



Experiential Education at York University

Putting theory to work through guided practical experiences
in the classroom, community and workplace.

LINKING THE CLASSROOM TO RESEARCH

Refugees face serious breaches to their human rights - including severe violations of their economic, social and cultural rights - and these violations have increasingly formed the basis for those seeking international protection. As an organization working with refugees, we invite you to partner with upper-year students from Public Policy & Administration who are eager to lend their theoretical knowledge and developing skills to support YOUR research needs, allowing them to confront, head on, the challenges faced by those working in the field of refugee protection and advocacy.

Working in small teams under the guidance of a leading expert in the field and seasoned Experiential Education instructor, Professor Simeon, these upper-level students can act as "junior consultants" to support your organization in addressing the critical issues confronting refugees and the international refugee protection regime today.

COURSE INFORMATION

The International Refugee Protection Regime is a two-part course: the first offering in Fall 2015 will expose students to key concepts and issues in forced migration and refugee studies, including international refugee law and practice, and the current situation in Canada; building on this background, students in the Winter 2016 research seminar will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge to a hands-on project with a local community organization, a governmental agency or an international NGO assisting refugees.

We make it easy for you to utilize the insights and dedication of our students and faculty. This is a limited time investment with no cost to your organization.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You partner with us to identify a research project that responds to one of your organization's current priorities while intersecting with the course's critical examination of the International Refugee Protection Regime. Once the research focus/questions are defined, you are invited to present these to students during a class visit, whereupon small teams of students are formed based on their chosen project. Though working independently most of the time, your student team will be in touch with you periodically, ensuring the project's optimal alignment with your goals - while the Professor will instruct and coach students around research protocols and necessary confidentiality, privacy, and ethics requirements.

"Experiential Education has allowed me to become aware of real life community issues and helped develop skills to suggest possible solutions to those issues."

Kevin Basch, Student from the School of Public Policy and Administration

STUDENTS CAN PARTNER WITH YOU TO:

- Conduct a background scan on a critical issue or problem confronting the international refugee protection regime.
- Examine the measures taken by the UNHCR and other UN agencies to handle growing global challenges surrounding refugees, internally displaced persons, the stateless, and other persons of concern.
- Explore shortcomings and constraints on the regional human rights commissions/courts – and prospects for enhancing their authority.
- Develop regional/international solutions to the problem of forced displacement on a global scale.
- Discover how your organization operates in practice, in light of conceptual and theoretical frameworks found in current literature.
- Identify creative and strategic solutions to deal with key challenges facing your organization.
- Formulate a practical course of action to strengthen your organization's service delivery to the world's most vulnerable people, refugees and other persons in need of international protection.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Students are guided by a seasoned CBL Professor with extensive experience in the field of refugee studies, both in Canada and internationally.
- You obtain a useful end product while students add realism – and excitement! – to their upper-level coursework through a hands-on collaborative project.
- Unique opportunity to work with a group of bright, energetic, enthusiastic and highly motivated senior undergraduate students on a worthwhile and meaningful research project for your organization.

Dr. James Simeon
Professor, School of Public Policy
and Administration

PARTNER REQUIREMENTS

- A willingness to work with students on a critical international refugee rights and protection issue that is of concern to your organization that meshes with theory and key course parameters.
- Invitation to present your organization and the research questions/project you are seeking assistance with to the class, with time for Q&A with students (early January).
- Opportunities for your student team and the Professor to touch base with you periodically.
- Availability to attend a final in-class presentation, to hear/discuss results and provide feedback on your student team's performance (beginning of April).

"Our upper year students are eager to work with you on the development of innovative solutions to some of today's most challenging international refugee law and forced migration issues. They bring to the table a fresh perspective, sophisticated skills and a willingness to make a difference not only locally, but also regionally and internationally."

NEXT STEPS

To learn more about our Experiential Education program or getting involved:

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professional studies**

