

INTERNSHIP ABROAD IN ART THERAPY (ARTT-GE2302.099)

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Course Description:

This is a 3 week internship practicum course that is held in a various parts of the world. In the past 8 years, students have been working with an orphanage, schools and HIV+ women's shelter in Moshi, Tanzania(2007), prison and facility for mentally ill people in Ayacucho, Peru(2008), Township schools and refugee facility in Cape Town, South Africa (2009), schools and senior citizen's residence in Salvador, Brazil (2010), "Street Kids" facility, and women's shelter for domestic violence in Udaipur, India (2011), rehabilitation center for young adults and school for children with disability in Cochabamba, Bolivia (2012), and a rehabilitation center for young adults and schools for disadvantaged children in Accra, Ghana (2013, 2014).

This course is designed for graduate art therapy students who have completed the first year of the Program including one semester of internship experience in the field. The course is also open to graduate level students from related fields with some art/psychology background depending on available space.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be open and flexible enough to be able to absorb and adjust to foreign culture.
2. Students will be able to objectively reflect their own culture and value system upon exposure to a different culture.
3. Students will broaden their understanding about the value of human existence and different cultural ways of dealing with it.
4. Students will learn to use various art materials and projects that are appropriate to that particular population within specific culture.
5. Students will be able to apply and adapt their knowledge of art therapy for the needs of the population and to the unique cultural heritage.
6. Students will develop skills to communicate with local people through other means than language, such as facial expression, body language and specific customs and habits.
7. Students will learn to be humble and less judgemental toward other cultures after this experience.

Course Structure:

1. All students will be paired up and placed at different facilities. (A typical format is two to three pairs of students in each of 2 or 3 different facilities).
2. Students will go to respective placement every morning from 9am -12n and stay at the same placement throughout 3 weeks so that they get to know the population well enough to develop relationships.
3. Students will plan and prepare appropriate and effective art projects for the population with whom they work and will make a clear daily plan for their art project.
4. Students will make a daily record of what happened in each session and for submission to the supervision seminar.
5. After lunch the instructor will meet with students daily for supervision for 1 to 1.5 hrs to discuss clinical and work related issues and cultural adjustment. Any personal issues will be discussed individually outside of set supervision time.
6. Afternoon time will be spent shopping for local art materials/supplies for the projects, writing journals and visiting placements of the other students.
7. Students will prepare a final art project on the last Friday in each placement and conclude the 3 week work with the population in the form of an art exhibit, mural making, or decorating the placement.

Each participant will receive a folder of their own artwork with a certificate of participation.

Course Requirement:

1. Research and prepare some knowledge of the cultures that students will visit. They should have some understanding of the local art forms, the place and roles of art in the culture, and the local attitudes toward mental health.
2. Students will keep a daily journal throughout the trip. They will write and/or make an art response to the experience after 1 month and after 3 months.
3. Final paper that reflects their experience on the clinical level (work), and the cultural level including their own personal reflections and insights.