

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A Beyond U Program Participant (BUPP) is a student who, because of their maturity, responsibility, and passion for service and experiential learning, has been selected to work with a local K-W organization and St. Jerome's University to gain a deeper understanding of local social justice issues and the purpose and function for grass-roots, non-for-profit organizations.

A BUPP embodies an approachable, responsible, mature and professional character that is willing to embrace encounters with local social justice and development issues. They are willing to witness the realities faced by many people in our community, act to support the dignity of all and work alongside others to develop a more inclusive community.

A BUPP will have the opportunity to work within a community-based organization to gain a thorough understanding of how they function, the populations they serve and the values they set as their foundation. The organizations will be key players in the social sectors in Kitchener/Waterloo.

After their placement, a BUPP will then participate in a four-month guided experience that will aid them in reflecting on and processing the placement. Through a variety of reflection tools, the use of human-centred design processes and a culminating project, students will articulate not only key social justice issues they encountered, but also who experiences these issues, what work is being done to meet these issues, and what work still needs to be done. They will develop a critical framework for articulating the connections and complexities of justice issues that they witnessed and the strengths and growth areas of the initiatives and systems that are built to meet them.

BUPPs will report directly to and receive support from the Outreach Programs Coordinator (OPC) as well as a placement supervisor at a designated local organization.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ideal Beyond U candidates are full-time undergraduate students who have displayed exceptional passion for, and engagement in, social justice and service learning experiences. In the program, students will be pushed outside of their comfort zones to develop deeper understandings of local development and democracy and work at the intersection of justice and design. This position requires a minimum 8-month commitment with differing responsibilities outlined in the program overview below.

OVERALL OUTCOMES:

The Beyond U program aims to provide the participants with the opportunities and support to:

1. Form meaningful interpersonal relationships within a community organization, including with the staff and population served.
2. Gain deeper insights at an analysis and synthesis level into local social justice issues from several perspectives and points of view.



3. Explore, through intentional reflection, their connection to and role in addressing different social justice issues they encounter.
4. Develop competency in human-centered design and community education practices.
5. Develop effective communication and interpersonal skills that incorporate the values of respect and dignity for all in every interaction.
6. Work at the intersection between creation, innovation and socially responsible action.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Spring 2018: Placement Experience

BUPPs will participate in a twelve week, paid, local Community Service Learning (CSL) experience which will consist of:

- 25-35 hours/week of service at a community based organization;
- Ongoing (2-3 per term) internship reflections throughout the duration of the CSL experience;
- Regular meetings with supervisor (2-3 per term) to discuss strengths, challenges and opportunities;
- Workshops on non-profit related topics.
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Post-Placement Integration

BUPPs will then participate in a reflection program that will help them explore, articulate, analyze and respond to their experience. This will consist of:

- Integration meetings with OPC;
- Reflection activities;
- Training and workshops on non-profit related topics;
- A culminating project, agreed upon by the student and the OPC that captures and explores the complexity of one (or a few) social justice issues chosen by the student;
- Participate in knowledge-sharing opportunities in the SJU and wider community.