



Inspiring Excellence

Upper Merion Area Middle School

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Upper Merion Area School District values the contributions that West Chester University students have made to its students and English as a Second Language Program in the past. The Upper Merion Area School District located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania is in search of multiple students to fill **non-paid** bilingual internships for both fall and spring semesters. Candidates should be comfortable speaking Spanish and have completed SPA 302. The bilingual internship is offered to education and non-education majors alike, and the internships are available at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

There is flexibility in the arrangement of the schedule of the bilingual internee, but the candidate must commit to three days a week, for a minimum of ten hours per week or 120 hours per semester.

Upper Merion Area School District expects their numbers of English language learners to explode in the coming years. The ESL Program at Upper Merion Area School District continues to reflect a majority of Spanish speakers. Many of these learners have very low English proficiency and/or many have limited literacy skills in Spanish. These students have sheltered English as a second language classes for their reading and English periods, but are mainstreamed for the content areas of mathematics, science, and social studies.

The intern will be providing a valuable service in assisting in interpreting and translating so that students can access key concepts in mathematics, science, and social studies in their native language while their English language proficiency continues to develop. The primary classroom teacher with whom the intern will work will provide a synopsis at the end of each week for the intern to prepare in advance.

Expectations for Bilingual Internship

In order to receive an excellent evaluation, the internee is expected to:

- To report punctually for assignment on the dates outlined in the schedule or to notify the supervising teacher in case of an absence (log a minimum of 120 hours during the semester);
- To maintain positive and professional relationships with classrooms teachers and students;
- To meet weekly with site supervisor to debrief about the week's experience and in order for the internee to receive feedback;
- To provide interpretation and translation for the content classes of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies for Hispanic limited English proficiency students;
- To take the initiative and show an active engagement in student learning and growth;
- To frequently reflect professionally and personally upon the internship experience, as it relates to increased mastery of the Spanish language in all its modes.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) defines that "An internship is a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent."

Upper Merion Area School District is very excited to welcome the qualified candidate to the school community, grateful for his/her anticipated service, and confident that the internship will provide a rich, unique, and meaningful experience in a dynamic environment in which to grow Spanish language fluency.

Interested candidates must provide current security clearances and should contact Angela Della Valle, ESL Department Head of Upper Merion Area School District at 610-205-8930 or adellavalle@umasd.org. Contact Dr. Andrea Varricchio, Dept. of Languages and Cultures: avarricchio@wcupa.edu for information on academic credits as the internship is only possible with academic credit.

*A National Blue Ribbon School Of Excellence
Nationally Recognized Community of Caring Outstanding School*

Upper Merion Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national origin, sex, age, marital status or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. The district's commitment to non-discrimination extends to students, employees, prospective employees and the community. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures or for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, contact Manager of Human Resources, Upper Merion Area School District, 435 Crossfield Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406, (610) 205-6405.