

Reflection – EDUC 994
Advanced Internship in Education
Dr. Beverly Shaklee
Summer 2009

My internship experience was probably one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in the doctoral program although I spent most of the summer away from the United States. When I first started to think about an internship, I immediately thought it would be a good idea for me to go to International Baccalaureate's Research Unit (IBRU), which at the time was located at the University of Bath. When Dr. Shaklee began making inquiries for me about possibly doing an internship at Bath (she knew both Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson) we did not know that the IBRU was in the process of being closed down. By April of 2009, all of the researchers associated with the unit, except for Prof. Jeff Thompson had moved on to other assignments and the IBRU was officially closed. I was forced to retool what I could gain by completing my internship in Bath.

Having that information, I started to think about my other specialization – teacher education. Bath is another approved site for the IB Teacher Award Scheme and offers another iteration of the program that is also offered at Mason. I worked out a proposal that allowed me to participate in a Master's level course (Leading and Managing International Schools with Mike Fertig), gave me time to read dissertations related to IB, interact with doctoral students at the University of Bath plus conduct interviews with both Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson about their time working with IB and the IBRU. Upon arriving in Bath and working with Prof. Thompson, I was also able to get some information about the English perception study as he knew a lot about the methodology employed by Colin Jenkins at the time. The time in Bath was invaluable as I was able to gain knowledge that I had not been able to access about higher education abroad, especially doctoral study, the structure and administration of international schools, and the differences between research work in the United States and in Europe.

In addition to traveling to England for my internship, I also traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. This part of my internship came about almost by accident as I was researching my paper for Dr. Osterling's Seminar in Multicultural Education and interviewed Sandra Wade-Pauly in the IB University Recognition office, based in Vancouver. When I expressed what my dissertation interests were, she suggested a possible internship and as Bath was up in the air for a time, I began to consider Vancouver as a possibility. When the option to do both in the same summer came about, I decided to do both even though the travel schedule could become fairly hectic.

All in all, I spent seven weeks away. In Vancouver, I worked on various projects, writing papers on the impact of the proposed Core Content Standards on current IB English curriculum frameworks,

developing a list of contacts abroad for IB to increase their efforts to build consistency in recognition, a white paper outlining how the Bologna process might be relevant to IB among other projects. The work I did in Vancouver was interesting to me and overall relevant for my interests.

In terms of artifacts, I have included three items. The first is the reflection I wrote for Dr. Shaklee at the conclusion of my internship and upon my return to the United States. It is a summary of my activities and an attempt to synthesize my learning of the time period. The second item is a reference written by Bob Poole, my supervisor at IB Vancouver. The third is one of the pieces I completed while at IB Vancouver, a response to the Draft Core Content Standards in regards to IB English A1.