



BCTF

British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals
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Information for potential applicants for the July, 2019 Projects

Project Overseas is the CTF international program that sends Canadian teachers to participate in professional development programs hosted by teacher unions in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

A central purpose of the programs is to improve the quality of education in the host country through high quality professional development, co-developed and facilitated by Canadian and host country experienced teachers.

Another significant purpose from the perspective of the BCTF is to support effective teacher unions that can advance the interests of their members and of public education.

Participants in Project Overseas have an opportunity to broaden their experience and to see education from new perspectives. When they return, they are expected to bring those experiences to their classrooms and to share with colleagues.

Project Overseas sends Canadian teachers to projects each July, with the teachers selected and funded by their provincial teachers' union.

The BCTF will be supporting four (4) BCTF members in July 2019. **Applications to participate will be due October 31st, 2018.** This will be a pilot year, with an evaluation to determine future levels of participation.

The BCTF's francophone local, SEPF, will also be sponsoring one of its members and applications from that local should be sent to it.

Stories from Past Project Overseas participants

The first BCTF participation in Project Overseas was in the 1960s and hundreds of BC teachers have taken part over the years. The last participation was in 2007, but many stories from previous years have been published in the *Teacher* magazine and you can find them [here](#).

How do you apply for Project Overseas?

Applications are made on a form that is posted in September in the [International Solidarity—Get Involved](#) section of the BCTF International Solidarity section of the BCTF website.

Requirements:

- ❖ BCTF membership
- ❖ an appropriate teacher's certificate
- ❖ a minimum of five years' teaching experience in Canada
- ❖ Canadian citizenship
- ❖ proof of a valid Canadian passport
- ❖ excellent health
- ❖ evidence of flexibility and mature judgment

Application deadline: October 31, 2018.

Submit your completed forms (or questions) to researchassistants@bctf.ca

Fax No: (604) 871-2294

*Mail to: BCTF International Solidarity Program
100-550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2*

The application should be accompanied by at least two letters of reference, one from an officer of your local union or union school staff representative.

Project Overseas projects are located in both, anglophone and francophone countries. Members able to offer professional development in French are particularly invited to apply.

The Selection Process

The BCTF International Solidarity Committee will review the applications and forward the recommended ones to the CTF. Applicants may be contacted for a telephone interview as part of the process.

The BCTF will recommend more than the four positions that will be sponsored by the BCTF. CTF will make the final selection among those recommended, based on the experience of the applicants and the program needs identified by the host country union. Those not initially appointed will be considered alternates should they be needed.

BCTF applicants will be informed whether their applications have been recommended to the CTF. The CTF will inform those who have been selected of their selection and their country of assignment in mid-January. They will be contacted by the Team Leader the following month and will begin working with the team in preparation for the assignment. Team Leaders are experienced Project Overseas participants.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I request a preferred host country if I am selected?

A. No. CTF matches educators where they will do the most good, based on the country of assignment's needs, the participant's background and areas of expertise.

Q. Can my spouse/partner accompany me to my host country if I am selected?

A. No, family members are not allowed to accompany a Project Overseas participant. You may consider meeting your partner after the conclusion of Project Overseas in that country if you wish to travel further.

Q. What about passport and visa requirements?

A. If you are selected for Project Overseas, you will have time to renew your passport. CTF and the travel consultant will work with participants regarding passport renewal, obtaining visas and other travel arrangements. If selected, participants should bring any travel plans during the months of March–July to the attention of CTF as soon as possible

Q. What about health requirements?

A. Health is a very important factor and there is a section in the application regarding the condition of your health. Also, it is important that every participant is fully aware that conditions and medical systems in the country they are visiting are not the same as those in Canada.

Q. Is there training before I go to my host country?

A. Yes, From March to June you will communicate with a Team Leader via Skype or teleconference with the rest of your team, with periodic input from CTF. Also, CTF provides workshops as part of a three-day Orientation for Project Overseas participants in Ottawa the first week in July, before your assignment starts.

Q. What will the BCTF expect following the assignment?

A. You will be expected to participate in a session hosted by the BCTF that will be part of the evaluation of future BCTF participation in Project Overseas.

You will be encouraged to report on what you have learned from your experience, such as an article in a local newsletter or community publication, a workshop for colleagues at your school or part of a PD day or lesson ideas to exchange on TEACH BC.

Q. What happens if I have to drop out at any point in the process?

A. Emergencies happen. If you have to drop out, contact CTF as soon as possible. If there is a situation that arises that could cause you to drop out, please let CTF or your team leader know.