Your Profile

| Name: SAMPLE | Class yr. 2010 | Email: |
| Major(s): Sociology | Minor(s): African Studies |
| Advisor’s name: | |

Project title: Teacher Training in the Post-Apartheid Era: A New Direction

Location of project: Cape Town, South Africa
Study abroad program: CIEE Cape Town, Service Learning

Proposed start and end dates: February 9th - June 10th
Amount requested ($): 300

Description of your project

Type or insert response here:
The following project proposal is based on my volunteer work with Equal Education, a non-governmental organization whose mission is to ensure every child in Khayelitsha has access to a quality education. My project will research the changes made in teacher training since the end of apartheid. During apartheid, teachers were trained in racially and ethnically separate colleges and universities. This segregated method of training teachers was motivated by the specific political and ideological rationale of the apartheid system. Once apartheid ended, teacher training became uniform. However, the transition has not been smooth and education remains a crisis in South Africa. According to The Times, a South African Newspaper, “South Africa faces a shortage of up to 94,000 teachers by 2015, thanks to poor government planning…” (The Times, January 20, 2009). Therefore, my project will investigate the new system of training teachers to uncover answers to the following questions: What specific changes were made? What alternative proposals are academics and researchers recommending? Has the uniform training approach proven to be more cost effective? What role has social justice played in moving towards a more equal education system?

This project proposal will directly benefit Equal Education and those working to improve the status of education in South Africa. Currently, Equal Education’s staff is in the process of drafting an Education Charter, which will offer a coherent basis for the creation of better education policy, and for the civil society activism required to achieve and implement such policies. The Charter is made up of five components, including: education financing, curriculum, the teaching profession, school governance, and socio-economic factors that impede schooling. My research will directly tie into the third component of the Charter, the teaching profession. Therefore, my research on the training, support, and conditions of the teaching profession in South Africa will greatly aid Equal Education staff members in drafting the Charter.

Methodology

How do you plan to carry out the project (i.e. using questionnaires, observation, interviews, photographs, etc.)?

Type or insert response here:
To carry out this research project, I will review past literature on the topic, while
conducting field work in the Western Cape. My field work will consist of speaking with education professors at the University of Cape Town, interviewing the principals and teachers at W.D Hendricks Primary School, Mannenburg Primary School, and Masiyile Secondary School. All three of these schools are located in the township of Khayelitsha, which is the community Equal Education serves.

Furthermore, I will primarily use qualitative analysis through the use of interviews. However, I may use some quantitative procedures to analyze the economic capacity of the South African government to make changes in the way teachers are trained. Finally, throughout my research study, I will be working closely with Equal Education staff members by working in the office on a weekly basis, and attending meetings and interviews with them. I will present my research findings in a final report to be given to Equal Education in June and will also deliver an oral report of my research at Beloit College’s International Symposium Day.

How will your project meet the purpose of the grant?

Type or insert response here:
My project proposal meets the purpose of the study abroad enhancement grant because I plan to engage local educators, while contributing to the work of a community NGO. Through my fieldwork, I will be working alongside many different community leaders and activists to research and recommend solutions to address the current teacher crisis in South Africa.

How will the project’s results contribute to your continuing Beloit College studies?

Type or insert response here:
As a Sociology major and an African Studies minor, my project proposal relates directly to my studies and contributes to my international education. Having researched the education system of South Africa in Sonja Darlington’s International and Comparative Education course and having studied African human rights issues in Beth Dougherty’s African International Relations course, I am excited to be given the opportunity to apply what I have learned at Beloit during my semester in Cape Town. Engaging local community members and working alongside the staff of Equal Education will offer me a new perspective on social inequalities in South Africa. Therefore, by enabling me to apply my academic studies to help move South Africa towards a stronger education system, my project proposal will help further my international education.

Itemized budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tape Recorder</td>
<td>To record interviews</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed reading materials</td>
<td>To assist in my research</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>To visit my research site daily</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total (Local Currency or $):</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transcript

Copy and paste your transcript from WebAdvisor below.
This information is private.