International Field Placement Opportunities

We are excited to be able to offer the 3 international field placement opportunities for the Summer of 2015. There are MACRO opportunities in Ghana and the Dominican Republic and a Clinical opportunity in Scotland.

Ghana – MACRO field placement

This placement is open to students who are choosing the MACRO Concentration and meet certain criteria. Arrangements and course of study will be tailored to each student. On-site field instruction will be provided and placements will be in the greater Accra region. Placement agencies include both governmental and non-governmental organizations. English is the official language in Ghana. Orientation and plans for academic requirements will begin as soon as you are accepted into this placement. This placement would be for 13 weeks (3 months). Field placement opportunities exist in the following organizations:

The Ministry of Social Welfare: This is Ghana’s overseeing body that provides services under family, community care and justice administration. Within the area of family work; caseworkers assist to protect children who are abused or neglected, are involved in custody disputes and involved in paternity issues. The ministry also monitors child care centers. Community care monitors non-governmental organizations, hospital welfare and rehabilitation. Justice administration monitors juvenile probation. Social workers are trained in all areas. The social work student could be involved in monitoring various day care centers and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s), as well as, provide crisis support, placement options and referrals to various resources. The Ministry of Social Welfare works closely with various judicial bodies as well. There is a Ministry of Social Welfare branch posted at Tema General Hospital; a government funded hospital. The student could also spend time there assisting with problem solving around the cost of medical bills and coordinate with various resources and services needed.

The Health Directorate: This is a government institution that oversees all health activities in the Tema area. This institution would provide the social worker with the opportunity to work on tasks within public health; such as community outreach and development within maternal and child health, health education, disease prevention, disease control and mass immunization schemes.

The Hunger Project: The Hunger Project is a USA-based NGO that specializes in community development and micro-loans. The organization has various ‘epi-centers’ around Ghana that are hubs that serve multiple communities. The ‘epi-center’ that is closest is about 36 miles away and serves 9 communities. The ‘epi-center’ has a community bank, health center, community center and will be opening either a library or kindergarten. The social work student could assist in community development and mobilization work, help with the community bank that provides micro-finance, assist with agriculture and horticulture, help to empower women and provide health education. Housing would be within one of the communities near the ‘epi-center’
The Department of Community Development: This is a government entity that works towards development in poverty-stricken areas and populations. A social work student would provide needs assessments to mobilize a community, health education, skills training, empowerment to women and youth and assistance with income generating activities. There is an opportunity to develop and initiate numerous activities within the area of community development.

Scotland - Clinical field placement

This placement would be arranged through the University at Edinborough’s School of Social Work field placement office as a block placement for the Summer of 2015 or 2016. They have field instructors and placements in a variety of settings, particularly child welfare, trauma and hospitals. The University at Edinborough would also provide a liaison for the placement. The placement would be 4 days per week for 15 weeks, May-Aug. The language in Scotland is English. Once you express interest in the placement, communication with the field office staff in Scotland can begin to plan the placement.

Dominican Republic – MACRO field placement

This placement is for a bilingual Spanish-speaking MACRO student. The student would work with both the DREAM project and Global Mental Health Initiatives (GMHI). The DREAM project serves youth affected by poverty in both schools and the community. Programs include: pre and after-school programs, parent education, skills development for employment and HIV prevention. GMHI – a U.S based 501 (c)3 organization specializing in mitigating mental illness in poor communities by responding to demand for psycho-social, mental health and allied health resources - has partnered with DREAM in a capacity-building project which involved training staff in the use of the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Model to assess needs and plan service provision. GMHI is currently assessing the effects of the implementation of the model in its first year. The student would assist with a study/analysis of the DREAM foundation and the preliminary data from the use of the CANS and develop future goals and trajectory for the DREAM foundation. John McInerney, LCSW founder of GMHI would provide supervision in person 1x/month and via Skype weekly.

For an estimate of costs associated with these placements and further information, contact Barbara Rio-Glick at brio@albany.edu. Scholarship support is a goal for the future but is not in place for 2015. Students will need to explore the impact of their plan of study on their financial aid. A separate application for these placements is required and can be found on the Field Education website. The due date for the application for these opportunities is February 27, 2015.