



Frequently Asked Questions about Practice Teaching Placements

Will I get my first school board choice?

We do our best to assign students to their first school board choice; however, there are a variety of reasons why you may not have received your first choice. The board that you graduated from, your division and your teaching subjects play a large role in deciding on the area in which to place you. Also, some school boards have a very limited number of placement spaces available. Sometimes it is necessary to place students in their second or third choice.

I just found out that I may be relocating. Can I change my school board any time during the year?

No. Once you have been assigned to a school board, you will complete all 12 weeks of your practicum within that board. We will begin arranging placements with your assigned school board on your behalf. Exceptions will be made for students completing alternative placements, such as international or outdoor education placements.

I haven't received my placement yet. When will I receive it?

You will be notified, via email in May, which school board you have been assigned to. Specific details regarding your placement (i.e. school, associate teacher and grade) will be released to you during Orientation and on an ongoing basis as we receive confirmations. Please check your Nipissing University email account regularly, for important information and updates. Please also ensure that your personal information (i.e. address and phone number) is current on WebAdvisor, in the event that we need to contact you.

My friend is in the BEd program and has received a placement already, why haven't I?

Placements are received by the Practice Teaching Office on a regular basis, and will be forwarded to students as they become available (please see previous FAQ).

If I am not satisfied with the placement I received, can it be changed?

No. Due to the large number of students in the Bachelor of Education program and the fact that we work with 52 school boards, it is not possible to accommodate special considerations of individual students. Your associate teacher has been notified of your placement and has planned for your arrival.

My placement is too far from where I will be living and I don't have a driver's license, can I request a change?

No. Student teaching is expensive and you are responsible for making your own arrangements regarding transportation and living accommodations. You should take into consideration that travel time is necessary and you can expect that a long commute (an hour or more) to your placement is not unreasonable. In some cases, you may be required to travel to a placement that is not accessible by public transportation. In these cases, you will be required to make your own arrangements regarding transportation.

Can I arrange my own placement or request a specific placement?

No. There are a limited number of associate teachers in all areas. While we try to honour the choices of students, you must leave the final decision and any negotiation strictly to the Practice Teaching Office and the school board. Students MUST NOT undertake negotiations with a school board, individual school or teacher to

arrange their own placements. In addition, you may not make demands of the Practice Teaching Office with respect to a specific placement by requesting a particular school, teacher or grade/subject.

I am a Junior/Intermediate student. Will I be guaranteed a placement in grade 9/10?

School boards are asked to place J/I students in junior grades, as well as intermediate grades; however, some students will be placed in grades 7-8 and others in grades 9-10. Intermediate grades include 7-10, and placements within that range are appropriate for J/I students. Please note: it is more difficult to find a teacher who only teaches grade 9/10 in one subject.

I am an Intermediate/Senior student. Will all my placements be in high school?

As an I/S student, you could be placed in grades 7-12 because you are qualified to complete your practicum in intermediate (grades 7-10), as well as senior (grades 11-12). If placed in grades 7 and/or 8, you are qualified to teach all subjects, not just your teaching subjects.

Do I need to take the Religious Education option course (EDUC 1526)?

Students are encouraged to research the hiring practices of school boards. In some school boards, preference in hiring may be given to candidates with a pre-service Religious Education course. Some school boards also require that students take this course to practice teach within their board.

Do I need to take the Religious Education option course (EDUC 1526) if Religious Education is my Intermediate or Senior teaching subject?

J/I and I/S students enrolled in the Religious Studies elective should check with the Catholic school boards in which they are practice teaching to see if the board also requires registration in the Religious Education option course. Some school boards require this course in order to accept student teachers for practicum or eventual employment.

***Students choosing to practice teach with a Catholic School Board must be of the Catholic faith.**

I want to complete an international placement, should I take the International Teaching option course?

Students who take the International Teaching option course may be given preference to complete an international placement; however, enrollment in this course is not mandatory to be eligible for an international placement. An information session will be held in August for those students who might be interested in pursuing an international placement in one of the chosen locations.

What international locations are available and what are the requirements to apply?

During the 2010/2011 academic year, students were placed in Ecuador and Kenya. At this time, next year's destinations have not yet been selected. More information will be available for interested students at Orientation in August.

To be eligible, students must be in good academic standing and cannot have received any "Does Not Meet Expectations" (failures) in their practice teaching placements. Students are selected by a committee. Last year we had 40 students participating in international placements. Students must cover the cost of flights and accommodations which can cost up to \$4000 depending on the country.

What is the advantage of completing the Kindergarten option course?

Students who take the Kindergarten option course may be given preference to complete a portion of their practicum in a kindergarten classroom. Other P/J students not enrolled in the option course may or may not have a kindergarten placement. Students who wish to teach kindergarten in the future will benefit from this course.

Is Orientation Week (August 29-September 2, 2011) mandatory?

Yes, all students are required to attend. Some activities during Orientation Week include information pertaining to educational software, as well as administrative details such as book list, bus passes, student card, and Financial Aid.

How do I sign up for BEd courses?

The course schedule is pre-assigned so there is no need to sign up for BEd courses.

When will I find out about Option Courses?

An information package will be sent out in July from the Registrar's Office.

Once I am in the program, how will I receive important practice teaching information, such as my practice teaching reports and placement information?

You will receive a Nipissing University email address in July. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THEIR NIPISSING UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT ON A DAILY BASIS. Official and urgent notices to students from the university will be sent directly to that address. Associate teachers will also be given this email address for communication purposes. Additional Information may also be communicated to you through WebAdvisor.