



TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Information about Practical Placement regarding student from Karlstad University

Thank you for accepting a student from Karlstad University! It is a great opportunity for them, to be able to undertake practical placement at your school

The purpose of this placement period is for the student to gain some insights into the education system in your country. To learn more about how education in general and schools in particular are organised, from national policies to school curricula, as well as more practical matters.

What does it mean to be a teacher? What does it mean to be a pupil? What are the different roles, and how does classroom communication work? How are classes organised; how are they taught? What is taught in different subjects?

It would be impossible to learn all of the above in this short period of time. But we hope it will be an opportunity for mutual exchange, where both the student in question and your school will learn from each other.

What we expect

Contact teacher: The student will be at your school for a short period of time, only two weeks. The cultural environment will be new to the student. To help the student become accommodated, we would like a contact teacher to be appointed to the student. A teacher whom our student could follow, day to day, during the placement period.

A week of observation: As the cultural environment and the school are new to the student, we would advise that the student spends his or her week mainly observing classes. To learn how the school day is organised, what the teacher role is like and what pupils in the classroom expect from the teacher. This in order to be better acquainted with the subjects being taught.

By and large, the student teacher would shadow the contact teacher and begin the day at the same time as the contact teacher, be in the same classrooms as the contact teacher, take breaks at the same time as the contact teacher, end the day at the same time as the contact teacher, and so forth.

We suggest the contact teacher reserves at least half an hour at the end of each day, for the teacher and student to reflect on the day's work. During the first week, the contact teacher and the student will discuss various topics and teaching methods in preparation for following week, when the student will start teaching. At the end of the first week, there should be a clear plan so that the student can properly prepare.

A week of observation and some teaching: Though the student might not be equipped to teach full time during the second week, it should nevertheless be expected that the student ought to do some teaching. Five hours would be an adequate amount. This amount could be increased or decreased as the student and contact teacher see fit.

Conclusion: At the end of the two weeks, we would be grateful if the contact teacher could give some comments on his or her experiences of the student teacher's performance. The student will provide a form for the contact teacher to fill in.

We would appreciate if the school could send the form directly to Karlstad University – either electronically or by mail, as you prefer.