

## Benefits of IPA

*\* NCSSS's international program associates provides students with the opportunity to gain professional international social work experience.*

*\* The program immerses the student in a different culture, allowing them to utilize their skills to assist local communities, international agencies, and most importantly the native people with their problems and solutions.*

*\* The program allows students to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom.*



*\* In addition to working with individuals and communities, students will have the opportunity to practice a variety of skills: grant writing, program evaluation, strategic planning, needs assessments, operational planning, conceptual framework or programs, and capacity-building projects.*

***"This opportunity was not only empowering but also educational."- Fatoumata Bathily***

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NCSSS: IPA

National Catholic  
School of Social  
Service

# International Program Associates



Catholic  
University

## *The world is waiting for you*

The Catholic University of America's National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS) is offering international social work experiences to NCSSS undergraduates, masters and doctoral students. All students who have completed the foundation year of field placement are eligible to apply.

The International Program Associates (IPA) aims to respond to the increasing need for international social work. In addition, the program also serves as an educational and professional opportunity for NCSSS students to engage and partner with international agencies as well as learn about the various issues that are facing the world today.



The IPA is in its second year at Catholic University. Currently, NCSSS has partnered with international NGOs and community-based non-profits to create social work experiences in the Philippines, El Salvador, Ethiopia and possibly Tanzania. NCSSS continues to open the doors for further international relationships for the future.

***“There is so much need out there and not enough social workers to create relationships among systems to help bring about social justice at the international level.”***

***-Nevila Gremi***

### *Placements*

#### **Philippines**

IPA students will work with Community and Family Services International in Manila, which is an international non-governmental organization working on issues of social development and conflict resolution, working primarily in Asia and the Pacific.

CFSI is committed to peace and social development, with a particular interest in the psychosocial dimension. The organization's programs focus on humanitarian assistance, social development, child and family welfare, health promotion, and research.

Placement opportunities in the Philippines include: youth programs, group work, program administration, and needs assessments.

#### **Ethiopia**

IPA students will work with the Yeha Institute and the Former Women Fuel wood Carrier's Association, which is an Ethiopian non-governmental organization working to develop and disseminate sustainable development practices.



NCSSS students will partner with Ethiopian students and reside and work in Addis Ababa out of the Yeha Institute's BioFarm, a research and training facility.

Placement opportunities in Ethiopia include the following areas: research, gender issues, health care, HIV/AIDS, environmental issues, train-the-trainer, youth programs, and education.

#### **El Salvador**

Students will work with the SHARE Foundation, an organization that supports the empowerment of historically impoverished and marginalized communities.

The programs of SHARE focus specifically advocacy, local development, sustainability, and grassroots programs. The communities that partnered in El Salvador are changing the structures that keep people poor through an integrated effort that is reactivating sustainable local economies, creating viable rural policies that aid subsistence farmers, and financing projects that provide for the empowerment of women, development of leadership and community organizing.

Placement opportunities in El Salvador include: grant writing, project monitoring, research, program evaluation, program administration, and needs assessments. \*Proficiency in Spanish is required.

#### **Tanzania**

Currently being developed.

### *Timeline*

Selected CUA students will spend 10 weeks during the summer to work in the international placement. The tentative dates of the placements will be end of May to the end of July.

### *Application Process*

All interested students must complete an application form by the designated deadline. Interviews will be scheduled shortly after application deadline. Applicants will be selected by a committee comprised of faculty, past IPA participants, and international field agency staff members. Applications will be available on-line at: <http://ncss.cua.edu>

### *Funding*

Selected students will be responsible for paying their travel, room and board. The expected expenses for the trips range from \$1500-\$2500 for ten weeks. Financial aid is available based on need.

***“The experience in the Philippines provided me with an increased admiration for those serving in the social work profession.”***

***- Jennifer Greene***

## **Catholic University**

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