

## Global Internship Program Overview

### A Collaborative Program of Bethany International Ministries & Bethany College of Missions

The Global Internship program is a continuation of the studies learners undertake in their pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts in Cross-cultural Studies from Bethany College of Missions. It is designed as an in-context learning program where learners simultaneously hold the role of “missionary” and “learner. The Global Internship program is 16 months in duration, composed of four 4-month terms.

#### What sets Global Internship apart from other programs?

The Global Internship program has been designed with a specific view toward developing spiritual depth, cognitive understanding and intercultural competence. The following values have been woven into the program.
































- *Learning from experience*  
We believe that there are real advantages to learning as you serve, learning through experience, and learning from those who are active in ministry in a cross-cultural setting. Students get the advantage of learning as a team in a setting where everyday experiences in missionary life become the backdrop for weekly discussions and monthly courses. Global Internship is learning *in* ministry.
- *Learning in ministry*  
Some of the most critical experiences students will bring to their learning involve ministry itself. A significant part of the Global Internship experience is that it expects learning to occur as a result of ministry, not just in preparation for it. For this reason, all students must be accepted as short-term missionaries and agree to serve under Bethany International Missions as missionaries during their Global Internship experience. BIM is involved in guiding the learning process by providing mentors on site for the program who will provide a variety of ministry experiences for the students that are appropriate to the local context and need.
- *Learning in context*  
Every cultural context is different. Differing cultural world-views create different personal concerns and social issues which influence how people respond to the gospel. Ministry methods, discipleship programs, leadership structures and evangelistic strategies which were effective back home may not work elsewhere. This is because true ministry does not flow out of well-defined solutions and orderly methodologies, it responds to what God is doing in a particular place at a particular time with a particular people. Missionary learning demands a relationship to the ministry context, learning within the context, learning from the context, and learning to respond to the context.
- *Learning to learn*  
Learning is not simply the absorption of knowledge. It involves a complex process in which a student responds to experiences, information and the context they are in; trying to understand how it all fits together. We can (and do) teach students principles which guide missionary work prior to their departure, but we realize that they will learn so much more when they try to reconcile those principles with actual practice. Therefore missionaries-in-training need to also gain insight into *how* to learn—how to observe, reflect, research, theorize, experiment and apply what they have learned to the situation and needs they face. The Global Internship Experience provides opportunities for this.
- *Learning in community*  
Global Internship is a highly collaborative learning experience. Students work together to learn, gaining insights from each other and from the full-time missionaries who provide leadership and oversight to their experience. Weekly and bi-weekly meetings provide a platform for exploration and sharing of experience, for challenging assumptions and to strategize for continued learning.

- *Learning from others in ministry*  
The Global Internship experience includes both formal and non-formal learning. The formal learning will occur in regular courses offered on site during the program. Courses will generally last one week and will occur on the average every three weeks during the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> term of the program (1<sup>st</sup> term is devoted to language and cultural study every day!). These courses will generally be taught by missionaries and local church leaders from within the region. The advantage of this is in the perspective offered. Courses such as Theology in Context will explore the key theological issues that the local Church in a particular region of the world is most concerned with. Students will also participate in a weekly group study of the Bible and a bi-weekly group discussion about culture, language and ministry with mentors and others.

### What courses form the curriculum?

Each 4-month term has a specific theme or focus with courses and activities designed specifically for that focus. Note that the 1<sup>st</sup> term of Global Internship is the 5<sup>th</sup> term (Term 5) of the BCOM program. There are 16 credits given for each term.

#### *Term Descriptions*

<i>Term 5-Community Entry</i>	
 Cultural Anthropology 1	 Cross-Cultural Communications
 Ethnographic Research 1	 Biblical Studies – Galatians
 Principles of Language Acquisition	 Messenger, Message, and Community
 Language Learning	
<i>Term 6 - Religions and Worldview</i>	
 Cultural Anthropology 2	 Local Area Christianity
 Ethnographic Research 2	 Biblical Studies- Ephesians
 Language Learning	 Miss. Relational Development
 Local Area Religions	 Ministry Practicum
<i>Term 7 - Community and Strategy</i>	
 Cultural Anthropology 3	 Methods and Models of Church Planting
 Ethnographic Research 3	 Biblical Studies - Philipians
 Language Learning	 Miss. Spiritual Development
 Evangelism and Discipleship In Context	 Ministry Practicum
<i>Term 8 - Cross-Cultural Ministry</i>	
 Cultural Anthropology 4	 Cultural Innovation and Change
 Ethnographic Research 4	 Biblical Studies - Colossians
 Missions Strategy	 Miss. Ministry Development
 Church Development In Context	 Strategic Storytelling

### Who provides oversight, leadership, mentoring and instruction?

Sites are chosen where teams of missionaries agree to provide leadership and direction to the program. In some cases, a missionary has agreed to turn the focus of their attention entirely to the program. In addition, Bethany recruits recent graduates to serve as short-term missionaries at the site, providing day-to-day oversight and mentoring to the students while honing their own calling as well. In some situations the oversight is provided by missionaries with partner organizations. Finally, instructors for courses come from the local ministry community – either local pastors or missionaries with a wide variety of agencies working in the context.

### *What is the general schedule?*

Most courses are offered as one or two-week modules and are scheduled according to availability of instructors, chosen from the ministry community within the context (local pastors and missionaries). For this reason, the schedule will vary according to Global Internship site.

*Biblical Studies* courses all take place in the context of a weekly 4-hour gathering that includes a time of worship, study, prayer, and mutual encouragement. The timing of this will also vary according to Global Internship site.

*Ethnographic Research* is a "lab" course that includes daily and weekly field observation and a group discussion on a specific theme every two weeks. The timing of this weekly meeting will also vary according to Global Internship site.

*Ministry Practicum* beginning second term (1st term time is reserved for language study) will vary according to chosen ministry involvement, but will be scheduled outside of the time blocks needed for courses and other activities.

### *How are learning sites selected by the college?*

The first consideration in choosing an internship site is its proximity to unreached people groups, while providing exposure to multiple ministry opportunities. This means that the sites are generally in established ministry contexts but as close as possible to the least reached peoples of the world. We want the interns to have adequate exposure to another culture and opportunity to engage in ministry while accomplishing their learning requirements.

We also choose sites based on the availability of excellent teachers, supervisors and mentors for the students. Internships are supervised by Bethany missionaries or missionaries with partner organizations, who understand our training program and the expectations for our interns. Finally, we try to ensure that learning sites have adequate housing, transportation, medical systems, and a realistic level of security and political stability. New learning sites will be explored each year offering a variety of locations and experiences to our students, as our enrollment grows.

### *How do students choose where go for Global Internship?*

Each incoming class at Bethany is given several options to choose from. Students are asked to prayerfully consider their request in alignment with the direction that they believe God is leading them for long-term ministry. The intention of the global internship is not to get students started in the country where they will do long-term ministry (although that may be a by-product for some), but instead to give them the experiences of being in a foreign culture, and living and working as a missionary. Many of the learning activities, ministry exposures, and life lessons will be transferable from one culture to another. Students apply and are interviewed as applicants with Bethany International Ministries. The Global Internship Team, composed of staff from both the College and the International Ministries, makes final decisions on missionary acceptance and placement.

### *What are the current learning sites?*

In 2007 we opened up our first learning sites in Batam, Indonesia and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In 2008 we opened up a Kenya site and in 2009 we launched additional learning sites in Vienna, Austria and Chiang Mai, Thailand. Looking forward to 2010 we are developing opportunities in France and Central Asia.

### *How much does the Global Internship cost and how do students pay for it?*

Global Internship costs vary depending on the country and the costs of variables such as travel expenses, housing and food costs at the time of the internship. There are two levels of cost for the students. One is a one time student fee of \$2500 (subject to change) paid to Bethany College of Missions for the educational side of the program.

Because students serve as missionaries under Bethany International Ministries, they are able to raise support for the ministry side of their experience. Students are given instruction and guidance throughout their support-raising time to help them learn how to build a team of people who will pray for them and

provide financial support during their internship—this is also a part of training to be a missionary! We encourage students to include their church leadership in the process of sending them out as missionaries.

The support amount varies according to site. Below is a sample of previous support budgets that students raised for Global Internship. Each year the budget is re-evaluated and adjusted accordingly.

	Sample Budget #1	Sample Budget #2
Initial Outgoing Expenses		
Travel -	2,000.00	3,000.00
Medical/Travel Insurance	800.00	800.00
Mid-Year Conference Cost & Airfare	500.00	500.00
Local Transportation	1,600.00	NA
Apartment Set-up Furnishings, Etc.	100.00	200.00
Language School 3 months	1,200.00	400.00
Miscellaneous passport, visa, etc.	250.00	250.00
Taxes on Initial Costs	144.00	160.00
Bethany Admin Fee (8%) - on Initial Expenses	573.51	461.84
First Month's Expenses (see monthly total below)	1,374.63	957.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,542.15</b>	<b>6,729.24</b>
Monthly Expenses		
Room & Board Includes housing, food, utilities	700.00	300.00
Transportation Includes public transport passes	40.00	100.00
Ministry Includes evangelism, outreaches, training, field assets, ministry transportation, visa renewals	100.00	150.00
Miscellaneous Includes clothing, furnishings, postage, recreation	150.00	150.00
Taxes - primarily Social Security	160.64	100.80
Tithe	115.00	80.00
Bethany Admin Fee (8%) - on Monthly Expenses	110.09	76.61
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>1,375.89</b>	<b>957.41</b>
Budget Summary		
Initial Setup Budget	8,543.41	6,729.24
Monthly Budget x 15 months	20,638.39	14,361.11
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>29,181.80</b>	<b>21,090.36</b>

### *What happens following completion of Global Internship?*

The missionaries-in-training return to Bethany's campus and enroll in their senior term at Bethany College of Missions. During this final term of studies there is a focus on debriefing the internship experience, leadership development, continued ministry outreach and planning for the future through an integrative project, designed to integrate the learning and ministry experience and listen to the Lord as seniors seek God's guidance for the next steps of their lives. Students who successfully complete the Global Internship and all requirements of Bethany College of Missions graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Cross-Cultural Studies.