



INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM

IPDS OVERVIEW

<https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds>

What is IPDS?

The purpose of IPDS is to give Buffalo State teacher candidates and students working with children and youth, as well as area school teachers and administrators, opportunities to globalize their understanding and experience of education, including the education of language learners, through international study and travel. The Michael and Nancy Chicola International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Consortium offers overseas education exploration, research, service learning, and teaching on five continents – **Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America**. IPDS includes three different types of opportunities:

- **Short-term teach and study away programs** for Buffalo State students include a semester course prior to travel and 2-3 weeks abroad between semesters in Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia.
- **International student teaching experiences** for Buffalo State students include meeting the semester prior to student teaching, an initial placement in WNY, and a final placement abroad in Colombia or Italy.
- **Experienced Educator Exchange** programs for active teachers and administrators include 1 week abroad during the February school break in Colombia and Spain.

What are the Activities?

- work directly with teachers and students in schools within their host country
- interact with international partners to learn about education in that target country
- enroll in a course or attend meetings the semester prior to travel
- participate in a service-learning project
- conduct comparative research
- explore the host country through group and individual excursions and
- reflect through online blogs to document learning

Who is Eligible to Participate?

Each IPDS program is distinctive with regards to the school and service-learning focus, and therefore each program is uniquely suited for educators from specific areas and grades. Short-term programs and international student teaching experiences are open to currently enrolled Buffalo State undergraduate and graduate level students who are in good academic standing and able to obtain a passport. Students who are graduating the semester prior to travel are eligible. Experienced Educators Exchanges are open to local teachers and administrators who can travel during the Buffalo Public Schools February break.

How do I Know which Program to Choose?

All programs are designed for those interested in working with children and youth in educational or community settings. Visit the website for detailed program information including location, activities, partners, estimated costs, eligibility details, and application links. Candidates should review the requirements and descriptions and consult with an academic advisor to determine if their academic program and personal goals are suited to their preferred experience. Programs are offered on a rotating schedule that may change based on leader needs, so it is essential to plan early and contact program leaders to confirm that the IPDS program and student timelines coincide. Finally, the best voice and advice comes from past participants - read the blogs and check out the profile posters to hear from IPDS alumni!

What is the Process for Applying?

The IPDS application can be accessed at the country-specific program webpage. Interested candidates must submit the IPDS application and materials to the School of Education. Applicants DO NOT complete anything through the Study Abroad website, nor should they enroll in the course until they have been pre-selected by the program leaders through the process listed below.

1. Applicant submits IPDS application to the School of Education Office of the Dean (available on individual program pages) including an essay of intent, academic reference form, and copy of past grades and current course registration.
2. Program leaders review applications.
3. Prospective candidates are invited to interview with program leaders.
4. Interviewed candidates are notified of acceptance decision before semester ends.
5. Accepted participants receive "next steps" information from program leaders, including directions for completing SUNY application and materials through the study abroad office, initial fees and course enrollment information and initial requirements.

When Should I Apply?

- For programs that include a spring semester pre-travel course with summer-break travel applications are due by the November 1 prior to travel.
- For programs that include a fall semester pre-travel course with winter-break travel applications are due by the April 1 prior to travel.
- For international student teaching programs applications are due two semesters prior to the student teaching semester.

How Can I Afford it?

Scholarships and award funds are available to help students participate in international programs. Several opportunities available through Buffalo State are listed on the IPDS website. Once selected, a program cohort may choose to organize a fund-raising campaign to help support the group's travel activities. Participants are encouraged to look for scholarships on your own through community organizations and groups.