

Bridges Bursary Program

Concordia University of Edmonton

Bachelor of Education (After Degree)

A Voluntary Post-Graduation Experience

The *Bridges* program provides an opportunity for BEd (AD) graduates to refine their knowledge, skills, and attributes within a supervising teacher's classroom.

Timeframes

Bridges is available to new BEd (AD) graduates in May and June as an optional classroom experi-

Typical assignments include:

- Full time placements for four weeks
- Half time placements for eight weeks

Deadline for approval of applications: first Thursday in April.

Further information can be found on CUE's education website:

What is *Bridges*?

Bridges is a professional development opportunity offered by Concordia to new graduates of the Bachelor of Education (After Degree) program to fund volunteer time in the classroom following completion of their studies. The *Bridges* program is a voluntary post-graduation experience and therefore is not an additional practicum nor included as part of the formal field experience required by Alberta Education.

What is the focus of *Bridges*?

The focus of *Bridges* is to provide enriched experiences for new graduates as they transition from the university to the teaching profession. The *Bridges* program provides participants with opportunities to:

- Refine skills and techniques learned in the teacher preparation program;
- Enhance knowledge of curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- Acquire experience and develop instructional approaches in teaching Indigenous Peoples' Historical and Cultural Topics;
- Strengthen knowledge, skills and attributes teaching students with diverse needs in a regular classroom; and
- Broaden teaching experiences in different classrooms, levels, schools, jurisdictions, or provinces.

What is the value of *Bridges* to school partners?

The *Bridges* program is popular with school principals and supervising teachers. School partners value the knowledge, skills, and attributes participants bring to classrooms. Principals and supervising teachers report that participants add a positive dynamic to the professional learning community of their schools.

Contact:

Paul Gagné MEd
Adjunct Professor
Bridges Coordinator
Phone: 780.479.9279
Fax: 780.378.8468

Email: paul.gagne@concordia.ab.ca

