TEACHING EXPERIENCE ABROAD

Live, learn and teach in another country, sharing your knowledge and culture while gaining valuable life experience.

If your career goal is in education, spend between one month and one year as an assistant teacher in a foreign classroom, in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Kenya or Belgium.
TEACHING EXPERIENCE
THROUGH THE PRACTICUM

The Practicum subject for education students at Villanueva provides them with the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the reality of a Primary school or Pre-school classroom. This educational internship is an essential part of their training as future teachers and allows them to get hands-on experience in their professional field and essential teaching skills.

In addition to the possibility of teacher training at local schools in Madrid or other autonomous communities, Education students at Villanueva are given the opportunity to fulfill their Practicum requirements at a school in another country, as assistant teachers, thereby also gaining a language and cultural immersion. Students may spend from one month to a full academic year abroad, depending on the destination and year of studies, or once they have completed their degree. They normally live with a pre-selected host family, learning about the local culture and lifestyle as an integrated member of the community.

OUR PARTNERS OVERSEAS

The Education department at Villanueva University maintains agreements with numerous educational centers and international institutions in other countries to facilitate the training internships of its students overseas. In addition, Villanueva is continually seeking out new connections with schools abroad and working towards mutual agreements to encourage student and teacher exchange.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the training internship abroad is to bring students in contact with different teaching methodologies practiced in educational centers in other countries, and in other languages, as well as a broader view of how teaching children can be a rewarding experience.

The benefits of the Practicum abroad are numerous: students acquire the necessary life skills needed to develop in their profession, as teachers and as individuals; they gain international experience; obtain first-hand practical knowledge of classroom management; and participate actively in the daily classroom and extra-curriculum activities. Over and above, students improve their foreign language skills, mature and return with energy to become responsible teaching professionals.

I was one of the first to participate in the Amity program at Villanueva. I worked at Adams Spanish Immersion School, where I found a magnificent atmosphere, not only with the teachers but also with all the other Amity interns from different countries. I also played soccer at the University with American friends I made and travelled with them to places like the Grand Canyon and Disney. I am still in contact with my American family and they have come to visit me here in Spain". (Alberto, 2010-2011)

I am working at a school in Minnesota, living with an American family, and without a doubt, this has been the best decision I have made regarding my academic and professional development, as well as being a tremendous personal experience. I highly recommend this teacher training program to those who can come. You will not regret it! (Luis, 2014-2015)

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“Thanks to my Amity experience I have traveled to many places and have met many people. So much so that I am now living and working in Yichang, China, at an international school, teaching both English and Spanish, I live on campus and the international atmosphere is great". (Cristina 2012-2013)

“Probably the best year of my life... I got to know another culture and working environment, lived with a lovely family and had a great school coordinator. I couldn't ask for more, and I recommend it to everyone". (Santiago 2012-2013)

“I was an Amity intern at a Spanish immersion school in Minnesota. Despite the cold it was one of the best experiences of my life. New city, new friends, new culture... My host family, the McKinney’s, were the best! We went camping, fishing, ice skating, traveling... all new to me! I will never forget this wonderful opportunity”. (José, 2012-2013)
In the United States, Villanueva works with Amity Institute, a non-profit organization “building international friendship and cultural understanding through teaching exchange since 1962”. The Educational Internship Program provides participants the opportunity to live in the U.S., gain teaching experience and serve as informal ambassadors for Spain in U.S. schools.

Participants assist in the Spanish language classroom for approximately 32 hours per week under the supervision of a licensed teacher. They must be enthusiastic about working with American students and enjoy intercultural communication. As such, the cultural component of the program is as important as the practical training the intern will receive.

Interested students apply for the program well in advance, in the fall of the year before they intend to travel, by completing a dossier, including a personal application, letters of recommendation, health evaluation, financial support statement, etc.

The application is viewed by participating host schools who have expressed an interest in a particular intern profile. Schools are located all over the U.S. and their final selection of a candidate will determine the site of the training internship. Participating schools include public, private, religious, foreign language immersion and bilingual schools.

English and Spanish, and help organize extracurricular activities, school fairs, and other academic events. Embers recruits primarily female student interns to stay for up to two months.

"Spending your practicum abroad is the type of experience that people tell you about and show you photos. But you never really know what it’s like until you actually live it! The school here is awesome...I couldn’t be happier!"

(Mamen, 2014)

“The internship was a real opportunity, both professionally and personally speaking, from which I have only fond memories, I would repeat the experience again and again, as well as for the hospitality and affection received.”

(Namen, 2014)
Villanueva University has agreements with various public Primary schools in England to host students during their teacher training period through a partner organization, Study World Educational Travel, in the county of Somerset.

**BRISTOL**

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE**

Several of these schools are located in Weston-Super-Mare, a town near Bristol in the southwest of England, including Mead Vale Community Primary School, Milton Park Primary School and Mendip Green Primary school.

“My experience here in Weston is really nice, I feel like at home with my host family and at the school they make me feel very comfortable. Doing your teacher training in another country is an opportunity to improve your English and to get to know another educational system. England’s system is very different to ours in Spain, it is full of resources and I have been lucky enough to familiarize myself with many of them. The teachers at the school, Mead Vale, are always willing to help me and it is very enriching to work alongside them. I highly recommend the experience!”

(JULIA, 2015)

**IRELAND**

Villanueva maintains an agreement with the organization Language Activities International (LAI Spain), who places teacher training students in single-sex (mainly) private and semi-private schools in several counties in Ireland: Dublin, Carlow, Kerry, Cork and Galway. Students are assigned a primary (ages 7-12), or infant (ages 5-6), classroom and supervising teacher to work alongside. School days normally end at 3 p.m. The LAI program is open all year round, from 4 to 15 weeks. Candidates need to fill out an application, pass a selection interview and have a B2 level of English to participate.
The mission of the European School Brussels I Uccle, which includes the Nursery and Primary levels, is to “provide a quality education in a safe and nurturing multilingual and multicultural learning environment. Based on trust and respect, the school celebrates diversity and recognizes the value of effort and cooperation to achieve excellence”.

The school offers education in English, French, Danish, German and Spanish. The European School system consists of two years of early education (nursery cycle), five years of primary and seven years of secondary education.

Early Education (Nursery) is designed to prepare children for a happy, healthy, responsible, and successful life; develop children’s personality and abilities; respect and appreciate children’s own cultural and social identity, its values and those of others and promote a European spirit.

In the primary school the focus is on the mother tongue, mathematics and the first foreign language, but art, music, physical education, discovery of the world and religion/ethics are important - as are the “European Hours”, where mixed nationalities meet for a variety of activities.

Strathmore School is a private, independent, boys’ day school located in Nairobi, Kenya. The school started in 1961 and today has nearly 630 students, including its Primary and Secondary forms. “The principal goal of the School is to develop the conscience and train the minds of its students so that they may usefully serve society. Above all, the School emphasizes academic excellence and moral integrity...The School aims to provide an education based on Christian principles (and) to teach the essence of goodness, honesty, responsibility, tolerance, hard work, humility and sincerity”.

“Last year I decided to take the plunge and seek a teacher training internship at one of the European schools in Brussels. It has been one of the best things that I have done in years, both on a personal as well as a professional level! The methodology here is so different to Spain’s. Children learn through play and hands-on activities, the facilities are very complete and the comradery is unique amongst fellow teachers. And there are eight different languages used for teaching! Not only did I practice my English, but also my French!”

(Laura, 2014)

“For me, Kenya proved to be a test of discipline and autonomy, which was reflected in my day-to-day work in the school and rewarded through the kindness of my colleagues and friends made at the housing residence. It was an exceptional trip, especially getting to know the culture and also improving my English. I would recommend it to someone who is hard-working and shows initiative”.

(Antonio, 2014)
The Tangara School for Girls is located in Cherrybrook, in the province of New South Wales, near Sydney. “Student life at Tangara includes a diverse range of academic, sporting, artistic and social activities that help girls develop individual strengths and interests.” At Tangara they believe that “education is the foremost responsibility of parents, the primary educators, supported by the expertise of professional educators.”

“Working at Tangara has been an incredible experience to learn about other methodologies in education as well as a completely different culture. On top of it, I improved my English and had the chance to meet many new people. Living in another country made me mature and become more open-minded, as I adjusted to a new form of life. I strongly recommend not missing an opportunity like this one!”

(Mariana, 2013)
Discover a World of Opportunity!