



DEPARTMENT OF LEARNING AND TEACHING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

I. GOALS AND GUIDELINES

SOLES Vision Statement and Strategic Plan

The programs within the School of Leadership and Education Sciences will develop highly effective, socially responsible, and marketable students through international programs. All students enrolled in degree programs will be required to participate in an International Experience (IE) prior to program completion.

Department of Learning and Teaching Guidelines

An international experience within the Department of Learning and Teaching (L&T) is defined as an opportunity for students to interact with individuals and/or institutions from a nation outside the U.S. in a manner that supports their personal and professional growth, nurtures cultural understanding, and prepares students to interact with and effectively serve diverse communities in a professional capacity.

II. INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Candidates can engage in one or more of the following international learning experiences:

- ◆ **Enroll in an “I” designated course and complete all course requirements.** Master’s level courses that include an “I” designation indicate the incorporation of an IE within the structure of the course. These courses include readings, experience(s), and structured discussion opportunities to provide a theoretical grounding for the IE. Instructors help guide students to make personal connections and professional applications in response to the experience. SOLES Global Studies courses may include an “I” designation.
- ◆ **Work with your academic advisor to design your own international experience.** Candidates may also work with their academic advisor to design an IE that meets the department guidelines described above. Candidates are encouraged to take advantage of on- and off-campus opportunities through SOLES Global, KIPJ, the USD International Center, and the Center for Community Service Learning. Candidates are expected to read materials that will help ground their IE in a theoretical framework and to consider follow-up applications. Student-designed IEs are required to be approved by the student’s academic advisor *prior* to participation in the selected activity.

III. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE PAPER

To complete the requirement, all candidates within the Department of Learning and Teaching must write a paper that responds to their IE. The paper should include the elements described below. Papers should be supported by the documentation indicated; this evidence should be attached as appendices. Papers are expected to follow standard APA formatting and include a list of works cited.

- ◆ Description – Describe the location, events, and context of the experience. Describe activities and observations from the experience. Discuss the connection to theory and research readings from coursework and/or independent research.
 - Supporting documentation: Attach evidence such as a mission statement, program guide, or agency brochure.

- ◆ Personal connection – Discuss the learning that took place as a result of your experience. How did this experience change or deepen your understanding of global education, internationalization, student learning needs, instructional pedagogy, etc.? Make connections to course and/or independent readings.
 - Supporting documentation: Attach evidence that demonstrates learning (e.g. journals, blogs, photos, etc.). Be sure to reference evidence, as appropriate, in the discussion.

- ◆ Professional application – Discuss how the learning from this experience can be applied in the classroom or other educational setting. Where possible, connections should be made to course and/or independent readings.
 - Supporting documentation: Attach evidence that demonstrates potential applications (e.g. lesson plans, case studies, sample readings and discussion guides, etc.).

IV. SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Candidates must complete all IE requirements and submit all required documentation to their academic advisor by the following deadlines. In addition to the IE paper and supporting documentation described above, candidates also must complete and attach the one-page “International Experience Completion Form.” Successful completion of the IE requirement is subject to the approval of the candidate’s academic advisor.

<u>Anticipated Graduation Date</u>	<u>IE Submission Deadline</u>
May Graduation	April 1
August Graduation	July 1
December Graduation	November 1