

STUDENTS ENRICHING COMMUNITIES WITH THE ARTS

There are now more work-integrated opportunities for arts students.

OCAD University's Community Placement course gives fine arts students the chance to work in the broader arts community. The course involves a placement in an art-related work setting, such as the community program Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Space, which uses art to connect people with public spaces and asks students to investigate the role that artists play as catalysts of change. Another sought-after placement includes graphic design with The Public, a progressive, activist design studio focusing on anti-oppression, sustainability and social growth. Students have worked on campaigns that raise awareness about trans issues, the importance of inclusive communities and safer sex for teens.

During Trent University's MA program in Public Texts (English), students have the option of completing an

internship in publishing, editing, communications, journalism and information science, in place of a traditional thesis. Graduate students can test-drive the career that most appeals to them. Students have worked in roles including editorial assistant, environmental research assistant, editor and marketing intern. The experiences teach them about the challenges and opportunities within the industry of their choice, and ensure they are ready for the workforce by graduation.

Students of Drama in Education and Community at the University of Windsor apply their learning almost immediately. In their second, third and fourth years, students are required to complete placements in community living settings, elementary and secondary schools and/or hospitals. Students learn to use drama as a vehicle for learning, teaching, change and transformation. The Clown Doctor Program is one example – here, students learn to use humour and improvisation to promote healthy living and healing. Many graduates go on to become teachers, some go on to graduate school specializing in psychology and drama therapy, and others work in social justice advocacy.