

Monash University Students from Australia Practice Teach in Israeli Schools

Practice teaching in a foreign country helps pre-service teachers develop intercultural competencies and global awareness that are essential in today's increasingly globalized world. This winter, Oranim International School facilitated its first ever international teaching practicum, for Monash University students.



In January, Oranim facilitated the International Professional Experience (IPE) in Israel for 16 Monash University undergraduate and graduate students of education. Students completed a three-week international teaching practicum at diverse schools in Haifa. The IPE in Israel was sponsored by JNF Ma'alot 360 and emphasized sustainability education.

A Replicable Model

This was the first time that Monash University offered an IPE in Israel, and the first time that Oranim facilitated an international teaching practicum. Due to the program's success, in coming years, Oranim hopes not only to continue facilitating the IPE for Monash University, but to replicate the model by providing international teaching practicums for other universities throughout the world.

Diverse Schools

Monash students who participated in the IPE in Israel were each placed in a school in Haifa and assigned a mentor teacher. The schools included nursery, elementary, junior high, and high schools, as well as Hebrew speaking, Arabic speaking, and bilingual schools. The schools gave students a window into the diversity of the Israeli educational system and Israeli society.

Students each spent five days a week at the school, observing their mentor teachers and practice teaching. They also become part of the school community by participating in a range of extra-curricular activities and community events.

Sustainability Education

In the afternoons, students volunteered and listened to lectures on sustainability education. Dr. Muky Gross of Oranim College led this part of the program. The students built a path in the botanical garden (now called “The Australian Highway.”) Monash students also had the opportunity to meet with Oranim students and learn with and from them.

What They Are Taking Home

Students reported a high level of satisfaction with the program, and that they gained knowledge and skills that will contribute to their future development as teachers. Students emphasized the importance of getting to know and appreciate a different culture. As one student explained, “This experience encouraged me to be a person who embraces the variety of backgrounds of other people.”

Students also spoke about the positive value of challenging their preconceived assumptions about education and pedagogy: “Lots of pedagogical lessons learned in Australia have been completely challenged, in a positive manner and will encourage me to reflect further and not just accept the norm.”

Read more about Oranim International School’s programs for visiting students [here](#).

Videos

Watch the following videos to learn more about the Monash University IPE in Israel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIACFu8fpmo>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLWCY_PxNQo6-f-9cPfoYswIn3ewahp53D&v=0PN60B-wgVw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLWCY_PxNQo6-f-9cPfoYswIn3ewahp53D&v=XODrGILiayA