

**College of Education and Behavioral Sciences**

**International Student Teaching**

Welcome! This handbook is designed to help prepare candidates who wish to fulfill the student teaching requirements by seeking an international assignment. Participation in an international student teaching experience requires initiative, adaptability, flexibility and the willingness to be part of an experience that is not always neatly packaged for you. In fact, international student teaching requires that you are willing to deal comfortably with the unknown. This handbook is an introduction to an experience that will be guided by different pathways for each person who participates. Welcome to the journey!

**Overview**

Teacher education institutions across the United States continue to respond to the recognized need for greater international awareness and understanding among pre-service and in-service teachers. International student teaching exposes candidates to a different culture in an authentic manner and often requires candidates to go beyond their comfort zone. International student teaching offers an invaluable experience that may benefit you tremendously as both a professional educator and personally.

The University of Northern Colorado International Student Teaching Program is an optional experience open to any qualifying individual pursuing an early childhood, elementary, secondary, K-12 or special education***\**** teaching licensure. The program is administered through the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Schools of Teacher and Special Education. The Placement Officer from the School of Teacher Education and/or the School of Special Education provide leadership for the International Student Teaching program and serve as the liaison with various agencies involved. The placement officers in cooperation with the Study Abroad and Exchange Director from the UNC Center for International Education (CIE) have ultimate responsibility for overseeing the program.

The International Student Teaching program is an opportunity that permits future teachers who have completed the academic qualifications for student teaching in their program to apply for student teaching assignment in an international setting.

***\*The School of Special Education cannot place any teacher candidates internationally unless they are in an ‘IDEA Compliant’ school. This means that special education candidates may only request placement through DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity). If you are a special education teacher candidate and wish to participate in international student teaching, you must have approval from the School of Special Education prior to completing the international student teaching application. As an alternative, special education candidates who wish to complete an international experience may complete student teaching or graduate practica at a site within the U.S. and then complete a supplemental field experience at an international site that is not IDEA compliant.***

**Eligibility**

A student who has successfully completed the academic qualifications for student teaching in their program, including passing their program specific Praxis exam by the student teaching application deadline, and who has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher is eligible to apply for this program. Students under disciplinary sanctions from UNC are not eligible. Students must have approval from their program coordinator in order to apply.

**Cost**

Each candidate is responsible for paying for transportation to and from the international school site as well as personal travel before, during or after the student teaching experience. Candidates pay semester tuition to UNC and are responsible for an additional fee of $330 to help defray costs of the program. The additional fee can be billed through financial aid and is allocated to the Center for International Education (CIE). Fees cover health insurance enrollment assistance***\****, liability forms, pre-departure and reentry orientations, administrative costs and assistance with completing travel documents. In the event it is necessary for UNC to hire an in-lieu supervisor from the host site, any compensation above the usual UNC paid compensation is the responsibility of the candidate.

Each candidate is also responsible to arrange and pay for travel documents, room (housing) and board (food, misc. living costs, in country transportation, bank accounts, etc.) while in the host country. The international school site may provide advice concerning room and board arrangements. Candidates may live with a school site faculty member, a host family, or in some cases, in a dormitory or private apartment. Some International sites may provide room and/or board to the candidate free from charge. Please keep in mind that living costs vary greatly among countries.

The UNC Center for International Education’s Study Abroad and Exchange Office provides information on scholarship resources that may help with the costs of international student teaching. For more information, please see the [CIE site](http://www.unco.edu/CIE/studyabroad/financingstudyabroad.html#scholarships).

***\*This fee does not include the actual cost of health insurance. Health insurance is approximately $52/month that is billed directly to the student account. Enrollment occurs through the CIE offices.***

**Placement**

The length of the experience varies according to specific program requirements and the situation and culture in which the candidate is involved. However, no experience is less than eight weeks in length. Participation is possible during fall and spring semesters.

Placement is made after careful matching of a candidate’s qualifications, teaching area within the requested country and the educational system of said country. The candidate is placed with a teacher identified by personnel of the host country in the Ministry of Education, local partner university or other comparable agency with approval of a designated person at UNC. Host sites must meet the minimum criteria for Colorado teaching licensure including host teacher qualifications, hours of student contact and curriculum content by program.

UNC will not knowingly place any candidate in a country where the US State Department has issued travel warnings to US citizens. Placements may be cancelled at any time for this reason.

During the experience there will be regular communication between the student teaching personnel of the host country and those at UNC (e.g. Skype, video conference, email, social media, or similar). UNC will send a faculty member whenever possible to the site as a supervisor. In some cases, UNC faculty may be on site as exchange faculty and in other cases, qualified host country personnel may be contracted to serve as in-lieu supervisor.

**Application Process**

A minimum six month lead-time is necessary for International Student Teaching placements. Candidates must make an appointment to meet with the appropriate placement officer prior to completing the application:

Special Education Candidates: Logann Grasteit- [logan.grasteit@unco.edu](mailto:logan.grasteit@unco.edu) or 970-351-2359

All Other Candidates: Lynette Kerrigan – [lynette.kerrigan@unco.edu](mailto:lynette.kerrigan@unco.edu) or 970-351-1623

After meeting with the appropriate placement coordinator the following must be completed:

1. Submit International Student Teaching Application: <https://studyabroad.unco.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Security.LoginWizardStepOne>
2. Schedule CIE Student Teaching Meeting with Teneisha Ellis, [Teneisha.ellis@unco.edu](mailto:Teneisha.ellis@unco.edu).
3. Submit the appropriate program Application for Student Teaching by due date listed.
4. Submit written approval from appropriate program coordinator to the appropriate Placement Officer.

***√ The applications includes several components and requires submission of documentation to designated parties; each part and all documentation are required for the application to be considered complete.***

**Application Deadlines**

International student teaching placements require an extended amount of time to process, therefore deadlines are six months prior to the semester of student teaching. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Deadlines:

**Fall** student teaching experiences: **March** **1st** of the Spring **PRIOR**

**Spring** student teaching experiences: **September 30th** of the Fall **PRIOR**

*Examples: You wish to student teach in fall 2019, application is due March 1, 2019.*

*You wish to student teach in spring 2019, application is due September 30, 2018*

**Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

**Student Selection Criteria**

The appropriate program placement officer will screen complete application documents to ensure minimum qualifications are met, including cumulative GPA, completion of program required courses, passing Praxis results and program coordinator approval. Once these qualifications are met, selection is based on host site availability, completed CIE materials and the candidate’s demonstrated capability to be successful in an international setting away from local support systems. Approval of the appropriate school director is mandatory and this decision is **final.**

Upon acceptance, candidates must maintain minimum qualifications prior to and through the student teaching experience.

**Preparation for Placement**

Preparation for an international student teaching experience is an important step. Candidates who apply and are accepted early will have the opportunity to enroll in courses at UNC that will enhance their understanding of other cultures and people. Candidates who are assigned an international student teaching site are required to participate in a CIE pre-departure orientation. This is a two-part orientation that covers administrative and culture/safety/health issues. Additionally, the candidate must meet with the appropriate program coordinator to discuss the requirements of the student teaching experience.

**Sites for International Student Teaching**

Candidates will only be placed in a UNC pre-approved host site. No placements will be made in any country under U.S. State Department warnings or which are deemed unsafe. Please consult the CIE representative for up-to-date information. Additional sites can be considered by student request, however the process for vetting/contracting of a new site requires a minimum of six months in addition to the six-month advance international placement application.

Candidates are responsible to research the available partner school sites (page 5) to self-determine compatibility with culture, school curriculum, environment and affordability.

**Credit**

Student Teaching credits at UNC vary depending on program, but is generally 9-14 credits and is always a FULL semester in length. Candidates must register for student teaching in the semester in which it is completed and for the required number of credits by program.

It is possible for a candidate to complete eight (8) weeks of student teaching in the US and eight (8) weeks in an international setting. The international student teaching experience is an option within the student teaching semester and will apply to the candidate’s degree at UNC in the same manner that student teaching in a US school does.

UNC has the assurance of the Colorado Department of Education that candidates who participate in the international student teaching option will be accepted for licensure. Furthermore, the use of varied supervisory models does not detract from the accreditation of the UNC program.

**Health Insurance Requirement**

Candidates are required to purchase UNC International Health Insurance. This coverage provider is GOEBlue and the policy covers up to $250,000 with no deductible and includes medical evacuation, natural disaster evacuation, political upheaval evacuation, repatriation of remains. The CIE office will assist candidates with setting up this insurance, however it is at the candidate’s expense.

**Travel Arrangements**

Candidates may leave early and have time to tour before beginning their student teaching experience, or they may stay after concluding the experience, depending on Visa/travel document restrictions. However, the candidate will only be insured for the dates of their student teaching placement. Candidates are responsible to make and pay for their own travel arrangements.

**UNC Approved International Student Teaching Partner Schools:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Specific Location** | **Partner Institution** | **School(s)** | **Grade Level**  **Licensure** | **Content Areas** | **Curriculum** | **Incentives/**  **Restrictions** |
| Cayman Islands | Grand Cayman | None | Cayman International School | All | All | IB | None |
| China | Beijing | Beijing Royal | Beijing Royal School | All | All | IB | Air may be reimbursement with 1 year stay; housing/meals provided |
| Ireland | Dublin | None | St. Ultan’s Primary School | Early Childhood  Elementary | All | Local Irish | None |
| New Zealand | Eastern Bay of Plenty | None | Ohope Beach School | Early Childhood  Elementary | All | New Zealand | Fall semester first 8 weeks in US required |
| Spain | Valencia | None | American School of Valencia | Elementary  Secondary  K-12 | All | American | No Student Visa available= placement must be 8-weeks only; weekday lunch provided |
| Thailand | Bangkok City | Kasetsart University | Kasetsaret Laboratory School No. 50 | All | All | American | Weekday lunch provided; Air reimbursement dependent on length of stay; spring semester 8 weeks only |

****

**International Student Teaching Application Checklist**

\_\_\_\_ Make an appointment to meet with the appropriate placement officer; keep in mind application deadlines.

Logann Grasteit ([logan.grasteit@unco.edu](mailto:logan.grasteit@unco.edu)) for Special Education

Lynette Kerrigan [lynette.kerrigan@unco.edu](mailto:lynette.kerrigan@unco.edu)) all other programs

\_\_\_\_ Complete and submit the appropriate program Application for Student Teaching with

supporting documents by deadline.

\_\_\_\_ Make an appointment to meet with the UNC Center for International Education

Office: <http://www.unco.edu/cie/>

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete Center for International Education application:

<https://studyabroad.unco.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Security.LoginWizardStepOne>

\_\_\_\_ Complete UNC required administrative steps (travel arrangements, financial aid, budget,

health insurance, orientations, etc.) as directed by the CIE office.

\_\_\_\_ Apply for appropriate student visa/passport.

\_\_\_\_ Provide proof of secured international housing in your host country to the CIE office.

\_\_\_\_ Register for the appropriate Student Teaching Course in the semester you are student

teaching.

\_\_\_\_ Complete a Graduation Check in the UNC Registrar’s Office prior to leaving the country

and make arrangements for the pickup of your cap and gown if participating in the graduation ceremony.