

Eligibility for International Fieldwork

The opportunity to participate in an out-of-country placement is considered to be a privilege that may be negotiated for a second-year student with good academic standing (B average) who has a record of excellent performance in all previous fieldwork placements and has abided by the school's code of conduct. The student must submit a Letter of Intent to the Fieldwork Coordinator demonstrating:

- The country of the desired destination;
- Why the student would like to complete an international placement in that country;
- Satisfactory academic performance, normally indicated by a minimum of a B+ average;
- The successful completion of ALL previous fieldwork;
- The skills to represent themselves in a highly professional manner and to act as an ambassador for the Department
- An awareness of potential cultural differences in the proposed host country.

Students applying for an international placement must agree to proceed with arrangements for a Canadian placement in the event of the cancellation of the international placement.

A student will be granted no more than one international placement.

Application Procedures

1. By a predetermined date, the student must request in writing to the Fieldwork Coordinator their wish to complete an international fieldwork experience.
2. The Fieldwork Coordinator will assess the suitability of the request based on the above criteria. The student will be advised in writing that they may seek an international placement, or that the required criteria have not been satisfied. If they have been approved, the student processed to:
 - A. Find a suitable placement on their own
 - B. Work with the Fieldwork Coordinator to find a potential site
 - C. Choose from an existing site with Western's partners.
3. Once a "tentative" agreement has been set, the Fieldwork Coordinator can begin correspondence between Western University and the facility/OT in the host country to determine the suitability of the site and for completion of the required Affiliation Agreement and formal set up of the placement.
4. The student is responsible for determining all requirements necessary for entry into the country (e.g. student visa, medical preparation and coverage, financial obligations, insurance) and for the timely fulfillment of these requirements.
5. Once the placement has been finalized and travel arrangements have been completed, students must complete Western's travel registry through a program called Atlas. There is also mandatory training around student safety abroad that the student must complete.



Important Notes: The student is responsible for determining all requirements & costs necessary for entry into the country (e.g. student visa, medical preparation and coverage, financial obligations, insurance) and for the timely fulfillment of these requirements. In most of the placements, there is a placement fee that is payable directly to the facility upon arrival.