Human Ecology Practicum Program

Overview
2019
Community Partners (Winter 2019)

- Alberta Milk
- ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen
- Boyle Street Community Services
- Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters (BGCBig)
- Change for Children
- Duval
- e4c – Clareview Head Start
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
- EPCOR - Human Resources
- Faculty of ALES – Student Services, U of A
- Goodwill Industries of Alberta
- Greater Edmonton Foundation
- iHuman Youth Society
- Ministry of Children’s Services, Alberta
- NSTEP – Edmonton
- Qi Creative
- Stollery Children’s Hospital – Patient & Family Centred Care + Awasisak Indigenous Child Health Team
- Strathcona County - Parent Link Centre
- Taabish Zaver Designs
- Terra Centre
- The Family Centre
- Theatre Garage

Outside Edmonton
- G-Star RAW - Amsterdam
- NSTEP - Calgary
- The Creamery - Vancouver
Practicum Goals

- Provides a practical learning experience that helps students:
  - apply and further develop their knowledge and skills,
  - explore their field of practice, and
  - transition with confidence into professional work.

- Fosters a mutually beneficial link between the students, community, and university.
Exchange

Students:
- Quality work
- Fresh ideas
- Energy & enthusiasm

Placement Site:
- Meaningful work
- Networking
- Guidance & mentoring

Guidebook Pages 8 - 9
Requirements

• Supervised by a professional
• 200 hours, non-paid
  • Winter term
    • 16 hrs/week for 13 weeks
  • Spring term
    • Full time for 5-6 weeks
• Independent project
  • Part of the 200 hours
• Site visit
• Weekly seminar (online)
• Final reflections
Independent Project

Examples:

- **Programming**
  - Needs assessment, planning & development, implementation & facilitation, evaluation

- **PR & Marketing**
  - Advertisements, newsletters, press releases, special events, social media

- **Writing**
  - Educational materials, position papers, policy briefs, fact sheets, articles, training/orientation manuals

- **Client/Customer Service**
  - Client intake, case management, consultations (e.g., wardrobe)

- **Research**
  - Market research, environment scans, policy analysis, trend forecasts, sales analysis, artefact documentation

- **Design & product development**
  - Draft patterns, create samples, construct garments/costumes, textile testing, artefact storage solutions, space planning & materials selection

- **Visual Communications**
  - Merchandising displays, exhibits, inspiration/story boards, poster boards, PowerPoint presentations, videos

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Placement-Site Responsibilities

• Provide workspace
• Introduce student to site and co-workers
• Provide meaningful work
• Guide and mentor student
  • regular meetings
  • review learning goals
  • provide feedback
• Attend on-site visit
• Evaluate student performance
  • midterm and final

• Provide a safe, positive, and respectful workplace
Student Responsibilities

• Contribute positively to the placement site through responsible, dependable, competent, and ethical work
• Set learning goals
• Maintain weekly log
• Complete 200 hours, including independent project
• Arrange and host site visit
• Final reflections
University Responsibilities

• Arrange placements
• Conduct orientation meeting
• Maintain on-going contact with participants
  • phone calls, emails
  • online seminar
• Site visits
• Evaluate final reflections
• Ensure all requirements are met
• Provide insurance and liability coverage for students
Evaluation

• **Pass/Fail**

• **Midterm & Final evaluation - by field supervisor**
  - forms on pages 20-27; email
  - five main criteria:
    - quality of work
    - work habits
    - knowledge & skills
    - relations with others
    - goal setting and achievement

• **To pass, students complete:**
  - 200 hours of fieldwork
    - independent project
  - seminar participation
  - final reflections
  - evaluations of site
Ethics

- Confidentiality
- Recognition of qualifications & limitations
- Identification as practicum student
- Accurate & reliable work
- No conflicts of interest
- No sexual misconduct or harassment
- Self-awareness & monitoring
- Ethical guidelines specific to the placement site
Liability Coverage & Expenses

• Liability
  • Sites – expected to provide a safe work environment and to have liability insurance to cover their own employees
  • University – provides liability coverage to practicum students
    • Student Affiliation Agreement

• Expenses
  • Reimbursement for direct expenses incurred while carrying out practicum work (travel costs, materials costs, etc.)
    • Discuss costs and reimbursement arrangements in advance.

• Tokens of thanks
  • Practicum is non-paid
  • Small tokens of thanks/honorariums are acceptable
Questions? Concerns?

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