***International Experiential Learning (IEL)***

***Study/Volunteer Abroad***

***Student Handbook***

*(updated 2016)*

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**International Experiential Learning Student Handbook**

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**International Experiential Learning (IEL) Student Handbook**

1. **Introduction** **– What is International Experiential Learning?**

International experiential learning (IEL), also known as study abroad, learning/volunteer abroad or international service learning can be a highly valuable educational experience. IEL provides students with opportunities to learn cross-cultural skills, prepare for their careers and to promote global citizenship and social justice.

IEL thus encompasses studying in classrooms in other countries or in field school programs, as well as learning through practicum placements, volunteer programs and other applied or work-oriented learning experiences which contribute to the educational portfolio of the student (whether for credit or non-credit experience). Time frames for IEL can range from one week to one year depending on the nature of the program.

**Three categories of student mobility** are important for understanding IEL options offered within universities in Canada:

* **Study Abroad** includes a wide range of course-related programs geared to expanding course options for degree-seeking students. These courses include field studies courses offering course credit as well as study abroad courses in the host university in a country outside of the home institution. These activities can occur under the supervision of a Canadian professor or under the supervision of a faculty member of a partner institution. University of Ottawa students can find information about study abroad options here: <https://international.uottawa.ca/en/study-abroad>
* **Combined study and work/volunteer abroad programs** are a combination of classroom learning and practicum work (study abroad plus field placements, research, volunteer work, etc.). Examples of this can be found in courses offered as Field Schools through the University of Ottawa Faculty of Social Science Programs. See: <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/opportunities/field-research-courses>

There are also specific field school options available at the Faculty level. Several such field schools are offered each year and may change from year to year. Programs have recently been offered in places such as Taiwan, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Other options open to uOttawa students for combined study/work or volunteer programs can be found at other universities in Canada such as Dalhousie’s semester-long program in Cuba (see: <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/ids/study-abroad/cuba-programs.html>) or Trent University’s programs in Ecuador and Ghana (see: <http://www.trentu.ca/ids/yaprogram.php>), among other options.

* **Internships, international service learning, practicum placements or volunteer/work placements** are programs that may or may not have an academic component or university credits attached to them (these may include university organized internships abroad, international co-op placements, among a range of work/volunteer/learn abroad programs coordinated through public and private volunteer-sending organizations but recognized by post-secondary institutions). Examples of international internship programs can be found at the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Social Science international internship program (see: <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/opportunities/international-internships>). Other internships can be accessed on MyWorldAbroad.com and other listservs.

1. **Choosing the Right Program – Questions to Ask Yourself**
2. What programs and courses are available at the host institution and will those courses be credited at your home institution?
3. Is housing provided as part of the program? What is the nature of the housing available (shared, dormitory, billet, close to public transportation and/or the university)?
4. What are the costs of the program and what do those costs include? What other costs need to be considered (vaccinations, visas, health insurance, etc.)? Are deposits required?
5. Timing: How long is the program abroad? What are the deadlines and how do those deadlines fit with any other preparations and pre-departure training that may be required?
6. What language(s) do you need to speak to succeed?
7. What safety issues might need to be considered in the host community, city or country?
8. What is the nature of support offered to students going abroad from your home and/or the host institution?
9. Where can you find information about the program based on the experiences of previous students?
10. Are there bursaries or scholarships available to assist with the costs of the student mobility option?
11. How does this experience fit with my academic and career goals? How can I maximize cross-cultural skills development through the student mobility experience?
12. What are the ethical considerations of the program? Students who are preparing to go abroad or are returning from a learning/volunteer abroad experience are encouraged to review the free, online preparatory course here (available in French and English): <http://globalcitizenshipedu.weebly.com/> The course contains suggested readings, discussion and reflection questions, videos and other resources.

***Resources to Help you Choose the Right Program:***

The **Michäele Jean Centre for Global Community Engagement (MJCGCE)** can assist you in finding various service learning experiences both on and off campus, as well as locally and internationally. In the past the MJCGCE offered international service learning experiences through the Alternative Student Breaks and the Tsinghua English Summer Camp in China. The MJCGCE also facilitates pre-departure training and debriefing sessions and adjudicates applicants for a study abroad bursary. The MJCGCE is also designed to provide students with a one-stop shop for volunteer/service learning opportunities on and off campus. If you have further questions regarding such experiences, they would be a great resource to contact about other potential international and/or local opportunities. Go to: [**https://servingothers.uottawa.ca/**](https://servingothers.uottawa.ca/)

**uOttawa International**: <https://international.uottawa.ca/en/study-abroad/outgoing-exchanges/step1-getting-started>

**MyWorldAbroad.com** is a web-based guide that you have free access to as a University of Ottawa student. Go to MyWorldAbroad.com to register. In this guide, you will find information about working, studying, interning and volunteering abroad. This resource guide is available in English <http://file.myworldabroad.com/QuickGuides/Four-Parts-Global-Career-Skills.pdf>, French, <http://file.myworldabroad.com/QuickGuides/Four-Parts-Global-Career-Skills,FR.pdf> and Spanish, <http://file.myworldabroad.com/QuickGuides/Four-Parts-Global-Career-Skills,SP.pdf>.

1. **International Opportunities Available at the University of Ottawa -** **Central Programs Open to All Students**

The [International Office](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/) organizes international exchanges, summer programs, and internships. The [exchange program](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/exchanges/) through the International Office offers more than [52 destination](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/exchanges/destination.html) countries to choose from and over 250 international partner institutions. If you are interested in participating in an exchange, you must meet certain requirements, this information can be found at (http://international.uottawa.ca/en/study-abroad/outgoing-exchanges). Through the exchange, you can study abroad for a semester or full academic year while paying local tuition fees to the University of Ottawa, instead of international student fees. The [Summer Program](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/summer-programs/) is a summer semester exchange to a select number of [countries](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/summer-programs/destination.html) where you can either take courses or take part in intensive language courses. Similar to the exchange program there are certain criteria you must meet to be eligible to participate in this program. [International internships](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/internships/) through the International Office are research specific and open to all students except those registered in Medicine, Social Sciences and CO-OP[[1]](#footnote-2)*.* Internships are over the summer semester and are unpaid. They will provide you with work experience in a professional environment overseas.

[Financial information](http://www.international.uottawa.ca/en/outgoing/exchanges/budget.html) is provided by the International Office for financial aid, scholarships, and bursaries that could help cover some of the costs of your experience abroad.

You can apply to the [Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP)](http://www.coop.uottawa.ca/en/en-coop-students/en-section-home-coop-stud.asp) if you are registered in a [program that offers CO-OP](http://www.coop.uottawa.ca/en/en-coop-students/en-program.asp) and meet the criteria for [eligibility](http://www.coop.uottawa.ca/en/en-prospective-students/en-how-works.asp). Once registered in CO-OP, you are able to take part in an [international work placement](http://www.coop.uottawa.ca/en/en-coop-students/mobility.asp), provided it has been pre-approved by the CO-OP office. If you choose to do an international placement you must participate in per-departure training and complete a post-placement online workshop.

A final option open to all uOttawa students is the [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)](http://www.research.uottawa.ca/urop/index.html). This program will provide you with research opportunities alongside professors. The UROP program has both local opportunities where you would work alongside a professor at the University of Ottawa, as well as, international options through the [Summer Undergraduate International Research Internship (SIRI)](http://research.uottawa.ca/urop/international-internships/siri). Through SIRI, you can apply to join a research team for 2-3 months overseas. Placement [locations](http://www.recherche.uottawa.ca/pirpc/stages-liste.html) vary year to year. Information on eligibility, how to apply, and finances can be found [here](http://www.research.uottawa.ca/urop/internships.html).

1. **Faculty Specific Programs at the University of Ottawa**

**Social Sciences**

If you are registered full-time in a program of the Faculty of Social Sciences you may qualify to take part in one or more international programs offered through the [Faculty of Social Sciences International (FSS International)](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international). These programs include Field Research Courses, International Internships, and a Model United Nations Course.

[Field Research Courses](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/field-research-courses) take place over 3 weeks each May in one of the several locations offered. If you choose to participate in a field research course you would participate in intensive seminars while in the host country on issues related to the course topics and complete an independent research project among other course requirements. For more information go to: [set requirements and apply](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/field-admin-procedures) and [deadlines](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/field-admin-procedures). Fees associated with participating in the Field Research Courses vary by destination. You must also pay tuition fees in addition to the course fees. The [location](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/field-research-courses) of these courses varies from year to year with a mix of developed and developing nations and an array of themes, which are relevant to each country’s context. If you participate in a field research course, you must participate in pre-departure training and a risk management workshop.

If you are looking for a more extensive experience than the Field Research Courses offer, the [International Internships](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/international-internships) may be for you. These internships are a semester long (3 months) and take place in all semesters (fall, winter, and spring/summer). Internships are organized by FSS International in partnership with various organizations including [Uniterra](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-uniterra), [World University Service of Canada (WUSC),](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-wusc) [AFS Interculture](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-afs), [Canada World Youth](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-cwy), [Alternatives](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-alter), [Mines Action Canada](https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/mines-action-canada), and [Gender at Work](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/gender-work). Internships are available in a considerable number of [countries](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/international-internships), the majority of which are developing nations. If you choose to participate in an internship you will receive 6-9 credits towards your undergraduate degree (3 credits if you are a graduate student). You will also be required to pay tuition fees towards your credits earned, as well as, an internship fee. If you are registered in CO-OP, you can use an internship as one of your work-term placements, provided you get approval from both FSS International and the CO-OP office. You will be required to attend pre-departure training and a re-entry workshop coordinated by FSS International. Each Canadian NGO arranging the internships in partnership with FSS International, provide their own, separate training for students specific to their internships. Both training through FSS International and the NGOs are mandatory. Information on how to apply to internships and administrative procedures can be found [here](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/intern-procedures).

FSS International also offers two courses which take place on campus, but offer a short trip to take part in either a United Nations simulation or Model European Parliament simulation. The [Model United Nations Course](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/un-course) is a 3-credit course, to which you must apply to participate. The course is offered during the winter semester. The topics taught focus on the United Nations system, international development, environment and international security. A new country is chosen each year and students learn this country’s domestic and foreign policy interests and multilateral diplomatic agenda and then represent this country in the UN simulation. The course is designed to help students develop skills in public speaking, research, analysis and diplomacy. At the end of the course students travel to New York City to participate in a five day simulation at the United Nations Model United Nations Conference. There are additional costs associated with the course to cover travel expenses. More information on this course can be found on the FSS International [website](http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/international/un-course-application-process).

**Telfer**

If you are registered in the Telfer School of Management, then your faculty has its own [international exchange](http://www.telfer.uottawa.ca/en/students/international-exchange-program) program that will provide you with an international experience to acquire a global orientation deemed necessary for today’s business environment. This international exchange option is available if you are in the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) or Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program. If you are studying in the international management program then an international exchange will be mandatory. Eligibility for [BCom students](http://www.telfer.uottawa.ca/en/students/international-exchange-program/outgoing-bcom-students) and [MBA students](http://www.telfer.uottawa.ca/en/students/international-exchange-program/outgoing-mba-students) differ and can be found by clicking on each. If you decide to participate in the exchange, you will be required to attend a mandatory information session.

**Law**

If you are studying at the Faculty of Law’s Civil Law Section, you may wish to consider the [international exchange](http://www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1456&Itemid=345&lang=en) which is run in partnership with the International Office. Please contact your faculty administration for further information.

**Health Sciences**

If you are a student in the faculty of Health Sciences there are several options available to gain international experience. The Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences offers an International Section that includes an on campus class – International Health Theory (HSS4331) – which is a prerequisite for the faculty’s international placement (HSS4933). Placements are not listed on the website, but the program has a strong relationship with [Shared World Initiatives](http://www.health.uottawa.ca/healthsciences/international_stream/shared_world.htm) which offers students academically recognized international field experience through the International Community Cooperation Placement. For further information on this program please contact your faculty administration.

The School of Rehabilitation Sciences also has an international stream. The program, at the time of creating this handbook, focused on teaching international health issues, but was working on creating international fieldwork and research options for their students. If this is something that might be of interest to you please follow up with your faculty administration for further information.

Other academic units at the Faculty of Health Sciences including: the School of Nursing, the School of Human Kinetics and the Bachelor’s program in Nutrition Sciences offer their students internships/placements as part of their program of study. Some of these programs allow students to obtain placements/internships outside of Ottawa. Please contact your program administration directly to find out more about possibilities to take part in internships internationally.

**Medicine**

If you are registered with the Faculty of Medicine you will have the option to take international elective courses. It is your responsibility as a student to organize international placements. This placement must be for a minimum of 2 weeks or 70 hours and will need to be accepted as an international elective by the Medical Education Office and the [Global Health Office](http://www.med.uottawa.ca/globalhealth/eng/). Once your placement is accepted, you need to work with the Global Health Office to arrange pre-departure training and debriefing sessions. Please contact the [Global Health Office](http://www.med.uottawa.ca/globalhealth/eng/contact_us.html) for further information and a list of potential partner organizations.

1. **International Opportunities Available to University Students** **–** **Offered through Third Party Providers**

Opportunities for learning abroad can also be found through a variety of third party providers. The list of organizations provided below is not an exhaustive one and more information about third party providers and international experiential learning and internships can be found at <http://myworldabroad.com/>.

Additional information may also be found on job boards (including internship and volunteer opportunities) here: <http://myworldabroad.com/topresources#topresintern>, here: <http://www.devnetjobs.org/> and here: <http://charityvillage.com/>

**Uniterra**

[Uniterra](http://www.uniterra.ca/en/) is an international volunteer cooperation program established by WUSC and CECI and funded, in part, by Global Affairs Canada. Uniterra supports organizations working towards equality, economic development, health, HIV/AIDS, education, and governance in the developing world. Uniterra’s volunteer programs operate in 12 countries within Africa, Asia and Latin America and in cooperation with 150 different organizations dedicated to international development. Volunteer programs are short and long term from 2 weeks to 2 years and for participants aged 18-70 years.

[Students Without Borders](http://uniterra.ca/en/volunteering/student-volunteering) is a program run by WUSC and CECI that offers students and recent graduates various internship opportunities of 3-8 months in length in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Internships are designed to benefit both students and local partner organizations, and are, therefore, arranged based on a needs driven approach. As a student intern participating in a SWB placement, you can receive academic credits or fulfil co-op requirements, with approval from your academic institution. SWB placements are open to current students and recent graduates of Canadian universities and colleges who are 18 years of age or older. More information on placements and how to apply can be found on their [website](http://www.uniterra.ca/become-an-international-volunteer/students-without-borders/).

[International Seminar](http://uniterra.ca/en/volunteering/international-seminar) allows youth leaders involved in entrepreneurial activities, associated with international development, the opportunity to participate in an international seminar for youth innovators.

[Haiti Volunteer Cooperation Program](http://www.ceci.ca/en/get-involved/volunteer-cooperation/volunteer-cooperation-program-in-haiti-pcv/) (VCP Haiti) allows Canadian volunteers the opportunity to assist Haitian organizations by providing them with support in the areas of governance, education and economic development with the aim of improving the organizations ability to effectively respond to the needs of Haitians. The Haiti Volunteer Cooperation Program is run by Uniterra in cooperation with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, WUSC, the Foundation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, and the Canadian Executive Service Organization.

[Quebec Without Borders](file:///C:\Users\rtiessen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\WPJVOMCM\uniterra.ca\en\volunteering\quebec-without-borders), in partnership with Uniterra, allow Quebec youth to participate in internships geared towards international solidarity initiation in French-speaking countries in Africa and Latin America.

**Alternatives**

[Alternatives](http://www.alternatives.ca/en) is a Quebec based international solidarity organization. Alternatives sends approximately 30 interns abroad each year to work with partner organizations on economic, social, political and environmental rights in 30 different countries. Internships are funded in part by the Quebec Ministry of International Relations and interns must fund part of the fees associated with the internship.

**AFS Interculture**

[AFS Interculture](http://en.afscanada.org/) is a non-profit volunteer organization that aims to provide intercultural learning opportunities to youth and adults through international volunteer work and international studies. [The Adult programs](http://en.afscanada.org/Adult-programs/) offered by AFS Interculture include a Community Service Program, Internships, a Summer Program and the Flex Program. The Community Service Program has options ranging from 3-11 months during which participants stay with a host family or at their work site and work with a community organizations in the host country. Internships are geared towards undergraduate students who would like to gain work experience abroad. For more information [contact](http://en.afscanada.org/contact/) AFS directly.

The Summer Program offers language programs, volunteer programs, school programs, and a homestay program for both youth and adults from 14-35 years of age. Language programs are 4-6 weeks in duration and participants take part in language lessons and activities while staying with a host family. The School program allows students to attend school while living abroad with a host family for 4-7 weeks during the summer. Home stay programs are 4-6 weeks in length and offer participants the opportunity to learn another culture by living with a host family and visiting cultural sites. Lastly, the volunteer abroad program allows participants to live with a host family, learn a new language and contribute to community needs over the course of 4-7 weeks during summer holidays.

The Flex program operates much like the Community Service Program while offering flexibility in the length of stay. Participants must, however, commit to a minimum of 4 weeks of service. Projects include working with women and children, youth support, education, health, the environment, and community development.

AFS Interculture also has many [volunteer positions](http://en.afscanada.org/volunteer-with-afs/) in Canada to assist AFS Interculture with the day to day operations of their organization, such as: recruitment, selection, placement, preparation and support activities that are all essential to AFS programs. Volunteers can apply [online](https://www.afsglobal.org/AFSGlobal/OnlineInquiry/SubmitNewInquiry.aspx?country=CAN&language=en-CA&type=1&refer=www.afscanada.org) through the AFS Interculture website.

The cost to participate in AFS Interculture programs requires an application fee, a program fee, and a minimum fundraising amount that is different for each program. The AFS Interculture website provides further information on [financing](http://en.afscanada.org/Adult-programs/participation-fees/) for their programs.

**Canada World Youth**

[Canada World Youth](http://canadaworldyouth.org/) (CWY) specializes in providing youth in Canada and abroad with international and national volunteer opportunities in development projects. CWY has various programs for youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years in over 20 countries and ranging from 2 weeks to 6 months in length. The programs include Youth Leaders in Action, Global Learner, Programs for Aboriginal Youth, and Quebec sans Frontières.

[Youth Leaders in Action](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/youth-leaders-in-action/) offers a 6 week project or a 4-6 month project to youth between the ages of 17-25 years. The 4-6 month project operates in 2 phases of 2-3 months each. The first phase is spent in Canada and the second abroad. In this project, youth from both Canada and partner countries live with a host family, contribute to development projects run by the community, and take part in youth-led educational activities throughout their project. Development projects have a focus on the environment, gender equality and health. The 6-week project allows youth to participate in the partner country projects only, not the Canadian projects. For both the short and longer-term projects, participants must attend a pre- and post-program orientation. The 4-6 month program is eligible for academic credit for students registered at Marie-Victorin College, Dalhousie University and Capilano University. Other students can also request academic credit for their participation through their university with the help of CWY; information is listed in the following [document](http://www.canadaworldyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/The_CWY_Experience_Worth_its_Weight_in_Gold_final.pdf). There are fees to register and participate in CWY programs, further information can be found [here](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/youth-leaders-in-action/youth-leaders-in-action-6-month-program/).

[The Global Learner](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/global-learner/) program is comprised of three different options for participants who would like to contribute to development projects through volunteer work placements. Programs offered include: Special projects, [Individual Internships](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/global-learner/internships/), and organizing your own Group Project. Development projects are organized in coordination with CWY international community partner organizations in the field of health, environment, sustainable livelihoods, and youth entrepreneurship. The individual internships are for students and young professionals over 18 years of age and range from 3-6 months in length. More information can be found [here](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/global-learner/).

CWY also has programs available for [Canadian Aboriginal Youth](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/programs-for-aboriginal-youth/), which include First Nations, Metis and Inuit youth, between the ages of 17-35 years. The aim of the Canadian Aboriginal Youth program is to strengthen and support the capacity of Aboriginal youth in Canada to become leaders while also discovering other cultures. Aboriginal youth are also encouraged to participate in any of the other CWY programs.

[Quebec Sans Frontières](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/quebec-sans-frontieres/) is a program for Quebec youth between the ages of 18-35 years who would like to experience international cooperation and have a passion for international issues and solidarity. All projects have positions for Interns and Team Leaders. Interns are for Quebec residents between the ages of 18-35 years who have not completed a similar internship project; whereas, Team Leaders are for Quebec residents over the age of 21 years, who have previous experience in international cooperation and group management. Interns also must agree to pay/fundraise a [participation fee](http://canadaworldyouth.org/apply/quebec-sans-frontieres/), whereas, Team Leaders expenses are covered by CWY. All participants must take part in a five pre-departure training session equaling approximately 60 hours. Upon their return, participants must take part in public engagement activities to raise awareness of their project abroad.

**Youth Challenge International**

[Youth Challenge International](http://www.yci.org/) (YCI) is an organization that provides opportunities for Canadian youth to engage in development issues worldwide through a variety of international volunteer projects. [International volunteer programs](http://www.yci.org/html/volunteer/globally/programs.asp) offered by YCI include [EQWIP HUBs](http://yci.org/solutions/eqwip/), a partnership with Canada World Youth, that offers three month or one year volunteer placements for recent grads and young professionals interested in entrepreneurship. The [EMBRACE](http://yci.org/solutions/adra-embrace/) Program is for youth and adults aged 25-40 years who are looking for international experience in maternal and child health, with placements ranging from two months to one year. Lastly, the [Global Youth Partnerships Solution](http://yci.org/solutions/global-youth-partnerships/), connects Canadian volunteers with local development partners across the global South to design and implement youth innovation programs in health, the private sector and governance, with a cross cutting focus on education, gender and the environment.

Each YCI program includes training to help participants prepare for their experiences aboard. This includes pre-departure training to learn about development issues, effective international service, risk management, health, intercultural communication and privilege and in-country orientation and training sessions to provide information on the country context and resources.

**Crossroads International**

[Crossroads International](http://www.cintl.org/home) is an international development organization that works with local partners in developing countries to reduce poverty and improve women’s rights. Crossroads International believe volunteers play a crucial role in their programs and partnerships. Their international volunteer placements are a part of their long term development goals and volunteers build upon the work of previous volunteers to ensure the long term sustainability of their development projects.

International volunteering opportunities available through Crossroads International are in partnership with organizations in both the Global South and Canada. The North-South Volunteer Placements and Quebec Sans Frontières (QSF) are designed for Canadian youth interested in volunteering internationally within the Global South. These volunteer opportunities are based on the needs of partner organizations in the Global South and specific placements are posted on the crossroads international [website](http://www.cintl.org/volunteer/opportunities) for qualified youth to apply to. For the North-South Volunteer Placements, youth must be 19 years of age or older and meet the qualifications and eligibility criteria based on individual job postings. Placements are 6 months in duration. For QSF, volunteers must be between the ages of 18-35 years. Placements through QSF are 75 days in length and take place between May and August.

To volunteer with Crossroads International through one of the above placements, volunteers must participate in a comprehensive pre-placement orientation session and a re-orientation training following your placement. Participants must also agree to fundraise to contribute towards their placement.

**CANADEM**

[CANADEM](http://www.canadem.ca/home/) in a non-profit agency working in the field of international peace and security. They operate a roster of experienced experts used to recruit and deploy individuals for various positions in the field worldwide, as well as, in emergency responses. CANADEM also operates an [International Field Experience Program](http://www.canadem.ca/home/en/canadem-ifex.html) for individuals interested in gaining international career experience. CANADEM placements are with United Nation’s agencies and multilateral organizations working on international development issues including governance, democratization, human security, demobilization and disarmament, post-conflict recovery, sustainable development, food security, child protection, education, health, gender, law, drug control, and human rights. This program requires participants to self-fund $17,500 to participate. This includes a $2500 administration fee and $15,000 for travel and living expenses for the minimum length of placements, which is 6 months. Participation in the program is based on an individual’s application and proof of funds. Interviews and reference checks are used to assess applications. Those placed must participate in pre-deployment training.

**Many more opportunities available from Third Party Providers can be found at: http://myworldabroad.com/**

**Additional information may also be found on job boards (including internship and volunteer opportunities) here:** [**http://myworldabroad.com/topresources#topresintern**](http://myworldabroad.com/topresources#topresintern) **and here:** [**http://www.devnetjobs.org/**](http://www.devnetjobs.org/) **and here:** [**http://charityvillage.com/**](http://charityvillage.com/)

1. **International Opportunities Available to University Students Offered through Other Canadian Universities**

As a university student studying at a Canadian University, you are also eligible to apply to some other Canadian university’s international programs. In some situations you need to register with the particular university as a visiting student, or transfer to that university for the academic term, once accepted into the program. The following is a brief description of some of the international options through other universities. It is your responsibility to do further research to determine if you are eligible and how to apply.

**Trent-in-Ghana and Trent-in-Ecuador**

Trent University offers two unique programs that require a full academic year abroad studying and participating in experiential learning through community placements. The two programs offered are in Ghana and Ecuador. Both of these programs are offered through [Trent University’s International Development Studies](http://www.trentu.ca/ids/yaprogram.php) program and are open to all North American university students. Non-Trent students must transfer to Trent for the academic year to be able to participate in these study abroad courses. Participation in one of these two programs is for a full academic year (September – April) and students earn full academic credits which are transferable to other institutions. Both programs are designed to provide students with international experience both in the classroom and in hands on experiential learning through community placements. Courses are at the 3rd year level and cover the general topics of history and culture, society, cross-cultural living and community development, to name a few.

**Capilano Field Schools**

Capilano University offers [Field School courses](https://www.capilanou.ca/study-abroad/Short-Term-Programs/). These courses are open to all students registered at Capilano, as well as students from other universities across Canada provided they meet the admission requirements to study at Capilano University. Field schools are offered in several different countries, but [Guatemala](https://www.capilanou.ca/services/study-abroad/Field-Schools-and-Study-Tours/Guatemala-Field-School/) was the only developing country option listed at this time. This field school is open to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students and counted as an accredited course towards one’s degree. Aside from a 10 day stay in Guatemala touring cultural and historic sites, the course also includes 4-5 mandatory pre-departure classes, and 4-5 additional classes post-return. The course focuses on topics including, rebuilding civil society post-conflict and challenges associated with neoliberalism and global economic restructuring.

**Dal Cuba**

Dalhousie University’s Department of International Development Studies offers Study Abroad programs in Cuba – programs that have been running for more than 20 years. There are two options offered for [Cuba](http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/ids/study-abroad/cuba-programs.html): the intensive 2 week course and a semester long course of 13 weeks. Both the intensive and semester programs run in partnership with Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) at the University of Havana.

**McGill Field Studies Semesters**

McGill University offers Field Studies Semester in [East Africa](http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2013-2014/faculties/fieldstudies/undergraduate/ug_field_studies_africa_field_study_semester#topic_2293D8A64ACE437E9A165847A56301CC) which is open to applicants from other universities, provided they meet the criteria for the field school and admissions into McGill as a visiting student. This program is offered in partnership with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and has a special arrangement with Queen’s University. The courses are research based and students are expected to complete required readings, attend lectures and participate in field activities in order to successfully complete the program. More information can be found on their [website](http://www.mcgill.ca/africa/).

**Simon Fraser Field Schools**

Simon Fraser University (SFU) offers Field Schools that are open to non-SFU students. These [Field Schools](http://www.sfu.ca/students/studyabroad/fieldschools.html) are university courses taught abroad and in the field to 12-20 students. There are different destinations to choose from, each with its own academic specialty. Each field school lasts a full semester and equates to students earning 9-12 units/credits.

**University of Calgary Group Study Programs**

The University of Calgary offers [Group Study Programs (GSPs](http://ucalgary.ca/uci/abroad/gsp)) that range from 3-6 weeks in length. Group Study abroad programs are offered to students as calendared courses. These courses are at the 3rd year level and open only to full-time students at the University of Calgary. Students from other universities and colleges can apply as visiting students. Course topics vary by country and cover a diverse field of studies including anthropology, culture and language, social issues, economics, politics, etc.

**Vancouver Island University Field Schools**

The Vancouver Island University has [Field Schools](http://www2.viu.ca/educationabroad/ShortTermStudyAbroad.asp) to various countries both in the Global North and Global South. Each host country option offers a different topic such as Tourism in Costa Rica or Health and Human Services in Indonesia. Courses can vary from 10 days to 6 weeks in the field. Students earn 3 credits for their participation. Some field schools are open to students from other universities or the general public.

**Rift Valley Institute Field Courses**

The Rift Valley Institute’s (RVI) field courses on the Great Lakes, Sudan and South Sudan, and the Horn of Africa take place from June to July in Bahar Dar, Ethiopia, on the shores of Lake Tana. Now in their thirteenth year, the courses provide a basis for understanding the current political and developmental challenges in the region. They are taught by teams of leading specialists - from the region and beyond - and offer a unique opportunity to spend time with an outstanding group of specialists, away from routine distractions. RVI courses are designed for researchers, policy-makers, development workers, activists, journalists and investors - for new arrivals in the region and those already working there who wish to deepen their knowledge and network with other key actors working in the field. A dawn to dusk programme of seminars, lectures, group discussions and special events examines the key political, economic, environmental and cultural features of the three sub-regions. Participants on the courses are eligible for three optional graduate-level credits in the US tertiary education system. To apply online - and to obtain further information on courses, teachers, and locations - please visit [www.riftvalley.net/key-projects/courses](file:///C:\Users\rtiessen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\WPJVOMCM\www.riftvalley.net\key-projects\courses).

Other opportunities for participation in learning/volunteer abroad programs through Canadian universities can be found on individual university websites. For some additional information and links to such programs, see: <https://www.casid-acedi.ca/ccupids/members>

1. **Preparing for Going Abroad**

University of Ottawa students are encouraged to read the instructions and information available on the uOttawa international website for getting started on their study abroad/IEL program. See: <https://international.uottawa.ca/en/study-abroad>

Whether or not you have made a decision about going abroad, knowing how to prepare for an international experience is important. There are various ways to prepare and many programs will assist you with the bulk of this preparation through pre-departure training. However, not all pre-departure training is created equally. To get the most out of your experience it is strongly advised that you research your chosen program and partner organization(s) in addition to conducting research, readings and exercises, such as the free online course: <http://globalcitizenshipedu.weebly.com/> about IEL more generally.

**Pre-departure Training at the University of Ottawa:**

At the University of Ottawa, most international programs have pre-departure training that covers information such as health and safety, cultural adaptation, ethics, risk management and logistical preparation such as visas, passports, medical examinations (where necessary). For further information on this training it is advised that you contact the office responsible for your chosen program. Some programs such as internships through FSS International require additional pre-departure training provided by the (third party) sending organizations such as WUSC, Uniterra, CWY, etc.

**In-depth Preparation**

Aside from pre-departure training offered by the university and/or sending organization it is, as aforementioned, strongly recommended that you should conduct additional research about your host country and organization. In addition, careful consideration of the ethical dimensions of international experiential learning is necessary before going abroad. An important resource for reflecting on ethical considerations before going abroad and/or upon return is: *Globetrotting or Global Citizenship: Perils and Potential of International Experiential Learning* edited by Tiessen and Huish, University of Toronto Press, 2014.

1. **Financing Your IEL Program:**

University of Ottawa offers some funding for students going abroad, see:. <https://international.uottawa.ca/en/study-abroad/internships#step3>

External funding may also be available through various government and external funding agencies in Canada, usually by competition. Updated information about international scholarship opportunities for Canadians can be found here: http://www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/can/opportunities-opportunites.aspx?lang=eng. Some of the funding opportunities currently available to Canadian university students seeking financial support to travel abroad:

* Canada Graduate Scholarship Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (Graduate): <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/fellowships/cgs_foreign_study-besc_etudes_etranger-eng.aspx>
* Canadian Bureau for International Education: <http://cbie.ca/>
* Foreign Government Awards Program (Graduate): <https://w03.international.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/scholarshipcdn-boursecdn.aspx?lang=eng>
* International Development Research Centre (Graduate): <https://www.idrc.ca/en/funding/graduate-student-awards>
* Mitacs Global Link Research Award: <https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/globalink/globalink-research-award>
* OceanPath Fellowship: <https://coadynet.stfx.ca/oceanpath>
* Universities Canada offers a resource guide listing a range of links to resources to finance Canadian student education. See: <http://www.universitystudy.ca/plan-for-university/scholarships-grants-and-bursaries-for-canadian-students/>

1. Students registered in Medicine, Social Sciences, and CO-OP have other internship opportunities available to them through their own program/faculty. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)