

Concordia University, Nebraska

International Student Teaching Information

In selecting students for student teaching positions in international locations, Concordia seeks candidates who would be outstanding representatives of Concordia, and meet the following criteria:

As a Christian ~

- Committed to living out their Christian faith and sharing their joy in Christ.
- Upholds and promotes the ethos of Christian education, exemplifying and modeling a Christian life-style, in and beyond school.
- Views the Church of Christ from a broad perspective, seeing the oneness in Christ as Christians regardless of denominational or religious background.
- Has a heart for mission and ministry in an international setting.



As an Educator ~

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching - and would be considered “best of the best.”
- Able to plan and carry out a wide variety of instructional experiences to promote the growth of individual students.
- Possesses a genuine “appreciation for life” and “love for people” which permeates their work and helps to establish positive relationships with others.
- Willing and able to work with a team of teachers in a unique school setting.
- Able to adapt to the culture, curriculum, technology, processes, and high expectations of an international location and teaching situation.

As a Person ~

- Dedicated to learn all they can about the country, culture, and school they would serve.
- Not judgmental about cultural differences and comfortable with diversity.
- Excited to build relationships by taking part in school, faculty, host family, and community activities.
- Exhibits patience and flexibility, deals effectively with uncertainty and change, able to adjust to new systems and situations.
- Has the physical health capacity and mental health resiliency to navigate the additional stress of an international placement.
- Is a self-starter who can follow through on campus processes - promptly responding to email requests, completing tasks, and meeting deadlines.

If these statements describe you - you may be a good candidate for this opportunity!

If these statements do not describe you - we can discuss other types of international opportunities that would fit your program and passions.



Student requirements to consider prior to applying ~ A student:

- ✓ Must be fully accepted into the teacher education program to move forward in the process.
- ✓ Must be a student in good standing and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- ✓ Able to provide additional travel expenses (airfare*, passport, visa, medical insurance, etc.) and expenses on site (school lunch, personal spending, etc.). *Partial travel reimbursement provided for international airfare - cost of flight if under \$700 - half of the cost if over \$700.
- ✓ Must be comfortable placed individually - some schools can accommodate only one student teacher.
- ✓ Does not need to know the language of the host location.
- ✓ Would miss spring graduation ceremonies if placed in Australia.
- ✓ Should have some international travel experience before student teaching.
- ✓ Understands that the locations/placements made are for a best match for educational and professional growth - not to fulfill personal travel or adventure preferences.

Process & placement details to keep in mind ~

- ✓ Student Teaching I is a local 8 week placement. International student teaching placements take place for the next 8 weeks during the Student Teaching II placement.
- ✓ Application process must be completed one year prior to student's professional semester.
- ✓ Married students are not eligible for international student teaching placements since host family housing would not be possible. They are placed locally for Student Teaching I and Student Teaching II.
- ✓ Student should inform the Director if they decide to drop out of the process, prior to placement.

- ✓ Concordia arranges for Student Teaching II placements in international locations with specific partner schools that have been vetted to meet Nebraska State of Education criteria.
- ✓ Schools are Christian/Lutheran, accredited, and *English-speaking.
- ✓ School administrators must have a master's in education and be able to serve as site supervisors.
- ✓ Coop teachers must be experienced with matching program areas in appropriate grade level.

Application process ~

- _____ Student & Director meet to review information, application process, answer questions, and receive international student teaching application materials.
- _____ Student completes application materials and returns items to Director of Global Opportunities.
November 1 application deadline for following Fall placement
February 1 application deadline for following Spring placement
- _____ Evaluation forms are sent out on behalf of student.
- _____ Director consults with education department faculty regarding suitability of student.
- _____ Director and selection committee review field experience reports.
- _____ Director schedules an interview with student and selection committee to review application items, review feedback from evaluations, and gain additional information for decision on potential placement.
- _____ Student receives notification on their acceptance or non-acceptance status.

Acceptance is considered pending until student has successfully completed (or is successfully completing), EDUC 461 Literacy Instruction, Assessment and Intervention (early, elementary, special ed) or EDUC 431S Classroom Organization and Leadership (K-12, secondary & middle)
... so, please plan to take your appropriate class no later than the same semester as you apply.

Placement process ~

- _____ Director and committee determine best location for student teacher candidate from available schools.
- _____ Director shares school location being sought on their behalf - student agrees to site location.
- _____ Student completes and returns **Biographical Information** form.
- _____ Director communicates with site schools on potential placement request.
- _____ Student practices patience - sometimes responses take time - sometimes a new school is approached.
- _____ Once a placement is made, student works with Director on **Next Steps** processes that includes school research, cultural awareness, travel details, visa processes, necessary medical insurance, etc.
- _____ Student works with the Student Teaching office on all other Student Teaching II processes.

A number of factors impact if a student can be placed internationally:

- ✓ International student teaching placements depend on: ■ student acceptance by Concordia ■ student acceptance by a school site ■ availability of coop teachers in matching levels or subject areas ■ availability of housing.
- ✓ Even if a student is accepted by CUNE to student teach internationally - an international placement - at a particular school - is not guaranteed.
- ✓ School or student situations may change after assignments are made - an international assignment might need to be terminated at various points and changed to a domestic placement.

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