UConn SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL FIELD PLACEMENT

UConn School of Social Work offers an option for international field placement to MSW students from all methods during spring and summer semesters. The international field placement is open to students in their second year of field with a demonstrated interest in international/cross-cultural work and who have demonstrated that they have taken serious steps to prepare for an international experience and that the experience is part of a well thought-out career plan.

Students who qualify may apply to complete part of their second (advanced) year field placement in another country. Students will be required to complete up to 50% of their field placement hours in a supplementary field placement taken concurrently with methods courses.

Students seeking an international placement should initiate their plans before starting their second year of field placement education.

Students who are interested in having an international field placement should assess the feasibility regarding time, coursework, financial and language capability.

*In no circumstances will a student who experiences difficulties in the first year of class or field be permitted to pursue an international placement.*

**Application Process:**

- Students need to schedule an appointment with Marilyn Cardone, Assistant Director of Field Education, at marilyn.cardone@uconn.edu to discuss international placement opportunities. International placements are offered based on availability of supervision, linkages with other universities and institutions in the host country. Please note that we may be unable to meet requests for a particular country if there are no established relationships in that country.
- Students who are seriously considering an international placement are required to complete the *Field Education Placement Form* and the *Application for International Placement*. These can be obtained once student has met with Ms. Cardone.
- Student will submit a personal statement describing motives for requesting an international field placement, a resume and two letters of recommendation—one by the Faculty Advisor or Sequence Chair and one by the first year field instructor.
- International field placement can be made through a full block placement or a reduced placement of at least 8 weeks. Students must complete a Summer Block Placement application if their field placement will take place in the summer months. This application must be approved by student’s Method/Sequence Chair and the MSW Program Director must be informed of
the arrangement. The Director of the International Center will be involved in an advisory capacity.

- After this process is completed, another appointment should be scheduled with the Assistant Director of Field Education to discuss placement options and finalize the arrangements with local field instructor and field placement projects.

Travel Arrangements and Financial Aid:

- Students in an international field placement are required to make their own travel arrangements independent of the Office of Field Education.
- While students will be expected to bear the costs of their travel, living expenses and field education credits, students will remain eligible for financial aid.
- Student must obtain a passport immediately after confirming the placement. Student may also need to obtain a visa.
- Students are responsible for any immunizations required by the country visited.
- Students must visit the Office of the Provost Travel Information webpage and complete the Travel Approval Form. This process will automatically enroll the student in health insurance coverage, at no cost to the student.
- An International Field Placement Fund is available to students doing an international field placement in their second year of field. There is no guarantee of an award to any one student, but every effort will be made to help students in need. See Marilyn Cardone for more information.

Orientation to Placement:

In order to more fully prepare students for the diverse environment in which they will be working and practicing, prior to departing for the international location, students will meet with the Director of Field Education and the Director of the Center for International Social Work Studies to:

- Present a brief overview about the country, the town/city and the area in which they will be residing.
- Receive a brief orientation and advice on the country/culture.
- Discuss the expectations regarding educational experience, field instructor, supervision requirements, proposed projects, etc.
- Review the information regarding university/agency host, local contacts, links, emergency contacts, medical care, resources, etc.

Debriefing:

Upon return, students who have completed an international placement must complete a process of debriefing organized by the Office of Field Education and the Center for International Social Work Studies, which will help them to share their experience with the school community regarding their international field placement. Students must also submit a minimum 2 page essay on their experience.
UConn SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL FIELD PLACEMENT

Name

Student ID (People Soft Number)

Cell phone

Local Address

Permanent Address (if different)

Phone
E-mail Address
Emergency contact
Relationship
Address
Phone
Email address of contact:

Method Concentration □ AD □ CW □ CO □ GW □ PP

Number of credits completed to date _______________ GPA to date_________
Courses taken related to international issues:
At UCONN SSW: ________________________________

Undergraduate: ________________________________

Other graduate school_________________________

Name of agency of first year placement ________________________
Briefly describe your major field assignments/projects

Are you fluent in the language of the country you are visiting? Yes No
If not, what are your plans to gain fluency?

Identify any specific areas of interest (e.g. child welfare, human trafficking, etc.)

Do you have a specific geographic area of interest? _____Yes _____No
If yes, identify:

What population group(s) and problem areas are you interested in working with during your placement?
Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? If yes, where and when?

Are you a U.S. citizen?
Do you have a U.S. passport?

Special Needs: Are there any other factors or special needs (e.g., medical concerns) you need us to consider in planning this field placement?  Yes  No
If yes, please explain:

What kind(s) of work would you like to be doing in three years?

Are you applying for the International Placement Fund?  Yes  No
If yes, please refer to application packet.

Attach a personal statement of no more than 2 pages addressing the following:

What are your reasons for seeking an international field placement?
What role will the international experience play in helping you achieve your career goals?
Describe your experiences traveling to/visiting/working in other countries.
If you have expressed a strong interest in a particular part of the world or country, explain why.
How will you prepare for this experience?
What barriers and life circumstances, if any, may complicate or interfere with your ability to do an international field placement?

Please attach a copy of your resume. By early spring semester, you must also provide a letter of recommendation from your Faculty Advisor and one from your first year field instructor.

Please return this form to:

Marilyn Cardone, Assistant Director of Field Education

DATE COMPLETED