

## Teaching Abroad Panel

Thank you to our incredible panelists for sharing their experience and expertise in teaching internationally. Their bios appear below. Additionally, we have listed the questions that were posed, below, and at what time in the video they are asked, allowing you to skip or return to questions that matter to you the most.

Enjoy!

### Panelists

- ***Christine Balt – Has taught internationally for years and is currently pursuing a PhD***

Christine was born in Johannesburg and studied Drama and English at Rhodes University in South Africa. While studying for this degree, she taught high school drama on a part-time basis and it was here she decided to swap the stage for the classroom. Following graduation, she taught English as a Second Language at high schools in Japan and South Korea.

She then moved to Shanghai, where she taught English for the International Baccalaureate before settling in Toronto, where she has applied her training in contemporary performance practices to the teaching of Drama and English in schools at the Intermediate level. She has also worked in community theatre in which she has contributed to the staging of projects exploring inter-generational relations, sexual consent education and mental health. Her international experiences have contributed to an interest in how drama and performance can foster place-attachment and community in urban schools that welcome newly-arrived students. She is applying these interests to a PhD in at OISE in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, in which she is in her first year.

- ***Victor Do graduated from OISE back in 2014, in the I/S Stream with Math and Physics.***

He also holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph. The idea of living and working abroad never crossed his mind until a few months into OISE. It turned out to be the riskiest and best decision of his life. He has taught in several schools as a Science teacher in the southeast of London and England with a primary focus on ages 11-14. He held various roles as a supply teacher all the way to being offered an extension of his visa in a permanent position. Tasked with making another life changing decision of staying or leaving, he decided to move back to see what he could accomplish back in Canada. During his time in Europe, he spent various breaks and weekends in Western/Central Europe and making the most of living in one of the biggest travel hubs in the world. Upon moving back to Canada, he taught at a private school but decided to leave classroom teaching for the time being. He currently works as a water resources designer at an engineering consulting firm working towards his P.Eng. He has worked with various stormwater management projects and clients such as the City of Toronto and Metrolinx. He also identifies as a gay visible minority.

- **Diana Letra – [Teacher Hub/Taught internationally](#); [visit Diana's Blog](#)**

Current Special Education Teacher with the TCDSB and Resourcing Agent for Teacher Hum, Diana is passionate about education, a self-professed lover of life-long learning. Currently working as a Specialist in Special Education with identified secondary students. Professional reputation as being a collaborator with external programs relating to special education. Success in building life-skills programs catered to secondary youth. She has years of overseas experience that she is wants to share

- **Gary MacPhie – [Search Associates](#)**

Gary MacPhie works with Search Associates, the largest recruiting agency for international schools in the world, placing over 3000 teachers and administrators world-wide each year. Gary brings over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience in international schools to his role as a Senior Associate.

Gary was born and raised in Scarborough. He got his B.PHE at McMaster University, and his B. Ed at OISE. He started his teaching career with the Toronto Board. During an evening AQ ESL course at U. of T., he recalls a classmate chiming in with stories of the time he taught in Colombia and Israel. This piqued his interest, one thing led to another and later he embarked on his adventure in the world of international teaching. He took his first international teaching position at the Singapore American School and from there moved to the Taipei American School and started his administrative career at International School Moshi, Tanzania. This followed with principalships at Qatar Academy in Doha, Elmwood School in Ottawa and ten years as the elementary principal at the American International School of Guangzhou, China. He went on to get his MA in Admin and Leadership from the San Diego State University, and his Principal Certification from the College of New Jersey as well as from the Ontario's Principals' Council.

Gary and his wife, Barbara, have two daughters, who were raised as Third Culture Kids. They were born in Taiwan and attended school in Tanzania, Doha, Ottawa and graduated from Guangzhou. The oldest daughter now attends DePaul University in Chicago (on a full Div. 1 volleyball scholarship) and the second daughter is studying Architecture at U. of T. Gary's family has certainly thrived overseas, and he is now sharing his passion for international teaching with other adventurous educators.

- **Ruth Milne – [Kent School](#)**

Currently the coordinating principal for Kent Schools in Canada and China.

Ruth was the former acting director of the Continuing Education department at OISE. Prior to this role she was a superintendent of schools with the Peel District school board and a principal with the Toronto District School Board.

Ruth has travelled extensively in China and is very knowledgeable about the wonderful experiences and opportunities that await Canadian teachers working in China. Having placed several teachers in Kent Schools abroad she is also experienced to speak about the challenges that foreign teachers will face working overseas.

## Questions

00:00:17	What is the best part about teaching internationally?
00:02:55	What is the most challenging part about teaching internationally?
00:07:54	What were the fears and reservations you had before going, how did you change or manage them?
00:14:57	From a recruitment support perspective, what advice would you give to someone who is thinking of teaching internationally, where should they begin?
STUDENT-LED DISCUSSION BEGINS	
00:19:32	Where can students go for IB (International Baccalaureate) certification? * <a href="#">please consult OISE's Continuing and Professional Learning Website</a>
00:21:32	What types of schools should we be applying to (is there is a difference in "level" of school)
00:26:37	What are some criteria/questions that we should look for as we begin our search?
00:31:40	Are there areas in the world that are "better" for international teachers?
00:34:30	What would it be like for teachers to come back to Ontario?
00:39:15	For those going abroad is it preferable to become a "non-resident" for tax purposes?
00:40:27	Is there a direct route for teachers coming back to Ontario? Do we still need to supply teach?
00:43:56	How should applicants explore questions about support systems when dealing with issues? (brief discussion about potential issues)
00:49:34	Final Thoughts

\*Please note that after the camera was off, a few of the presenters had wished that they had mentioned the potential money involved in working overseas. How the money they saved up by working internationally allowed them to travel, save up for additional education, pay off their student debt and more.