SIT SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

MA in International Education 2023 - 2025

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER RESIDENCY IN VERMONT

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IELR LEARNING OUTCOMES

SIT's teaching and learning philosophy is grounded in the experiential learning theory developed by Robert Kolb (1984; 2015) and informed by scholars such as John Dewey, Jean Piaget, and Kurt Lewin. Experiential learning theory recognizes that learning is an active process that expands beyond formal curricula and that involves both content (what you learn) and process (how you learn).

What does this mean for the part time/hybrid student? By the conclusion of the program, students can expect to have achieved the following Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

Graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate their critical understanding of education systems around the world with emphases on social justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity;
2. Demonstrate their knowledge of influential theories in the international education field;
3. Understand the perspectives, relationships, roles, and influences of the stakeholders in the International Education field;
4. Articulate how power, privilege, and oppression mediate educational practices around the world; and
5. Articulate how international education policy is developed and implemented at the institutional, local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

Skills

Graduates will be able to:

1. Apply fundamental research skills including conceptualizing, designing, conducting, and presenting original research in the IE field;
2. Design, deliver, and evaluate international education programs (including proposal preparation, needs assessment, curriculum design, budgeting, human resource management, health and safety, crisis management, marketing, recruitment, and evaluation); and
3. Create and implement IE-related content through writing, facilitation, and public speaking.

Attitudes

Graduates will commit to:

1. Promote equity, inclusion, diversity, and social justice in education;
2. Uphold high ethical standards and critical reflexivity in all aspects of one's professional work; and
3. Value reciprocity in knowledge- and skills-sharing.

To achieve these Outcomes, you will participate in a wide variety of learning experiences (e.g., readings, lectures, discussions with professors in class and with local experts, research, visits to local sites of practice) and opportunities for reflection (e.g., in-class discussions, preparing projects and presentations, writing papers). Your learning also will benefit from the vast diversity of cultural backgrounds, training, and teaching styles of your faculty.

Please note that as an accredited institution, all SIT courses are required to meet minimum regulations regarding the earning of graduate credit. Thus, over the course of the semester, students will spend approximately 15 hours in class and related activities plus 30 hours in individual and/or group work, for a total of 45 hours, for each credit earned.

VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

An online orientation to SIT and the International Education degree will take place on **Monday, May 22, from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT** (overall introduction to SIT, student interaction, President welcome) and from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm EDT** (introduction to the International Education program), and **Tuesday, May 23, from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT** (SIT administrative offices will overview their services). Students are strongly recommended to join those sessions live but in the event you are unable to do so, each session will be recorded. A detailed orientation schedule will be released within three weeks of the start date.

VERMONT RESIDENCY

For students staying on campus, please arrive on **Sunday, June 18, between 9am and 5pm**. Staff will be in the International Center to check students in and escort them to their accommodations on campus. **All students are required to attend the evening meal in the SIT International Center cafeteria at 5:30pm.** Directions to campus can be found HERE. (Please note that the closest airport is Bradley International Airport in Hartford, CT.)

We will be in seminar, including a closing dinner, until 8:00 p.m. on Friday, June 30, so please plan on departing the morning of **Saturday, July 1**. Students are asked to check out of their rooms by 10:00 a.m. EDT.

RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

Classes begin at 9:00 am each morning and finish at 4:30 pm. There will be a 90-minute lunch break between the morning and afternoon classes. Students will also be involved with group meetings during what appear to be unscheduled blocks of time. Thus, students should not plan to conduct work or engage in other activities during their time on campus, as free time will be very limited.

FAMILY & PARTNERS

SIT Graduate Institute recognizes that, on occasion, students may wish to have a “companion” (defined as an immediate family member such as a partner or dependent children) accompany them on their residency. It is important to recognize that the academic components require extensive time and energy. Students are expected to engage in every program activity including classes and evening/weekend group meetings. There are long days of classes and rigorous academic assignments. If students would like to bring family members to the seminar, please book accommodation off campus since the dormitories are not suitable for families.

IELR ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

Reflective practice is a structured approach in which students apply learning from their coursework to ongoing professional activity. You’ll receive course credit for documenting the integration of your knowledge and skills in a professional context while remaining engaged with faculty and other students. More details will be provided during orientation.

CAPSTONE

Upon completion of their coursework and during their practicum, students demonstrate, assess, and synthesize their learning through the preparation of a capstone project and participation in a one-week capstone seminar held multiple times each year. Researching and writing the capstone paper takes students deeply into the experiential learning cycle, where they'll explore the meaning of their reflective practice experience, integrate theory and practice in a written and oral presentation, and make a contribution to the field of international education.

LANGUAGE LEARNING REQUIREMENT

Professionals in the field of International Education are often required to have some degree of foreign language proficiency. In addition, language is a key tool for being able to immerse oneself in local culture. For these reasons, MA in International Education students are required to meet SIT's Language and Culture Proficiency Requirement via one of two options:

- The Language Proficiency Pathway is beneficial for students for whom proficiency in the target language aligns with their career goals and professional interests. This pathway is recommended for students who enter their program of study with mid-level to advanced knowledge of their target language. It requires documentation of language proficiency at a satisfactory (i.e., Intermediate Advanced on the ACTFL scale) level. Students may focus on any language of their choice.

- The Language Learning Pathway is beneficial for students whose career goals and professional interests are well served by improving their ability to interact in cross-cultural settings without attaining a specific level of proficiency in the target language. This pathway is recommended for self-motivated students who enter their program of study with no or basic knowledge of their target language. Students choosing this pathway should be comfortable learning independently. It requires documentation of language study and cultural engagement.

In deciding which pathway to pursue, students should consult their advisor during orientation. More details can be found in SIT's Graduate Catalog.

SIT EMAIL - LIBRARY – CANVAS ACCESS

Approximately 30 days before the start of the program, all students will receive an encrypted message from SIT's IT department with their SIT email address and login. Once students log into their account the first time, they will find an email from the SIT library with information about how to log into the library and Canvas, SIT's learning management system.