



Katherine Drake and Marlee MacDougall

Volunteer Teaching Placements Begin in the United Kingdom

Lakehead Partnership Agreement Launched with UK-Based Recruitment Company

In May 2017, BEd graduates Katherine Drake and Marlee MacDougall will travel to England to participate in the pilot program of a new partnership established between the Faculty of Education and Responsible Reliable Recruitment, a United Kingdom-based company.

The newly certified teachers will complete a three-week volunteer teaching placement at a school in Dagenham, a suburb of East London, England.

Plans are underway to integrate UK-based teaching placements into the two-year Bachelor of Education program, starting in 2018. These alternative placements will give select teacher candidates in the BEd program a chance to experience teaching in the UK, and possibly a route toward a permanent position as a teacher in England. Currently, Canadian-trained teachers are in high demand, as the UK struggles with a teacher shortage.

Professional Development in a New Context

The May 2017 placements will take place at Robert Clack School and All Saints Catholic School in Dagenham. At the schools, Katherine and Marlee will have an opportunity to teach, develop lesson plans, and assist with grading, while gaining a taste of the UK school system.

“The UK holds so many opportunities for growth and learning as a teacher and a long-term learner,” Katherine says. “I have always been fascinated with British history and culture because my family comes from England, and I want to learn all I can about it. The opportunity to teach in the country my grandparents grew up in was an opportunity I could not pass by!”

Marlee adds that she is looking forward to “gaining new teaching experiences, learning from an entirely different educational system, and sharing ideas and practice strategies with British educators. I’m excited to learn how the British system differs from the Canadian system, and

how the curriculum is implemented. And, as a Music major, I’m hoping to see some different music programs that highlight classical training, as well as more popular music.”

Katherine and Marlee will also take advantage of the opportunity to travel and take in some cultural highlights. Katherine, a self-described history buff, says she is excited to experience the historical sights of England, see a show at the Shakespeare Globe, and travel, post-placement, up to the Scottish Highlands.

Marlee explains she’ll take advantage of some unique cultural offerings as well: “I have tickets to see the London Philharmonic Orchestra perform the *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* soundtrack alongside the movie. As a Harry Potter fan and music teacher, this experience will be very exciting!”

The Faculty of Education is pleased to work with Responsible Reliable Recruitment to allow Katherine and Marlee, and future BEd students, an opportunity to experience teaching in the UK.

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