



Overview of the UBC International Community Field Experience (EDUC 430)

October 2016

What is UBC's Bachelor of Education's Community Field Experience?

Following the successful completion of their ten-week, classroom-based, teacher-certification practicum, all UBC Bachelor of Education (BEd) student teachers (or *teacher candidates*) enroll in the course, EDUC 430: Community Field Experience (CFE). The CFE is a 3-week field experience that engages teacher candidates in various alternative and/or culturally diverse educational settings such as alternative youth programs, museums, youth correctional facilities, summer camps, international school programs, and non-traditional school settings (e.g., a school library). The CFE is rooted in the belief that teacher candidates will not only assist partners meet their organization's goals and mission, but that they will also broaden their conception of what constitutes teaching and learning through the observation of, and engagement in, diverse teaching and learning contexts and practices.

Internationalization of the CFE

The Faculty's internationalization of the CFE takes direction from three policies: [UBC Trek 2010: A Global Journey](#), [Bridge to the 21st Century: Internationalization at UBC](#), and the [Faculty of Education's Strategic Plan](#). Examples of current Faculty of Education international initiatives can be found on the Faculty of Education's [International Initiatives](#) web page. The International CFE is the Bachelor of Education's application of these policies. One of the key goals of an international CFE is to develop reflective teachers who will make global awareness part of their philosophy of teaching.

What are the expectations for teacher candidates during an International CFE?

The CFE is different from a traditional practicum in that there is no formal evaluation of the teacher candidate's instructional abilities. Teacher candidates are encouraged to observe and immerse themselves in non-traditional and/or culturally diverse educational programs and instructional approaches that will enhance their own teaching and learning practices. It is largely left to the host school/community partner and teacher candidate to decide on the outcomes of the field experience.

The UBC Bachelor of Education is a post undergraduate degree, and teacher candidates begin their international CFE placement after completing substantial theory and methodology course work and clearly demonstrating their teaching capability during 3 months of teacher certification practicums. In other words, they arrive at an international destination with the teaching skills and energy of a beginning teacher.

While on their international CFE placement, UBC teacher candidates are expected to:

- Assist with implementation of activities and to plan and teach lessons that are relevant to the learning plan for the class or program (if requested). The teacher candidates can in particular be a resource for teaching and learning about Canada.



- Demonstrate a high level of professionalism, commitment and involvement to their host partner.
- Work cooperatively with local host teachers and community partners to observe and discuss approaches to instructional design and delivery. The focus is on understanding the elements of teaching that are shared and those that differ in some respect, including each other's approach to schooling.

It is expected that teacher candidates work a minimum of 75 hours over the three weeks, although there are no expectations around the grade levels or ages taught, and no expectation for financial compensation. The scope of content and experiences during the CFE are diverse and examples of possible activities are outlined in the *Community Partners Guide* located here: <http://cfe.educ.ubc.ca/community-partners/guide/>. The nature of the placement is to be discussed and agreed upon by the teacher candidate and their host teacher and/or community partner.

Teacher candidates are not limited to teaching in their area of specialization or preferred age groups. In many cases, elementary-trained teacher candidates observe, experience and teach in secondary programs, and vice-versa. In some cases, teacher candidates may observe and volunteer with several different teachers or community organizers, and volunteer in a variety of different physical contexts.

When is the CFE scheduled?

The CFE occurs at two different times in the year, depending on whether the teacher candidate is in the elementary/middle years or secondary program. For 2015, the dates would be:

- **April 24 - May 12, 2017 (Secondary Teacher Candidates)**
- **June 5 – 23, 2017 (Elementary and Middle Years Teacher Candidates)**

For more detailed information on the Community Field experience, please visit: <http://cfe.educ.ubc.ca>.

Finally, I thank you in advance for considering this opportunity to host a UBC teacher candidate, and please feel free to contact me (keith.mcperson@ubc.ca; 1-604-822-5069) if you have any further questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith McPherson".

Keith McPherson BEd, MA, PhD
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