The following are practicum opportunities for BSW students in the USP Social Work Emphasis for the 2018-19 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 may be changes to our partnerships. 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
Acheru
(Afaayo Child Health Education and Rehabilitation Unit)

- Acheru is a rehabilitation clinic that offers both in-patient and out-patient services to children with disabilities. Their goal is to reduce the impairments and disabilities and empower these children to thrive within their communities.
- Best for junior social work students interested in working with children with disabilities, rehabilitative and medical services, and public/community health.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:
Work with Acheru Social Worker in conducting assessments and intakes. Provide emotional support to patients and their families during difficult procedures and healing journeys. Participate in community awareness raising and trainings. Conduct follow-up visits in the community to ensure ongoing care for children who have been served by Acheru. Conduct home visits to encourage families with children with disabilities to receive needed care and support.

Social Work Student Perspective:
I can confidently say that my experience at Acheru has profoundly shaped my career in social work. The experiences and memories are lessons I will carry with me throughout my professional and personal life. Interning at Acheru allowed me to experience what social work looks like in various contexts. I grew in my cultural competence, adaptability, and my professional development. Acheru fostered an environment that pushed me out of my comfort zone, and allowed me to see the impact cultural values have on the lives of individuals with physical/developmental disabilities in Uganda. Through this experience, I was able to learn the importance of community outreach, perform initial assessments, see what medical social work looks like in a non-profit setting, and many other opportunities. Additionally, working alongside the social worker at Acheru allowed me to build a professional relationship that still exists today.

Emilie, Jr. from Cedarville University

Acheru was an amazing placement for me because I was very interested in working with children who have disabilities. Acheru is a great place to learn about how broad social work is. I assisted in the classroom, supported patients and their families during their various therapies and procedures, and participate in home visits, which helped me learn about how my supervisor approached the families in their home environments. I also was given the opportunity to assess clients on my own, which helped me apply what I was learning in my classes in the United States. My favorite part of this internship was working with the children and learning more about what resilience truly looks like. These children taught me more than I could have ever imagined. I learned valuable skills while working in a clinic setting and learned how to meet the clients and families where they were at. Lastly, all of the workers at this placement welcomed me from the very beginning as an important member of their work family.

Julia, Jr. from Bethel University
Butabika National Mental Referral Hospital

Butabika Hospital is the National Referral Mental Health Institution in Uganda. The Hospital provides specialized care to people with mental illness. Butabika is a teaching hospital and hosts Ugandan students from a variety of academic disciplines. The hospital also provides out-patient services to people in the surrounding communities.

Best for senior social work students interested in working with the mentally ill population.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Conduct assessments with a team of professionals and students. Interact on a daily-basis with in-patients in the various wards (children, men, women, those referred by the court, etc.). Learn from a multi-disciplinary team including social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists, doctors and nurses, in the care, support, and treatment of this marginalized population in a Ugandan context.

Photo from https://www.butabikahospital.go.ug/
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 partners with USAID to implement an orphans and vulnerable children and DREAMS project (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe), which includes support groups to empower young women to stay in school and avoid disease, pregnancy, and early marriage.

Best for junior or senior social work students interested in working with children with disabilities, school social work, Ugandan children’s homes, populations at-risk for and currently with HIV/AIDS, and community-based poverty-reduction programs.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project – Participate in schools & home visits, vocational training for caregivers, community savings groups, caregiver trainings and distribution of school supplies and other resources.

DREAMS project – Empower young women and other populations at-risk for HIV/AIDS through various community-based and school-based initiatives (HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, support groups, etc.)

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

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

A Social Work Student’s Perspective:

Community is the word that comes to mind when I think about my experience at Chain Foundation. This is evidenced by the culture in the office, the atmosphere of Chain’s school and children’s home, and their partnerships with surrounding communities. While Chain offers a variety of services, I spent most of my time working with the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project. This project works to reduce the vulnerability of local households.
through economic strengthening, healthcare, education, children’s rights advocacy, and social engagement. My internship allowed me to work with communities, groups, and individuals to advocate for vulnerable children and their families. Some of the most valuable aspects of my time at Chain were observing the relationships my supervisor had built with the communities and individuals and witnessing her creativity in utilizing the resources available to us. Whether I was sitting in the back of a car headed to a remote village, learning sustainable Ugandan farming practices, interviewing apprentices about future goals, or sharing tea with a colleague, I was learning tangible and translatable aspects of social work.

Caitlin, Sr. from Cornerstone University
Compassion International Child Development Centers

USP partners with 6 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 working in Uganda.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Child Development Sponsorship Program (Ages 3 and up): Work alongside Compassion staff in their partnerships with the church, families and school administrators in the removal of barriers to the growth and development of vulnerable children in the community. This includes home and school visits where assessments, family support, and training is conducted. Opportunities also include teaching and leading activities during Saturday gatherings. A significant amount of time in this program is devoted to administrative work to ensure accurate reporting to sponsors and headquarters. Some of these administrative tasks include helping children write letters to sponsors, writing reports and maintaining child files.

Home-Based Program (Ages 1-3): This program focuses on the most vulnerable young children in the community whose needs are met best through empowering and equipping families. Coordinate and lead activities and trainings for caregivers on health/hygiene, parenting and other topics. Provide emotional support and distribute basic resources to caregivers during home visits and during group meetings. Help maintain client files and assist CDC staff with other administrative duties.
**Survival Program (Ages 0-1):** Work closely with CDC staff towards the goal of decreasing maternal-child mortality rates in Uganda. Monitor the health and growth of babies and empower expectant and new mothers with life-saving education and resources.

**Social Work Student Perspectives:**

*My time at Compassion International’s Seeta Child Development Center (Seeta CDC) taught me so many practical social work skills that I am excited to integrate into a social work career. While completing my field placement at Seeta CDC, I had the opportunity to do many home and school visits where we assessed the needs of our clients and planned interventions based on our assessments. Through these visits I learned many skills such as: how to communicate well using a translator, how to best build rapport with children and their caregivers, and maybe most importantly, how to sit with someone in their suffering. On Saturdays, I would participate in center days where I was able to interact with the children through different activities such as skill training classes and organized games/events. I was given the opportunity to teach lessons and practice the important social work role of being an educator. My supervisor and co-workers taught me the importance of self-care and consistently modeled healthy relationships with the Compassion children. My time at Seeta CDC taught be very tangible skills that I know will benefit my future social work career.*

~ Paige, Sr. from Olivet Nazarene University

*During my time at the St. Peter's CDC's Child Survival Program, I learned what it meant to be culturally competent in a culture that is not my own. I was able to practice skills learned in the classroom, while also being able to learn about the similarities and differences between North American and Ugandan social work. The Child Survival Program offers mothers/primary caregivers spiritual, physical, and emotional support in order for the mothers/caregivers to provide for their babies' needs. By doing so, their babies are able to develop, survive, and thrive despite the vulnerable circumstances they face. Through partaking in and leading group activities, conducting home visitations, and working alongside my Ugandan coworkers and staff, I was able to become humbled in the face of difference. During my time at St. Peter's CSP, I was exposed to the harsh realities of life for young children in Uganda, as well as the barriers that disadvantage young mothers; however, I also witnessed the empowerment of women and the commitment of the community as babies were loved, cared for, and nurtured within systems that are different than the systems established back in North America. There was never a dull moment at St. Peter's CSP, and I am thankful for my coworkers and supervisors, the acceptance and love that was extended towards me, and the experience I have been able to translate back home into my North American life.*

~ Kendra, Jr. from Redeemer University
Compassion Child Development Centers
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
HIV/AIDS Counseling, Treatment, and Community Outreach

There are several HIV care and treatment providers in Central Uganda. These organizations provide a variety of health services to patients living with HIV/AIDS, including counseling and psycho-social support to the patients and their families. These programs are also involved in training and raising awareness in the community.

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

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
Noah’s Ark Children’s Ministry

Noah’s Ark is a Christian organization with a range of services for orphans and vulnerable children. Nearly 200 children live at their children’s home. They also provide health care and free education to vulnerable children in the surrounding community.

Best for junior or senior social work students interested in working with orphans and vulnerable children, child protection in a Ugandan context, working in a school setting, and exploring the cross-cultural challenges of a Dutch-Ugandan organization.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:
Work alongside a team of social workers who provide psycho-social support to children who have experienced loss, neglect, and abuse. The social work team empowers and equips caregivers and teachers at Noah’s Ark towards children’s healthy development. May involve some home visits and intakes of abandoned children, but the majority of the activities take place on-site, where there is a school, health center (including the regional referral center for malnourished children), youth center, and other community resources.
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 or senior** 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 run 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.

~ Talitha, Sr. from Northwestern College
Refugee Law Project

Refugee Law Project (RLP) is a Ugandan organization that aims to “promote the protection, well-being, and dignity of forced migrants” through micro, mezzo, and macro approaches. RLP’s work to empower refugees in Uganda through its various departments: Mental Health & Psycho-Social Wellbeing; Gender & Sexuality; Legal Aid; Conflict, Transitional Justice & Governance; and Media for Social Change.

This opportunity is best for senior social work students who are interested in working with and learning from refugees and those who advocate and serve them in this region of the world. This site is located in Kampala so requires living with a host family part-time.

USP Social Work Student Opportunities:

Work alongside social workers in their Mental Health & Psycho-Social Wellbeing department to register, assess, counsel, and refer urban Kampala refugees to needed services. Create reports, research, and participate in other administrative work. A significant and difficult part of this field placement is participating in intense therapy sessions with refugees, alongside Ugandan professional counselors. Social work training opportunities may also be available in the Gender & Sexuality department.

* Photos included with the expressed permission of each practicum partner