The following are practicum opportunities for BSW students in the USP Social Work Emphasis for the 2015-16 school year. While it is our desire to keep this information up-to-date, due to our efforts to continually improve the practicum opportunities for students, please note that there could be site changes. It is also important to keep in mind that not all social work student opportunities listed will remain the same for every student, every semester. The purpose of this information is to give examples of the type of learning opportunities that can be a part of a student's experience within the USP Social Work Emphasis. Please contact the USP Social Work Coordinator for more information on these practicums, the placement process and any other aspects of the Social Work Emphasis.

uspsocialwork@gmail.com  Bestsemester.com/swe
Chain Foundation

Chain is a Ugandan-founded and run organization in Mukono. It serves orphans and vulnerable children in the area, as well as children with visual impairments from around Uganda. About 120 children live at Chain with host mothers during the school year. There is also an inclusive, integrative school on campus that serves both sighted and visually impaired children. Chain also runs an orphans and vulnerable children project, funded by USAID, which serves about 700 children in the community.

Best for junior social work students interested in working with children with disabilities, school social work, Ugandan children’s homes and child welfare outreach programs.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Children's home: Lead after school/weekend activities, trainings in life skills, health/hygiene & child rights, helping house mothers, report writing, reading/organizing/addition to children's profiles.

School: Assist Braille teachers within integrated school (i.e. creating and grading Braille exams). Tutor and play with children in Resource Room. Participate in pottery lessons for older students and caregivers.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project – Participate in schools visits, vocational training for caregivers, distribution of school supplies, home visits, parent training and peer education.

A Social Work Student's Perspective:

One of the most important things that I learned in my internship at Chain Foundation was to recognize that there are strengths and areas of improvement in all systems around the world, including child welfare. At first I was skeptical of the Ugandan system, but I began to love many aspects of how Chain worked and see many strengths and reasons why this system works in the Ugandan context. My internship at Chain Foundation taught me to constantly be aware of the system in which you are engaged- know which things in that system are functioning effectively and which things could be adjusted or improved. No system is perfect; nor is there one system that can be overlaid across all cultures to address a problem. The aspect of my internship at Chain Foundation that had the greatest impact on me was the community that I experienced while there. This happened just by being able to journey through the semester with the children- from doing wash, to playing games, to exam time, to reading Bible stories in their dorms on a rainy day. I will never forget the acceptance and love I saw shown between the children- with the older helping the younger ones and the children who were sighted helping at times to guide the children who were visually impaired- and also the love and acceptance I experienced from the children myself. There is a richness in the community at Chain Foundation that I had never experienced before- I could not forget it if I tried, nor would I ever want to.

Stacey, Sr. from Kuyper College
Compassion International Child Development Centers

USP partners with 5 Child Development Centers (CDC) in and around Mukono. The Centers are a collaboration of Ugandan churches and Compassion International's sponsorship program. Sites can serve between 200-300 or more orphans and vulnerable children through school sponsorship. The program also includes Saturday meetings where all sponsored children gather together at the Centers for classes and fun. Two CDCs also include Compassion International's Child Survival Program, which provides a variety of maternal and child health care services to the surrounding community.

Best for junior or senior social work students interested to learn more about Compassion’s poverty alleviation model, international child welfare, maternal/child health programs, and US-based organizations.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Child Sponsorship Program. Case management of most vulnerable children in program, which involves working together with families and school administrators to remove barriers to the growth and development of the child. This includes home and school visits where family counseling and training is conducted. Opportunities also include teaching and leading activities during Saturday gatherings. Other administrative tasks include helping children write letters to sponsors, writing reports and maintaining child files.

Child Survival Program. Coordinate and lead activities for expectant and new mothers in community. Train mothers in group and individual sessions on health/hygiene, parenting and other topics. Provide mental health support and distribute basic support to mothers during home visits and during group gatherings. Monitor health and growth of babies. Help maintain client files and assist CDC staff with other administrative duties.

A Social Work Student's Perspective:

Wherever you are placed, the social work practicum experience is going to take you out of your comfort zone. As time went on though, I got to a place where the uncomfortable became comfortable. Don't get me wrong, it was still daunting when my colleagues would ask me to teach a class, or facilitate a meeting between a parent (who didn't speak a lot of English) and child, or even develop and implement a community-wide assessment; but, when you are continually being stretched, your capacity to handle it increases. As a result, I find that now, instead of thinking, "oh I probably couldn't handle that", I think back to all my experiences in Uganda and realize "if I could do [fill in the blank], I can do this!" Overall, the experience increased my personal and professional confidence and courage exponentially, and that's something I wouldn't change for anything.

~ Becca, Sr. from Indiana Wesleyan University
Child Development Centers
Empower and Care Organization (EACO)

EACO is a community-based organization within walking distance of the University. EACO provides a wide variety of services to the community, including income generating activities, water and sanitation projects, HIV/AIDS patient care, child sacrificing prevention projects and a host of public health awareness trainings in the community.

Best for junior social work students interested in public health, community development, and learning more about the challenges and effectiveness of a small, grassroots, community-based organization

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:
Collaborate with EACO staff in program development to help meet the various needs in the community including poverty, domestic violence, child sacrifice and HIV/AIDS. Observe social workers empower clients through income generating activities and clean water initiatives. Help lead community trainings on hygiene and other public health topics. Engage in HIV/AIDS patient care. Assist EACO in fundraising efforts including developing proposals and grants.

A Social Work Student’s Perspective:

During my time at EACO I was able to creatively come up with solutions to problems that the agency was trying to address. This process offered a great opportunity to get to know our coworkers and laugh with them as we bounced ideas around. We came up with assessments and solutions to issues impacting the surrounding community, including HIV/AIDS, single mothers with low incomes and domestic violence. After coming up with these ideas, we had the opportunity to create some of the assessment tools that are being used by the implementing team after we left.

During my experience at EACO, I found Ugandans to be such an appreciating and encouraging people group and it was a beautiful experience to work for people that genuinely valued and appreciated every thing you contributed! I am now much more open-minded and understanding at how important culture is in our understanding of human behavior. I am more confident in my values and convictions as a future social worker because I have international field experience. Policy-making doesn't seem boring like it did before I went to Uganda, because I was a part of making policies for an organization. It was such a fulfilling experience and crucial to my learning. I am now so confident and proud of the career choice I made because I have seen the difference that social workers make in an individual's life. The clients at EACO taught me so much, and I know that future clients will do the same. I will never forget my experience in Uganda. It has and will continue to play a role in my future career as a social worker.

~ Jordyn, Jr. from Azusa Pacific University
A Field Supervisor’s Perspective:
The students are cooperative and very eager to learn, they share ideas on different projects that we have. They have helped build proposals in relation with reproductive health and vocational training for school drop-outs. Our partnership is really a healthy one, where by we have more ideas because of USP. We are really grateful.

Emmy, Ugandan Field Instructor @ EACO
Hospice Africa Uganda

Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) provides service, education, research and clinical care to those who are suffering from critical illness, including HIV/AIDS. It seeks to provide holistic care for patients and their families through an inter-disciplinary model that is now being replicated throughout Africa.

Best for **senior** social work students who are interested in learning more about HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, palliative care and grief and loss issues.

**USP Social Work Student Opportunities:**
Work alongside medical and social worker professionals in conducting patient care during home visits; this includes providing basic counseling sessions with patients and their families. Participate in public health awareness trainings and income generating skill development during HAU community days. Join the Education Department staff in training community volunteers and traditional healers. Administrative tasks may include writing Memorandum of Understandings between HAU and partner organizations, creating and updating social work manuals and handbooks, and developing funding proposals to promote the growth of HAU’s efforts in Uganda and beyond.

**A Social Work Student’s Perspective:**
*I learned a lot about social work, patient care, life, love, and God through my internship at Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) in the spring of 2012. Generally, when I thought of hospice before working with the agency, I assumed that all patients would be near-death. However, many were stable but in need of pain and symptom management. I learned that pain can be multi-faceted, stemming from physical pain to psychological, social, and spiritual pain. HAU focuses largely on meeting patients’ huge range of needs and relieving their pain, whatever type of pain it may be, making their care holistic. Even though I can tell you now about all the things I did while at HAU, I saw my main role as that of a learner. It was a unique experience and one that I wouldn’t trade because I learned so much.*

~ Ruth, Sr. from Messiah College

**A Field Instructor’s Perspective:**
*I love having students do their practicum at my organization. They have helped in the assessment and management of patient’s psychosocial issues as well as drafted social work manuals and handbooks together with me, the social worker here. They have been so resourceful.*

~ Doreck, Ugandan Social Work Supervisor @ HAU
MildMay Uganda

MildMay is the largest HIV care and treatment provider in Central Uganda. It also provides a variety of general health services, research and strategic planning for the region, as well as extensive training and education programs.

Best for senior social work students interested in health social work, particularly as it relates to HIV/AIDS.

USP Social Work Opportunities:
Students will work alongside the social work department in providing psycho-social support to patients of MildMay through administrative and clinical practice with individuals, families and groups experiencing health-related problems.
Mirembe House & Suubi Home

Mirembe House is a Youth for Christ residential support program in Kampala that provides services to teenagers experiencing a crisis pregnancy. The ministry provides counseling, life skills and vocational training, bible study and discipleship, as well as family reunification and other aftercare services. Suubi Home is a partner to Mirembe House and provides transitional housing, follow-up support, and further training for young mothers.

Best for senior social work students interested in working with pregnant teens, relational ministry, learning about issues effecting women in Uganda, and US-based organizations.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:
Build healing relationships with girls living at the center through leading trainings and activities, counseling, reunification preparation and aftercare support, and spending time with them as they process the life change and challenges they are experiencing.

A Social Work Student’s Perspective:
In the short time that I was able to spend at Mirembe House, I was blessed to work alongside some amazing men and women who had devoted their lives to showing teenage girls the beauty and freedom of God's grace. I learned during this time how deep-rooted the problem of teenage pregnancy is in Uganda. I was made aware of the effect that polygamy could have on children, and saw the way that HIV/AIDS truly has an unwarranted hold on families and individuals. I grew as a professional as a result of this internship, by being able to practice individual and group counseling, and having an opportunity to design a mentorship program. However, as a Christ-follower, being able to see the hope that was brought to girls in quite hopeless situations had more impact on me than anything else. The ability that Christ's love has amidst cross-cultural barriers was encouraging and humbling. I felt blessed to have the opportunity to complete my professional semester at Mirembe House.

~ Mary, Sr. from Dordt College

A Field Instructor’s Perspective:
At Youth for Christ Uganda (Mirembe House) we have greatly benefited from USP students in the following ways: They have helped expecting teenagers cope during their time of crisis and also given them ways to help them love their babies, such as introducing baby books. They have used art therapy to counsel the girls and introduced creative activities to connect with the girls. These creative expressions passed on a message of love to the girls. They were involved in home visits and hospital visits to encourage the young mothers and their families/relatives. Their involvement at Mirembe House has eased the staff workload. They are involved in counseling and encouraging the girls. We appreciate the relationships they build with the girls and the staff!

~ Mary, Ugandan Social Worker @ Mirembe House
Off-Tu Mission and Academy

**Off-Tu Mission** is a children’s home and outreach program in Mukono focused on the rehabilitation of former street children. It also includes a ministry for children currently living on the streets of the city of Kampala, an outreach to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in a slum area of Kampala, and community activities that minister to OVC in Mukono.

**Off-Tu Academy** is a school where children from the Mission attend as well as other children in the community in need of affordable education.

Best for junior social work students interested in working with orphans, abandoned children, children currently/formerly living on the streets, social work practice in a Ugandan ministry and/or school setting.

**USP Social Work Student Opportunities:**

Learn from Ugandans about Ugandan social work and ministry to children living on the streets. Tutor students and lead trainings and activities for children living at the Mission. Participate and lead ministry outreach in Kampala at a drop-in center and a slum area. Conduct case assessments and participate in home visits for the most vulnerable children in the outreach program. Teach at the Academy, participate and lead portions of special programs (such as worship services) in the community.

**A Social Work Student’s Perspective:**

The patience, cross-cultural communication skills, adaptability, and sensitivity that I learned during my time at Off-Tu Mission made me into a more culturally competent professional. These skills allowed me to better interact with diverse clients at the agency where I conducted my senior practicum in the United States, and shaped me into a more well-rounded social worker. There is diversity within our own culture, and it is important to learn how to interact and effectively communicate with people who are inevitably different than us. Off-Tu exposed me to the realities of street life for children in Kampala, Uganda and informed me of the options for addressing the issue. I learned about the complexities of this macro level social issue while addressing it on a micro level.

~ Ashton, Jr. from Olivet Nazarene University
Off-Tu Mission & Academy
Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)

ROTOM is a unique ministry that offers “friendship and hope to the disadvantaged elderly in Africa” through its provision of services that aim to meet the spiritual, social, physical, and psychological needs of the elderly, and the children under their care.

Best for junior or senior social work students interested in working with the elderly, children, and a Ugandan-founded and implemented non-profit organization.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:
Participate and lead activities associated with 3 pillars of support: spiritual support, health support and food & income security. Home visits and community gatherings to encourage and give spiritual/emotional support and training; tutoring for grandchildren through the ROTOM Champions program; health center support - patient care and administration work; agriculture support; general administrative work could include participation in board & committee meetings, strategic planning, database management, filing, editing and writing reports, sponsor relations, case studies and research.

A Social Work Student’s Perspective:
I loved my social work practicum experience at ROTOM and would definitely recommend it! In addition to my daily work, I was also able to go to board and committee meetings, staff trainings, and a seminar. The employees of ROTOM are incredible. I had the opportunity to see, take part, and ask questions about every part of the organization. Being able to understand how an organization runs has made me more equipped to enter the working field and has given me a deeper appreciation for the amount of work that goes into running one. My experience at ROTOM helped me discover that I enjoy working for non-profit organizations. My daily work included home visits to elderly people in their villages, meeting one on one with high school and college aged girls, as well as helping out with administrative tasks in the office. This experience helped me realize my love for elderly people while still giving me the chance to work with more than one population. I am so thankful for the variety of tasks and experiences that I was able to participate in at ROTOM. They helped me to find out more about who I am, what I want to do, and how to live out my knowledge as a social worker.
* Photos included with the expressed permission of each practicum partner