

FIELD EDUCATION & STUDENT LIFE

PHILOSOPHY OF FIELD EDUCATION

The field education program aims to expose students to a variety of field ministries which provide maximum opportunities for personal spiritual formation, integration, and reflection. With objective evaluation, feedback, and modelling by their field supervisors and faculty mentors, students learn to integrate classroom knowledge into practical ministry experience. The field experience in turn builds a greater motivation and hunger for further instruction and training.

The field education program, which includes classes in evangelism and discipleship, is designed to equip each student to become a *Reproducer* (one who witnesses and discipled another to do likewise), *Multiplier* (one who discipled others and trains more to do likewise), and *Influencer* (one who uses his or her God-given gifts and talents to influence others).

Field education comprises:

- Field Practicum
- Formation, Integration, Reflection, and Ministry (F.I.R.M.) classes
- Cross-Cultural Internship/
Vocational Internship





FIELD PRACTICUM

All students, except first year students, are expected to spend about eight hours per week in field practicum with churches or mission agencies. Students may expect some adjustments to their present church or ministry obligations and responsibilities in order to fulfil field practicum requirements.

First year students are exempted from official Field Practicum in order to allow time for cross-cultural adjustments (for international students) and adjustment to studies. They are, however, encouraged to participate as fully as possible in personal ministries of evangelism and discipleship.

While Field Practicum will be under the direct supervision of a Field Supervisor from the participating church or mission agency, the overall direction and leadership will be provided by the Field Education Director at EAST. The role of the Field Supervisor is to provide the student with opportunities for ministry and learning, and give regular evaluation through feedback forms .

FORMATION, INTEGRATION, REFLECTION, AND MINISTRY (F.I.R.M.)

Students in Field Practicum participate in the Formation, Integration, Reflection, and Ministry (F.I.R.M.) classes to disengage deliberately and temporarily from all academic studies and ministry involvements and reflect on their personal growth and walk with God.

A group of children, likely of African descent, are sitting on a patterned rug. They are looking upwards and to the right with expressions of interest and attentiveness. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light. The children are dressed in casual clothing, including a black t-shirt and blue jeans.

INTERNSHIPS

CROSS-CULTURAL INTERNSHIP is compulsory for Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity students. Students spend four weeks during the school break working primarily in (but not limited to) evangelism and discipleship within a cross-cultural setting. The internship aims to help them nurture a heart for missions, and provide exposure in serving within a cross-cultural context.

VOCATIONAL INTERNSHIP is compulsory for Master of Arts students. Students spend four weeks working under the supervision of a professional Christian worker for the vocational emphasis they are pursuing. For example, a student in the Biblical Studies track may develop a Bible study project under the supervision of a Bible scholar, and teach it to a group at church.



STUDENT LIFE

ORIENTATION

At the beginning of each academic year, with the direction of the Dean of Students, the Student Council will help host an orientation for new students. This is to help faculty, staff and students get to know one another and be informed or updated on school policies. Orientation is a time of fun, friendship and learning. Attendance is compulsory for everyone. The orientation may occasionally contain academic classes.

MENTORING GROUPS

All program and PIM students are assigned to Mentoring Groups (MGs), which are led by MG Leaders (usually faculty members). The MG Leader guides the students in relationships, studies, and ministry, with the overriding concern for their character development. Each group has a student leader who helps the Mentoring Group Leader in planning, and communication to the group members. MGs provide the student a small community for encouragement and accountability. Besides meeting during formal Mentoring Group times, the MG may also meet outside the school for outings and retreats together.

CHAPEL

Chapel is an important component to help students grow in their spiritual life through worship, prayer, ministry of the Word, and service within a community of believers. All full-time students are expected to attend the weekly Chapels.

PRAYER

Prayer is a discipline that EAST hopes to cultivate in each student. A time for prayer often takes place toward the end of the Chapel service. Students are encouraged to submit updated praise and prayer items to the Prayer Coordinator for intercession by the entire school.

A Worldwide Day of Prayer is held twice a year to focus on the needs of different countries and ministries around the world.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & WITNESSING

EAST's heritage derives from a ministry that is born out of the desire to obey Christ's Great Commission by going and sharing the gospel. Students are encouraged to be involved as Mentoring Groups in regular community outreaches, personal witnessing, and discipleship.



FELLOWSHIP AND RECREATION

To cultivate fellowship and bonding among the EAST family, events such as outings and pot-lucks lunches involving faculty, staff, and students are organised periodically. Get-togethers are also organized on an ad-hoc basis by professors with their respective classes. The student-maintained Agape Room offers both students and their families a place to rest, chat, eat and fellowship. Students may also unwind with a game of table tennis at the Recreation Room, a game of tennis at the nearby Farrer Park tennis courts, or a swim at the swimming club next to EAST. Inter-collegiate games with other seminaries in Singapore, which foster fellowship among the theological education community, are organised once a year.

