



AWB | USF

Academics Without Borders
Universitaires sans frontières

The AWB Network

Canada's universities
and colleges in support
of global development.

Member Handbook



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Academics Without Borders

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www.awb-usf.org



Academics Without Borders (AWB)

Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. Our mission is to help low and middle income countries (LMIC's) improve their universities and colleges so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to promote their countries' development.

AWB's projects are involved in the full range of university and college activities from expanding and improving existing institutions and programs to helping to create new ones. AWB fulfills its mission by coordinating volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by our partner higher education institutions.

Over the past 15 years, AWB has mounted over 200 projects, involving more than 300 volunteers in nearly 40 low and middle-income countries.

AWB's Principles and Focus

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Capacity building

We believe that the best way to support a country's development is to contribute to the ability of its institutions to drive progressive change.



Higher education

We believe that higher education is essential to a country able to offer its citizens a prosperous, healthy, just, and sustainable society. Our focus is on building quality and capacity in degree-granting institutions.



Providing support where most needed

We believe that we can have the most impact by working in the poorest countries and regions in the world. Our work centres on countries that are low or medium in the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Index (UNDP HDI).



Collaboration with partners

We believe in supporting the needs of developing countries as they see them. We develop long-term relationships of mutual respect with our partners in the developing world; our partners propose and design our projects.



Sustainable impact

We believe in having a long-term, sustainable impact. Our projects leave a lasting legacy of increased capacity.



Volunteers

We believe that the best work comes from true, passionate volunteers who have a high level of expertise. Volunteers are essential to our projects, contributing their skills and wisdom at no cost.

The AWB Network



Canada's universities and colleges in support of global development

AWB's Network is a consortium of Canadian universities and colleges that support the mission of AWB.

The Network offers opportunities for academics to propose projects in conjunction with LMIC universities and to participate in them. By engaging with AWB in this way, Canadian universities and colleges enhance post-secondary education both with our partner institutions in LMICs and on their own campuses. Such internationalization is a benefit in itself.

The Network contributes directly to Canada's justly earned reputation as a country that meets its moral commitment to providing assistance to the world's most disadvantaged. All Canadians can feel proud that their tax-supported universities and colleges are helping LMICs improve their higher education.

“AWB volunteers – dedicated faculty and staff from our Network universities and colleges – bring a wide array of knowledge and expertise to impactful capacity-building projects, identified as high priority by our partner institutions in low and middle-income countries, projects that otherwise would not be affordable.”

- Nancy Gallini, Executive Director



Benefits of the Membership

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1.

A community committed to global development

The AWB Network provides important linkages between institutions, their faculty and staff with a common commitment to global development. We welcome suggestions about how these linkages could be strengthened.

2.

Preferential access to all volunteer opportunities

AWB offers faculty, staff, or administrators (active or retired) at member institutions opportunities to become involved in meaningful work in support of higher education in LMICs. Volunteers testify that such international opportunity enriches their teaching and research while opening opportunities for other academic collaboration with those they encounter while working as AWB volunteers.

Faculty and staff at member institutions are given priority as project volunteers on all projects. We do this by sending notifications of volunteer opportunities to Network members prior to publicizing the posting outside the Network. Members have one month to apply and, if a viable candidate from a Network institution is not identified within the month, we will recruit for the position more widely.

In addition, faculty and staff at member institutions who bring forward projects as part of the Network call for project proposals (see below) most often act as volunteers on these projects.

It should be noted that the partner institution in the LMICs, which is the originator and owner of a project, makes the final decision about the volunteer for a project.

Volunteers who participate in AWB projects are provided with the following:



Project management support.



Reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, including airfare, vaccinations, medications, taxis, visas and related expenses, hotels and meals while traveling, hotels on route to the place of assignment.



Emergency medical travel insurance.



Risk reduction and travel information services.

3.

Call for Project Proposals

AWB is not a funding agency. It is a nonprofit organization that mounts projects in partnership with institutions in LMICs. Our fundamental operating principle is that our partner institutions must themselves identify the areas in which assistance is needed and they take the lead in project design and implementation. We assist our partners by providing the expert volunteers necessary for these projects. After the volunteers have completed their assignments, it is these institutions, themselves, which sustain the projects' activities.

Many of AWB's projects emerge from proposals received directly from institutions in LMICs. However, twice a year in the spring and in the fall, we initiate a call for proposals for projects from faculty and staff of our Network member institutions. These proposals must conform with AWB's mission and operating principles and be with institutions in AWB-designated countries.

It is important to understand that even though these proposals arise through the Network call for project proposal process, the resulting projects are partnerships between AWB and the partner institution. Should a faculty or staff member act as a volunteer on the project, it would be under the auspices of AWB. Although the AWB Network institution has no formal role in the project, benefit often accrues to the institution by virtue of each volunteer's participation and through unanticipated relationships that are formed during the course of the activities.

A full package delineating the submission and eligibility requirements is sent out at the time of the call for project proposals.

The proposals go through a 2-step process: (1) submission of an application introducing a capacity-building project proposal, and (2) if the proposal meets the eligibility requirements, AWB contacts the applying institution and invites a more fully developed project proposal. The proposer/potential volunteer may consult in the formulation of the final proposal, but the LMIC institution must unambiguously lead the process.

4. Information Sharing

AWB keeps the Network informed about its work through regular updates including direct mailings to Network members and through the AWB website and social media.

We are always eager to explore opportunities to work with member institutions' offices of communications on articles and social media related to the engagement of faculty and staff in AWB projects.

AWB frequently partners with member institutions to organize and participate in virtual and on campus events designed to highlight the institutions' international activity and promote engagement in global development.

Final Notes

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Communication

Corrie Young, Associate Executive Director - Projects & Network, is your link to AWB and can be reached at cyoung@awb-usf.org.

Corrie stays in touch with you through regular communication with your main contact – the person designated as such upon your joining the Network.

We post your logo on our website, linking it back to your institution's website.

Want to see who else has joined the Network?
See our current Network members & learn more:



Network Members



We ask that members

- ✓ Designate a main contact for your membership and keep us informed of any changes to the main contact at your institution.
- ✓ Notify faculty and staff about your membership in the Network.
- ✓ Pass on notifications of volunteer opportunities to faculty and staff.
- ✓ Pass on the call for project proposals on October 1st and February 1st of each year.
- ✓ Promote the work of AWB to the campus via your institution's news web pages.
- ✓ Add AWB's logo and link to your website.
- ✓ Follow AWB on LinkedIN and tag our company page in your posts by including the "@" in front of Academics Without Borders and selecting our page from the dropdown list.



Financial Arrangements

You will be billed for membership annually in December for the following calendar year. In order for the Network institution to be included in the website and promotional material throughout the year, invoices must be paid by March 1 of that year.

Contact Information

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Website & Social Media



www.awb-usf.org



[@awb_usf](https://twitter.com/awb_usf)



[AcademicswithoutBorders](https://www.facebook.com/AcademicswithoutBorders)

Corrie Young

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