



Mae Sot Education Project **Volunteer Application and Selection Process for 2021**

Objective: To select four students (aged 18-26) from Bishop's University and Champlain College-Lennoxville, as volunteers to participate in the *Mae Sot Education Project*.

For the first time, this year, MSEP will accept applications for 3-month volunteer commitments (with the possibility of *extending* the time to 6 months) as well as for 6-months.

In addition, all applicants accepted as volunteers will be asked to make a contribution of \$2500 to the project to help defray expenses. \$1000 of this amount [non-refundable except in extraordinary circumstances] will be paid upon acceptance at the end of January. The balance will be paid at the time flight reservations are made for Thailand (in late April).

Selection Committee: To be comprised of three members of the project committee and one external member of the community

Application and Selection Timeline:

- *Application Period* – September 2020 – January 11th, 2021
Interested students will find information and application forms the web site. They must complete and submit their application on or before the deadline. On campus contacts Angie Petitclerc (Bishop's Writing Centre) and Murray Johnston (Champlain International Studies) will also be able to answer questions but due to Covid 19 may have to be contacted electronically. Students may also contact Project Coordinator, Mary Purkey at marypurkey@gmail.com for information.
- *Short Listing; interviews* – January 12 – 31, 2021
The selection committee will meet soon after the application deadline, will review all applications and shortlist candidates based on pre-determined selection criteria. Short listed candidates will be contacted and interviews will take place in mid January. Because of Covid 19, interviews will probably be held on Zoom.
- *Tentative selection* – late January 2021
The selection committee will contact references, hold second interviews as needed and select volunteers. Selected volunteers will be asked to submit \$1000 of their financial contribution to the project. A contract will be signed with each student-volunteer, and preparation will begin. Individuals who are tentatively accepted may be asked to have a health examination and submit a medical examination form before final acceptance.

NOTE: In February, 2021, students selected to participate must be prepared to immediately begin following a course in TESL preparation that will be offered by members of the Project Committee during the winter term. Details to be announced!

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Selection Criteria and Description of Responsibilities for Student Volunteers:

Requirements

Students chosen for participation in the *Mae Sot Education Project* as volunteer ESL teaching assistants in Mae Sot, Thailand, will satisfy these requirements:

- Are currently enrolled in a program of study at Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville or Bishop’s University **or** are recent graduates of either institution;
- Will be aged 18 to 26 at the time of departure for Thailand;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in social justice issues and world affairs;
- Can provide evidence of their autonomy, self-reliance, and resourcefulness;
- Work well as part of a team;
- Show evidence of intercultural sensitivity and adaptability;
- Show evidence of emotional maturity and good judgment;
- Have prior experience leading activities for children and demonstrated effectiveness in working with children;
- Have a high level of mastery of spoken and written English, including the ability to write a feature story for publication;
- Show willingness to fundraise;
- Are in good mental and physical health.

Assets

These traits will be viewed as assets in candidate selection:

- Prior international development experience or travel in poor countries;
- ESL/EFL teacher-training or teaching experience;
- Musical, artistic or athletic interests and skills;
- Residence in the Eastern Townships;
- Knowledge of Burma/Myanmar and Thailand and of issues related to forced displacement of people.

Responsibilities

Students selected to participate in this project must be prepared to undertake the following:

Before departure for Mae Sot, Thailand – winter 2021:

- Be available to receive training in ESL teaching for children during winter 2021 (See note under selection process);
- Attend cultural and political preparation briefings;
- Do some practice in journalistic writing;
- Self-teach elementary Thai (with tapes, web resources);
- Engage in fundraising towards their participation in the project;
- Inform themselves regarding political and economic conditions and regarding inter-ethnic relations in Burma/Myanmar and on the Thai-Burmese border;
- With support and guidance from the Project Committee: plan their travel; lay the groundwork to address, on their return from Thailand, Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, as well as Champlain and Bishop’s audiences; and begin writing for regional media;
- Have a physical examination and all necessary vaccinations. *Continued on next page*

In Mae Sot, Thailand, from June through August, 2021 for 3-month volunteers; June through December, 2021 for 6-month volunteers:

- Integrate into the Mae Sot community and into schools for migrant children from Myanmar;
- Assist in teaching of English, lead activities, model teaching techniques;
- Write at least two short articles/stories for publication in Eastern Townships media (electronic or on paper) and for the project newsletters;
- Prepare materials for outreach and for talks about their experience to be given on their return.
- Note: Volunteers will also have the opportunity to provide assistance to a Burmese community-based organization as part of their volunteer commitment.

On return, during fall 2021 or winter – spring 2022:

- If returning to the community, make presentations to Eastern Townships community organizations, elementary schools, and high schools, and on the Champlain-Bishop's campus;
- Write articles and/or give interviews for regional media using a variety of electronic or paper approaches.

Note: If not returning to the Sherbrooke community, this requirement will be addressed in different ways.