



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY,
SPORT, AND RECREATION

PLAY AROUND THE WORLD 2019

Information Sheet

The following provides interested students with some basic information about the program and about the application procedure. Referees are asked to read this information before filling out the reference form.

Background on the Play Around the World Project

Play Around the World is a service-learning academic offering designed to provide a global education cross-cultural experience to U of A students in the area of physical activity and play. Multidisciplinary teams of senior under-graduate and graduate students form learning communities and work with agencies in South America (Peru), Southeast Asia (Cambodia and Thailand) and Northern Canada (Fort Providence) serving children and youth of all abilities.

Since 2001, the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation at the University of Alberta has been selecting, preparing and sending teams of students to work in Southeast Asia providing opportunities for play and recreation. The program started out in Pattaya, Thailand to assist not-for-profit organizations and projects (street kids projects, orphanages, centers for people with disabilities, and slum projects). Beginning in 2005, a second location was established in Chiang Mai (northern Thailand). In 2010 a third location was added, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In 2013 PAW jointly started a Pilot project with the Canadian North, Fort Providence, Northwest Territories. In 2014 and 2015 PAW students were based out of four locations in Rayong/Pattaya and Chiang Mai, Thailand as well as Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Fort Providence, NWT, Northern Canada. In 2015 PAW expanded to Cusco, Peru.

In **2019**, PAW students will serve and learn in the following locations:

- **Cusco, Peru**
- **Rayong Thailand**
- **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
- **Fort Providence, NWT, Northern Canada**

Details of Experience

Applications are reviewed and selections take place in November each year. There is a significant investment of time during the winter academic term as PAW students will be involved in fund raising, equipment drives, a weekend retreat and team building activities. As an academic offering, there is a weekly class (scheduled at a time that works for all participants and leaders). Travel takes place in May, and students return late July to early August. The total length of the placement is three months. Leaders (usually students from the previous PAW team) are selected to help with the preparation of the team. In addition, the leaders travel with the teams and provide an orientation to the designated city, local amenities, and the projects/agencies for the first 3 weeks (North) – 4 weeks (South America/Asia) of the program.

In the past the PAW teams have worked in orphanages, street kids projects, schools for children with disabilities, government schools and drop in recreation programs. During the first few weeks of the placement, the team leader will familiarize the PAW group with the various centers and after a needs assessment, the group begins to plan and deliver activities in play, recreation, sport, dance, etc. This could entail activities such as teaching a physical education class at a street kids project, leading play activities for classroom teachers, doing crafts and games with children at an orphanage or facilitating a special event or sport focused initiative. Each student takes leadership in one or two areas, and is mentored by fellow team members in other areas. There is no predetermined curriculum and not everyone works at all the projects.

Although regarded by those involved as an extremely positive experience, students will be faced with many challenges and can almost be guaranteed to encounter some degree of discomfort. It will take time to adjust to the altitude (Peru), climate (hot and humid) and the time change (13 hours) in Asia. It may take time to adjust to bugs, and to limited darkness at night in Fort Providence. Living 24-7 with teammates while being in a different culture can bring out the best and the worst in us.

Some people may experience health problems, and others may have a hard time adjusting to such a different culture. It is recommended that students read about the health and cultural issues before applying.

Upon return, PAW students are encouraged to assist in enhancing the PAW program for the subsequent year. This “giving back” helps ensure that the program grows and improves the quality of the experience for both U of A students and the populations and organizations they work with.

Locations:

Cusco, Peru

Located in South East Peru at an elevation of 3,400m. Cusco is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Rayong Thailand

Rayong is located approx 2 hours south of Bangkok on the Cambodian side of the Gulf of Thailand.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This capital city is located in the south-central region of Cambodia. It is situated near the convergence of the rivers, Tonle Sap, Mekong and Bassac.

Fort Providence NWT, Northern Canada

A Hamlet located on the northeast bank of the Mackenzie River, 233km southwest of Yellowknife

All four locations have good medical facilities, access to foods and services familiar to North Americans (including internet). Comfortable but moderate accommodation is provided.

Cost

The approximate cost of the experience is \$5500 per student. This includes flight, accommodation, visa and a per diem to offset costs of meals and daily transportation. In the past, the team has been able to fund raise 95 – 100% of these costs. Should the total amount not be raised, the per diem amounts will be reduced, and will be the responsibility of the student. Passports, immunizations and tuition are additional costs that are not reimbursed. Typically students take an additional \$1,000 to partake in additional activities in their free time. An initial non-refundable deposit (payment) of \$500 is required when selected applicants commit to the program.

Academic aspects

Students must register for the two Play Around the World courses (KRLS 440 and KRLS 441- spring/summer registration) or as a practicum in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation. It is recommended that students enroll in the Play Leadership course (KRLS 421) but not mandatory. In addition to attending classes in winter term, students do a presentation, playdays, journaling, reflection papers, and a final project. Course work is complete by mid to end of September.

Application for Play Around the World 2019

Application forms are available at <http://uab.ca/play> Deadline for applications is **November 19th, 2018** and the team selection and composition will be determined by late November.

For further information contact:

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Thank you for your interest in “Play Around the World”