

UNIVERSITY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN COAST OF NICARAGUA (URACCAN), BLUEFIELDS CAMPUS

Number of Placements: 1

Placement Site: Bluefields, Nicaragua

URL: <http://www.uraccan.edu.ni/>; <http://www.yorku.ca/cerlac/uraccan>

Field/Subject Area:

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria

Position Description:

The main goal of this internship placement is to assist URACCAN Bluefields in strengthening its different English as a second language (ESL) programs. The intern will be expected to work collaboratively with URACCAN language teachers, particularly ESL, promoting the communicative learning of English promoted by URACCAN at different levels

- Beginners, intermediate or advanced-level courses addressed to URACCAN staff members (small groups)
- Non-credit courses offered to the general public upon demand (generally involving youth and adults)
- Online courses

Specific tasks will include:

- Individual and/or team teaching in ESL, using a communicative approach;
- Designing and implementing ESL courses, teaching units and preparing lesson plans;
- Assisting URACCAN ESL teachers in the use of the language lab, the effective use of internet, virtual platforms and related technology;
- Teaching ESL courses online;
- Developing and identifying audio visual materials for ESL teaching;
- Conducting workshops on ESL communicative methods and approaches, or assisting URACCAN ESL teachers in carrying out such tasks.

Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.

Expected work hours: 8am - noon and 2pm - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Preferred start date: May

Qualifications/skills required:

- ESL teaching experience is desirable, particularly focused on communicative methods and approaches
- Team-oriented
- Creative, enthusiastic, self-started
- Skills in developing teaching ESL materials.
- Skills in using language labs, internet, virtual platforms, etc., particularly related to ESL teaching.
- Native speaker's command of the language around all four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Knowledge of socio-cultural, historical, and human rights of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua

Language requirements:

Fluent English; conversational Spanish an asset

Highlights of Organization/background information:

The University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN) was founded in 1992, through a decree of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and launched operations in 1995. URACCAN was created as a community-based institution aiming to help consolidate the autonomy process of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast through training and professionalization of human resources, providing people with the necessary knowledge to conserve and rationally benefit from their natural resources within a sustainable model of development.

URACCAN has four campuses, located in Bilwi/Kamla (Puerto Cabezas), Bluefields, Nueva Guinea, and Siuna. Virtually all of the teaching, research, and community development programs of the institution are focused in the areas of education, community health, community development, and sustainable resource management.

In order to assist URACCAN in the accomplishment of its Mission regarding community outreach, several Research Institutes have been created, one of them being the Linguistics Research and Culture Revitalization Institute (IPLIC). In addition to promoting and carrying out research in linguistics, sociolinguistics and related topics; tending the area of languages, including indigenous languages; and supporting the regional governments RAAN and RAAS in the design and implementation of language policies and language planning, the IPLIC is heavily focused on culture revitalization in general.