CAMBODIA - MADDOX JOLIE-PITT FOUNDATION (MJP)

Number of Placements: 2

Location: Samlout, Cambodia

URL: www.mjpasia.org

**Field/Subject Area:**

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria

**Position Description:**

The Education Team interns will be working as part of the MJP education team. They will work directly with the local sports, eco-ranger, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), and library coordinators to:

• enhance English speaking abilities of local coordinators with focus on vocabulary specific to their programs for children.

• enhance existing sports and environmental programs

• assist in the development of the new community library program and ECCD centre

• enhance computer skills of local coordinators.

Sports, environmental education and conservation, early childhood and development, and access to a library are important aspects of community development in the MJP Samlout project. Since November 2008, MJP hired young adults or teachers from the community to be the leaders in these initiatives. Sports coordinators run after school sports clubs for 10-14 year old children and work with teachers to enhance physical education programs in grades 1-6 at five primary schools. Eco-Ranger leaders are running Eco-Ranger clubs in four communities. The new Community Library and ECCD Centre opened its doors in October 2011 and 45 3-4 year olds are enrolled in the 2011-2012 pilot ECCD program.

The local sports, eco-ranger, ECCD and library staff are a valued part of the MJP Education Team and receive ongoing support and training, both role-specific and leadership training. As part of this ongoing training, student interns from York University worked with the MJP staff to support and enhance these programs in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The internship program was very successful and rewarding for everyone involved.

**Duties/Tasks**

The interns will work as part of the Education Team to identify the specific projects and activities that will capitalize on their strengths, interests and creativity. There are many potential projects and activities such as:

* Teaching English as a second language to local coordinators that they can incorporate into their sport, environmental or library programs with children
* Helping coordinators to build a bank of games, crafts, dances and songs to use that honour the local culture and are appropriate to the ages, stages of development and experience of children in Samlout
* Sports Program: assist in organizing Play Days at schools; teaching coaching skills
* enhancing volleyball and badminton programs
* Eco-Ranger Club: assist in organizing an eco-ranger day camp program; enhancing eco-ranger programs such as village clean-ups, school gardens, tree planting, composting etc.
* Community Library: organizing and decorating the library; continue developing and implementing programs that will encourage community use of the library
* Teaching basic computer skills to local coordinators

Expected work hours: 8 hours per day, 5 days a week

**Qualifications/skills required:**

* Practical experience as leader in clubs, camps, library or sports programs for children
* Expertise and commitment to environmental and conservation issues
* Creativity and enthusiasm to create fun-filled learning experiences for children
* Proven ability to work both independently and as part of a team
* Ability to adapt and respect different cultural norms
* Willingness to work in rural settings with basic living conditions
* Knowledge of child development, use of the arts in children's programs, cooperative games, environmental issues, library management and programs, adult learning, English as Second Language strategies
* Preference will be given to candidates with: experience teaching English as a second language, coaching expertise

**Language requirements:**

English; Khmer would be an asset.

**Highlights of Organization/background information:**

In 2003, Ms. Angelina Jolie created the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation (MJP) to implement conservation and community development programs in northwestern Cambodia. In 2006, it officially launched the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Samlout commune (Battambang province) creating environmental, social and economic development programs to reduce extreme rural poverty and increase equality of opportunities for over 5000 villagers. Interventions are being made in: health care, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and conservation. All are essential elements working together to fight poverty, disease, inequality and ignorance.

Cambodia made considerable progress in strengthening its education system in 2007 with the assistance of various organizations such as USAID and JICA (Japanese Development Aid). However, because of limited resources, the Government could not include Samlout in the teacher training programs or provide sufficient school resources for both teachers and students.

Consequently, MJP took the lead in implementing the Ministry of Education’s child-friendly school programs in Samlaut. The initial focus was on repairing school structures, providing safe water supplies and toilet facilities, building school libraries and providing nutrition and bicycles for children so they could attend schools. Since 2007 the focus has also been on developing teacher capacity through professional development, expanding the curriculum to include Kindergarten classes and a lower secondary program, establishing an early childhood centre, after school sports program and eco-ranger clubs. Five primary schools (K to Gr.6) and one lower secondary school (Gr. 7-9) are part of this project.