

Practicum Placement Opportunities in the Wheaton/Royal Thimphu Partnership Program

The following is a partial list of practicum placements that the Wheaton/Royal Thimphu Partnership Program has developed over the years. Not all placements are necessarily available in any given year, and not all placements are listed here.

BBS Bhutan Broadcasting Service is the national radio and television service. A public service corporation, it is fully funded by the government and it is currently the only service to offer both radio and television, and is the only television service to broadcast from inside the Bhutanese border. BBS has suggested that our students could develop news stories and assist in other ways.

Bhutan Center for Media & Democracy

One of the center's primary functions is to host forums, which often result in publications of the proceedings. The director identified four major initiatives in which our students could be involved.

1. The center has just begun to build a media lab in which they plan to teach young people how to use various media, including websites, blogging, posters, and broadcasting (involving an open mike night) and to facilitate their use of these media to engage in public discourse in civil society. They envision this center as operating on a drop-in basis, and want to encourage youth to come to use the facilities, ultimately offering a kind of "guild membership" to those who have acquired requisite skills. 2. Building their website to serve as an archive of the extensive resources they have developed, as well as a portal through which to access a radio program that they have produced, called "More than Just a Vote," to be followed by a sequel. 3. Developing radio discussion groups in conjunction with these programs, and to get feedback from these groups in order to inform future programming efforts. 4. Develop and make available (via the web) curricula to support training in journalism.

Jigme Losel School

Jigme Losel primary school won a prize from UNESCO in 2012 for its innovative approach to involving parents in school activities, and for providing meals to students who needed them. They used this prize to visit model schools in Bangkok. Japanese donors have recently sponsored the construction of a mediation room. Ninety percent of its students come from underprivileged families (typically vegetable vendors from Eastern Bhutan), and have been deprived of adequate parental attention. They have 835 students (3/13) and 32-33 teachers. Our students have taught classes and assisted teachers in a variety of ways

Kuzoo FM Radio

Established by His Majesty (King V) while Crown Prince, Kuzoo is a youth radio station, and seeks to have young people provide much, if not all the programming. Privately funded, it has been autonomous since 2008. Two stations, one in English and one in Dzongkha. Two of our students achieved some notoriety as popular DJs for the station.

National Biodiversity Center

The Center has a range of programs, two of which are particularly appropriate for student participation: the Herbarium and Garden that maintain living specimens on site, and, for those with adequate scientific training, bio-prospecting, which extracts and archives genetic material. Our students have

been involved at the Center in an international biodiversity inventory project.

READ-Bhutan (Read Education and Development)

READ provides literacy, health education, and empowerment classes for the mostly poor and migrant women who populate Changjiji. The READ library houses a wide variety of books for adults and children. READ also conducts programs for children and young adults in the neighborhood. Our students have worked with children in their afterschool program, initiated a video project about the neighborhood, led an empowerment group for young women, and led art classes for kids there

RENEW

Founded in 2004, RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to empowerment of women and girls in Bhutan, especially the victims and survivors of domestic violence. Counseling, temporary shelter, legal assistance and need-based provision of vocational training in selected skills and micro-enterprises as a way of providing opportunities to help transform lives of many women, are some of the core services that RENEW currently has on offer to its beneficiaries. Students have worked here on annual reports and working with children in the shelters that RENEW provides.

SABAH Bhutan

The SAARC Business Association of Home based workers (SABAH Bhutan) has been established with funding assistance from the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) as part of the project Strengthening Livelihood Initiatives of Home based workers in the SAARC Region. It is a Public Benefit Organization for the promotion of the welfare of the home based workers and their skills, providing them with better facilities for self-sustained income and generation of employment, thereby uplifting the economic opportunity of the home based workers in Bhutan. Students have done a range of things here, including setting up a show.

Institute for Zorig Chusum

This school trains Bhutanese in the traditional arts of Bhutan. Students have participated as students of the arts while providing English language instruction to their instruction. There is also potential for students to provide technical assistance.