The AWB Network
Member Handbook

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Academics Without Borders

AWB is a Canadian nonprofit, charitable organization that works with institutions of higher education in the most disadvantaged countries building their capability to educate the professionals and leaders essential to the strong societies they justly desire.

We do this by sending professional staff and academics who contribute their time to work on projects that originate with our partner universities, reflecting the most pressing needs of their communities. Over the past 10 years, AWB has mounted over 125 projects involving more than 165 volunteer experts in 30 countries.

www.awb-usf.org

AWB's Focus

Self-Help

Sustainable Impact

Higher Education

Volunteers

Providing Support Where Most Needed

Collaboration with Partners

The AWB Network

Canada's universities and colleges in support of global development

AWB's Network is a consortium of Canadian universities and colleges that support the mission of AWB.

Membership in the AWB Network offers opportunities for academics to share their expertise and knowledge as volunteers in capacity-building projects in partnership with institutions in low and middle-income countries. Engaging in this work gives faculty and staff a global perspective that enriches education and research on their own campuses.

The Network contributes directly to Canada's justly earned reputation as a country that meets its moral commitment to providing assistance to the world's most disadvantaged. All Canadians can feel proud that their tax-supported universities and colleges are helping developing countries improve their higher education.

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> **Acting as AWB volunteers, faculty and staff from Canadian colleges and universities bring the knowledge and expertise so critically needed by our partners institutions in low- and middle-income countries – capacity-building support they otherwise could not afford.**
>
> —Greg Moran, Former Executive Director, AWB

Benefits of Membership

1. A community committed to global development

The AWB Network provides important linkages between institutions, their faculty and staff with a common commitment to global development. We welcome suggestions about how these linkages could be strengthened.

2. Share your expertise and knowledge through volunteering

AWB offers faculty, staff, or administrators (active or retired) at member institutions opportunities to become involved in meaningful work in support of higher education in the developing world.

Volunteers testify that such international opportunity enriches their teaching and research while opening opportunities for other academic collaboration with those they encounter while working as AWB volunteers.

Faculty and staff at member institutions are given priority as project volunteers on all projects. We do this by sending notifications of volunteer opportunities to Network members prior to publicizing the posting outside the Network.

Members have one month to apply and, if a viable candidate from a Network institution is not identified within the month, we will recruit for the position more widely.

In addition, faculty and staff at member institutions who bring forward projects as part of the Network call for project proposals (see below) most often act as volunteers on these projects.

3. Call for project proposals

AWB projects build capacity using expert volunteers who collaborate with colleagues at post-secondary institutions in developing countries.

AWB is not a funding agency. AWB does not provide a grant in the traditional sense - it is an implementing agency and funds basic direct costs of projects. Our

Along with a full orientation, volunteers who participate in AWB projects are provided with the following:

- ✔ Reimbursement for expenses including airfare, vaccinations, medications, taxis, visas and related expenses, hotels and meals while traveling, hotels on route to the place of assignment
- ✔ Emergency medical travel insurance and emergency contact information
- ✔ Risk reduction and travel information services

fundamental operating principle is that our partners in lower income countries identify the areas in which assistance is needed and take the lead in project design and implementation. A key requirement of any AWB project is that the partner university must be able to sustain the initiative after the volunteers have completed their assignments.

Many of AWB's projects emerge from proposals received directly from institutions in low and middle-income countries.

Even though these proposals arise through the Network call for project proposal process the resulting projects are partnerships between AWB and the developing country institution. Should a faculty or staff member act as a volunteer on the project, it would be under the auspices of AWB. Although the AWB Network institution has no formal role in the project, benefit often accrues to it by virtue of each volunteer's participation and through unanticipated relationships that are formed during the course of the activities.

A full package delineating the submission and eligibility requirements is sent out at the time of the call for project proposals.

Benefits of Membership

The proposals go through a 2-step process:

(1) submission of an application introducing a capacity-building project proposal, and

(2) if the proposal meets the eligibility requirements, AWB contacts the developing world university partner and invites a more fully developed project proposal.

The proposer/potential volunteer may consult in the formulation of the final proposal, but the institution in the developing country must unambiguously lead the process.

4. Information sharing

AWB keeps the Network informed about its work through regular updates including through the AWB website, emails, and social media.

We are always eager to explore opportunities to work with member institutions' offices of communications on articles and social media related to the engagement of faculty and staff in AWB projects.

AWB frequently partners with member institutions to organize and participate in events on campus designed to highlight the institutions' international activity and promote engagement in global development.

Final Notes

Communication

- Corrie Young, Associate Executive Director - Projects & Network, is your link to AWB and can be reached at cyoung@awb-usf.org.
- Corrie stays in touch with you through regular communication with your main contact – the person designated as such upon your joining the Network.
- We post your logo on our website with a link to your own website and we follow you on Twitter.

We Ask that Members

- Notify faculty and staff about your membership in the Network and about how they can sign up for our mailings
- Pass on notifications of volunteer opportunities to faculty and staff
- Pass on the call for project proposals
- Promote the work of AWB to the campus via your institution's news web pages
- Add AWB's logo and link to your website
- Follow AWB on Twitter and include our handle - @awb_usf - in tweets about volunteers from your institution
- Keep us informed of any changes to the main contact for your membership

Financial Arrangements

You will be billed annually - fees are for the calendar year.

Contact Information

Website & Social Media

www.awb-usf.org

@awb_usf

AcademicswithoutBorders

Corrie Young

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