

# Teaching Internship Program - FAQ

## Who is eligible to apply?

-  Pre-service teachers in their final year of study
-  Qualified teachers that have taken a break from teaching and who want to re-start their careers at a Village School
-  Newly qualified teachers who would like to be supported in their entry to a teaching position at a Village School

## What internships are available?

-  Early Childhood Teaching Internship (Foundation – Level 2)
-  Primary Teaching Internship (Levels 2 – 6)

## How long does an internship last?

Between 6 and 18 months.

## Will I get paid during the internship?

Yes, you will be employed on a casual basis. In 2018, the pay rate is \$18 / hour + 25% casual loading.

## How many hours will I work each week?

Ideally, interns will work for 10-15 hours per week but this can be flexible around university commitments, including classes, assignment deadlines and exams.

We work on a slightly different timetable to other schools, which is based on Learning Cycles of 5 weeks of study followed by a one week break. The 2018 Calendar is available on our website.

## Why have you developed the teaching internships?

By developing the Village School programs we feel we have developed a wholistic schooling experience for children that helps to provide them with practical skills to help them achieve their potential and supports their personal growth. By changing-up some of the traditional ways of structuring a school we are confident we have developed a much more sustainable and enjoyable place for teachers to work. This means that we look and run a little differently to most schools and we have noticed that teachers could really benefit from (and enjoy) some professional development and ongoing conversation which relate specifically to our programs and philosophy.

By developing this program we hope to spread the intense first year of teaching that graduates are likely to experience across the pre-service phase of their career. This will help to ensure that each Village School mentor is well supported, confident in their delivery of the Village School Curriculum and able to stay part of the Village School network for a lengthy block of time. See our Mentor Pathway for details.

## **What does the Village School Curriculum include?**

Over the years, we have developed a Village School Curriculum that includes programs that may not be included in the Victorian Curriculum and that are important to our philosophy and vision. We have developed (or are in the process of developing) scope and sequence documents for each of these programs so that they may be delivered consistently across schools and clearly understood by new Mentors. Most of the VS Curriculum is outlined on the Teaching and Learning page on our website. Other programs include:

S&E - Social and Emotional literacy is a central focus in the early years of a Village School. We have found the Kimochi characters as a highly successful teaching tool in this program.

Sparks – a little similar to a Reggio provocation, Sparks are themed activities or settings which aim to inspire creativity, thoughts, further exploration and play. They are used mainly in the early years.

Out 'n' Abouts – this program is all about getting students into the community to explore the local area, utilize community resources and meet 'sparky' people. In the older years, getting out and about may also be included in the Personal Learning Program and camps.

## **What does an intern teacher experience?**

An intern's focus will be on the year levels that match their qualification, i.e. Early Childhood (Foundation – Level 1) and Primary Teaching (Levels 2-6). Interns will be under the supervision of an experienced classroom Mentor and will have the opportunity to participate in both Victorian, and Village School Curriculum activities.

Initially, interns will be there to observe and support the main Mentor while building relationships with the children and learning about Village School life. Over time the role will extend to include working with small groups of children or leading larger groups in engaging activities and games. Towards the end of the program, interns will take on curriculum and lesson planning using the Village School documentation methods and have the opportunity to deliver these under the guidance of an experienced Mentor.

## **What sort of additional training will an intern teacher receive?**

In the first few weeks of each internship, the school's Leader of Teacher and Learning will map out a personalized plan for your time at PIVS, based on your areas of interest and skills. This will ensure you have the opportunity to experience a wide range of classroom experiences and in-house training programs. Much of the training will occur on the job, however there will also be training modules held in our Wonthaggi office with other interns and Mentors, presented by both Village School staff and external providers. See our Mentor Pathway for practical examples of the support that Mentors will receive at the different stages of their career at a Village School.

## Am I guaranteed a job at a Village School after I finish?

It is our intention that interns will continue working at a Village School following the completion of their internship. There are a few elements which impact on a school's staffing needs, including student numbers, and these are taken into consideration prior to finalising a school's staffing mix for each following year. So if we are unable to offer you a position following your internship, we hope you would still feel like your time at PIVS is well spent and we will help you in any way we can to gain another teaching role.

## What happens if I start in the program and realise this style of school is not for me?

This can happen, and that's perfectly fine. Interns are employed on a casual basis and may resign from their position at any time.

Along the way we will give you plenty of feedback, so you will have a good sense of how well we feel you are matching with the model and there is also a chance that we may decide that you would be better matched with an approach to teaching and learning that may be offered elsewhere. We hope you will be fine about this, too.

## Is there a career pathway in the Village School network?

- 🌀 Definitely! We currently have two growing primary schools in our network and are opening a high school in South Gippsland in 2019. As a new school opens and positions become available at the existing schools, staffing positions will be offered to Mentors already working at a Village School before being advertised externally.

Our newly developed Mentor Pathway shows how we would like to develop long term relationships with our Mentors and have identified how the school can continue to support Mentors in the different stages of their careers.

The Mentor Pathway is also linked with AITSL Teaching Standards and our Wage Banding which is consistent across all schools. There are also other in-house benefits for Mentors including school fee discounts for their children, lunch provided each day and (unpaid) time off to explore personal interests.

*If you have any other questions, please email them to  
Fiona McKenzie (School Coordinator) at [fiona@pivillageschool.org.au](mailto:fiona@pivillageschool.org.au)*

*We look forward to receiving your application.*