDENT NAME:

Last Name

First Name

PRACTICUM
PERIOD:

From _____

to _____

Available Financial Resources	
Resource	Total \$ (CAD)
Personal savings	
Parental contributions	
Scholarships / bursaries (other than YIMA) <i>Attach a separate page giving details of each scholarship and bursary</i>	
Other resources (explain)	
Grand Total:	

Estimated Expenses	
Expense	Total \$ (CAD)
Visa	
Flight	
Accommodation expenses (time beyond the four-week practicum)	
Food	
Books / supplies	
Medical insurance	
Local transportation	
Entertainment / leisure	
Sundries	
Other expenses (explain)	
Grand Total:	