

International Social Work Placement

Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

Organisation: International Child Resource Institute- Nepal

Host College: Kadambari Memorial College

Date: 15th July- 20th October

Nepal 2017

I am a Gurang Gurang woman and was born and raised in Bundaberg, Queensland. I am enrolled in a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) at the University of Queensland and I am due to graduate at the end of this year. I recently completed my final placement for my degree in Nepal.

Key Learning Experiences

Several valuable learning experiences arose throughout placement. International placement provided me with the opportunity to develop:

- Critical cross cultural communication skills
- Practical community development skills
- My practice framework
- A deeper understanding of my cultural background and how this may influence my practice
- Negotiation skills
- Practical experience of hosting focus groups with key stakeholders
- A global perspective of social work



Exploring an Early Childhood Development Centre developed by ICRI- Nepal

Support

Throughout my placement I received an enormous amount of support from Indigenous Allied Health Australia and the University of Queensland Social Work Field Education Unit. I received the IAHA Member Professional Development Scholarship and the New Colombo Plan Bursary. These scholarships assisted me in paying for accommodation, college and supervision fees, and living expenses whilst in Nepal. This invaluable experience would not have been possible were it not for the support, professionally and financially, from IAHA or the University of Queensland.



Celebrating Teej Festival with local children

Brief Reflection

Completing an international placement impacted on me both personally and professionally. I believe this experience provided me with the opportunity to grow as a professional in a field I am passionate about - community development and education. International placement renewed my passion to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to improve their health literacy to empower them to make informed decisions regarding their and their families health. Furthermore, this experience provided me with the opportunity to develop several skills that I believe I would not have developed if I had completed a placement in Brisbane.



Elephant Bathing at Chitwan National Park