

**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Faculty of Engineering**  
**ES 3390 – Summer Community Development Placement**  
**Course Outline**

**Description:**

This non-credit course is designed to recognize student participation in a summer community development placement as part of the Civil Engineering and International Development program, and to provide pre-departure training and post-placement support for students. A number of placement opportunities are made available to the students as part of this course. These provide them the opportunity to work on engineering-related problems within a development context. The pre-departure training is mandatory for students participating in placements. On completion of the placement each student must write and submit a final report on their experience to the course instructor. Students are also required to participate in post-placement knowledge-sharing and dissemination sessions such as guest lectures in the Civil and Environmental Engineering undergraduate program (e.g., CEE2217a/b and CEE3327a/b). Recognition of successful completion of a summer placement will be indicated by a transcript notation on the student's academic record.

**Objectives:**

- To gain engineering work experience with an organization in an international development environment (locations within first nations communities will be also considered).
- To supplement student's theoretical engineering knowledge with practical development experience.
- To acquire basic skills of adapting in different environments (culture, communication, etc.).
- To provide with necessary pre-departure training and information to students participating in placements.

**Calendar Copy:**

This course will provide engineering undergraduate students with a meaningful placement providing practical professional learning experience in Canada or abroad. Students will be supervised by a practicing engineer and/or suitable aid agency personnel and are required to submit performance evaluations and to write a final report on the work performed. Recognition of this work experience will be indicated by a transcript notation on the student's academic record.

**Prerequisites:** Students must have successfully completed second year of Civil Engineering Option F and CEE 3327a/b International Development for Engineers.

**Corequisites:** none

**Antirequisites:** none

**Instructor:**

Dr. Ashraf El Damatty, Professor and Chair  
SEB 3006, [damatty@uwo.ca](mailto:damatty@uwo.ca)

**Evaluation:** This is a non-credit course. Notation on the transcript will be recorded after successful completion of the following components:

- Completion of pre-departure training and risk management procedures (Table 1).
- Participation in placement.
- Participation in post-placement information dissemination sessions (e.g., guest lectures in CEE undergraduate program).
- Participation in post-placement de-briefing session.
- Written report on placement submitted to course instructor.

Table 1: Checklist for pre-departure (mandatory and must be completed prior to placement).

Actions	Completed (√)
Participate in pre-departure session training that addresses the risk and responsibilities associated with working abroad (see also <i>Civil Engineering and International Development Summer Placement: effective travel guidelines</i> )	
Participate in information sessions specific to the placement location including social/religious/political context and cross-cultural issues.	
Participate in information session on personal safety and emergency and crisis management procedures. Students must understand the emergency contact procedure and at all times in-country have an <i>Emergency Contact Card</i> with them.	
Complete DepartSmart software at least 3 weeks prior to departure.	
Obtain adequate medical, personal health, dental, accident and travel cancellation insurance, as well as insurance for personal belongings during placement period.	
Obtain air ticket, currency, passports and visas for placement country.	
Obtain comprehensive travel advice from Travel Doctor and obtain required and recommended vaccinations for country of placement.	
Complete the following forms, giving a copy to Civil Engineering and International Development (CE&ID) Assistant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Emergency contact information form</i></li> <li>- <i>Acknowledgement and assumption of risk form</i></li> <li>- <i>Confidential medical information form</i></li> <li>- <i>Personal risk management checklist form</i></li> </ul>	
Submit a work plan, timeline and budget for expenses and identify how expenses will be covered. Budget must be submitted to and approved by the Course Instructor. Fundraising will be required and guidance will be provided by the Course Instructor.	
Be familiar with, and committed to work within and abide by, the Memorandum of Understanding set up between University of Western Ontario and the overseas host organization.	
Register with <i>Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA)</i> prior to departure. Upon arrival in country, contact the nearest Canadian mission and request activation of the ROCA registration.	

Notes:

- If safety or risk is deemed unacceptable with regards to either an individual student or a specific placement location, then the Course Instructor with approval of the Department Chair has the right to forbid the student to participate in the placement under this placement program. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Students are responsible for their own travel and living costs. While some financial support may be available, students are strongly encouraged to fundraise. Assistance and guidance for fundraising will be provided by the Course Instructor.

Attendance:

Any students who, in the opinion of the instructor and on approval of the Department Chair, is absent too frequently from pre-departure information sessions (held during the winter term prior to placement) or has not adequately completed pre-departure requirements may be forbidden to participate in the placement under this program.

General Learning Objectives:

Knowledge Base		Individual Work	x	Ethics and Equity	x
Problem Analysis	x	Team Work	x	Economics and Project Management	x
Investigation		Communication		Life-Long Learning	x
Design		Professionalism	x		
Engineering Tools	X	Impact on Society	x		

Accessibility:

Please contact the instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Cheating:

University policy states that cheating is a scholastic offence. The commission of a scholastic offence is attended by academic penalties that might include expulsion from the program. If you are caught cheating, there will be no second warning.

Sickness and Other Problems:

Students should immediately consult with the Instructor or Department Chair if they have any problems that could affect their performance in the course. Where appropriate, the problems should be documented (see attached). The student should seek advice from the Instructor or Department Chair regarding how best to deal with the problem. Failure to notify the Instructor or Department Chair immediately (or as soon as possible thereafter) will have a negative effect on any appeal.

Notice:

Students are responsible for regularly checking their email, WEBCT and notices posted outside the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Office.

Consultation:

Students are encouraged to discuss problems with their instructor in weekly preparation sessions. Other individual consultation can be arranged by appointment with the instructor.