

Musa Mathye

Male

23 years

GTI

English History

Host School:



I come from a village called Ka-Bungeni in Limpopo. I currently reside in the community of Diepsloot, North of Johannesburg where I grew up.

I attended school at Rabasotho Combined School, Masungi Primary School, Reshomile Primary school, Diepsloot Secondary school and leap Science and Maths School where I matriculated. I am a final year student of the University of South Africa enrolled for the Bachelor of Education in Senior and FET Phase.

I was inspired Sibusiso Sibeko and the work of the future leaders at the leap schools to want to be a teacher. I want to change the lives of students because it essentially it will let me to take part in shaping the next generation and become their immediate role model. Also, I want to give Bach to the community in a meaningful way and I am driven by the desire to help those around me because being a teacher is an invaluable contribution.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I want to build on my professional development skills of being a teacher and this would be a great way to explore the teaching field in a different context.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

To develop and polish my teaching skills, my classroom management skill and sharpen my personal skills as well

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

"1. Professionalism: provide me with the soft skills needed in the workplace and in leadership positions, building my professional network and gain experience and increase my marketability thus building my resume.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

Student empowerment through technology

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

How is technology used to maximize learning and how is it infused with the curriculum? I will conduct a survey on the use of technology in the classroom and I will have a questionnaire where both the learners and teachers rate the effectiveness of the technological being used for learning.

Hlamalani Mavukane

Female

23 years

ST Marys DGS Pretoria

English, IT, History

Host School:



My name is Hlamalani Mavukane or Hlami for short and I am 23 years old. I grew up in a village called Nkuzana in the Limpopo province. I am one of 21 children from a polygamous setup, my father has six wives and my mother is the fourth. When I was in Grade 7, I received a scholarship to go to one of the best schools in Limpopo, Ridgeway College. The scholarship was awarded to learners who came from poor backgrounds and who showed leadership, empathy and a need to make a difference in the world.

After high school I didn't know what I wanted to study so I moved to Durban and did an internship at Inanda Seminary for a year and a few months in education. That was the best decision I have ever made! I later moved to Pretoria because I wanted to be closer to my family. I now work at St. Mary's DSG whilst I study towards my degree in Education through UNISA a distance learning institution. I am being funded by Funza Lushaka; a bursary scheme aimed at producing quality educators for South Africa.

I currently work with girls in the Grades 4 to 7 and I am a boarder mistress for the high school. Even though I am studying to teach in a high school, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with younger children and that has also helped me understand children better. I enjoy learning new things in and out of the classroom and I like to change I feel that it is important in life. I want to be a teacher because I want to be part of bridging the education gap that my country faces. All these children deserve a teacher ten times better than the ones I had and the generation after that will deserve better than them. That's why I feel that it is important to be and set an example of a great educator who doesn't represent an authoritative system but rather growth and prosperity. I want to be better so they can have better and be the best.

My aim is to finish my degree and do my honours in Education with a core focus in psychology. I feel that it is always important to understand the people we encounter and the learners we deal with. I enjoy a good conversation, watching movies, reading and exploring new places. Most of my inspiration for topics and how to teach certain topics comes from one of my hobbies.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

A friend of mine, Ntokozo Thango, has an opportunity to go and she spoke about how inspiring the experience was for her as well as how much it helped grow her professional network and personal relationships. I have attended the Edtech Summit as well as the AXIS (GTI) summit and have grown to love and admire the direction that education as a profession is taking. I had the opportunity to spend time with and listen to some Fellows from America, the techniques and styles of teaching as well as learning that they had to share were interesting and intriguing. I want to be a shining example to my peers, to show them that opportunities such as this one are possible for anyone, even a little girl from a village like myself. I want to teach other teachers how to be better and grow their knowledge base and I strongly feel that this is one of the platforms and places to do so.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

I want to build professional relationships that will last beyond the time that I will spend there. That way knowledge between myself and the people I am going to meet there will always be interchanged

and shared and both sides will benefit. I also hope to bring back a lot of new and exciting skills to share with my colleagues. I want to reach point where I could end up running professional development workshops at my place of work and outside based on what I will learn during my stay and further later through the working relationships I will build.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

Since I started my internship, my training has always been from a South African base and perspective, excluding the times where I attended the Summits. This internship will give me a world view and the opportunity to learn from first world schools gaining knowledge, skill and training that will be applicable to my training as a teacher and benefit the children I teach.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

Inclusion and belonging

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

My biggest passion is around Inclusion and Belonging (around the fundamentals of diversity). I think that it is very important for everyone to feel important, understood, valued for what they have to offer and who they are and to belong. I would (with permission) interview and discuss how learners feel in terms of belonging and being included in the school context, then later discuss it on a larger scale with the aim to unite and create a greater respect for self and others. This topic is also very important amongst educators. Very often we step on each other's toes because we don't understand one another, my research would deal with that.

Kgomotso Ratlou

Female

22 years

GTI

English and Accounting

Host School:



My name is Kgomotso Ratlou, I am 22 years old. I was born, raised and currently reside in a township called Ga Rankuwa, in the city of Pretoria. I live with my grandmother, my mother and my sister.

I'm currently doing my fourth year at University of South Africa, doing Bachelor of Education in senior and FET phase, majoring in Accounting and Life Orientation. I'm a trainee teacher for Global Teachers Institute. The program places us in different schools around the country, both primary and secondary schools. I have been part of the program for four years and during this time I have been placed in two different high schools as well as a primary school around my township. I am currently placed at a high school called Modiri where I co-teach Life Orientation grade 11 and Accounting grade 10.

I chose to be a teacher because I want to bring much needed change in my community through education. I want to be part of the solution in helping my community grow and prosper.

In my spare time I love watching movies, spending time with family and friends. Saturdays are dedicated to giving extra classes in accounting to grade 10 & 11 classes.

I grew up in a home that are believers. My grandmother is a God fearing and hard-working woman. One of the things I have learned from her is that working hard pays off and nothing in this world is free, if you want something you have to work hard for it.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I am interested in the programme because I want to develop myself in a professional sense. I want to acquire different learning styles and learn from the educational system in the US. Along with that, I'd also look to share my experiences here in South Africa regarding the education system and most importantly, learn from them as well.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

I hope to build relationships with different people I will be interacting with. I hope to learn and also share my knowledge about teaching. I hope to learn different ways of teaching and also different cultures.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

The opportunity to observe as well as learn various teaching styles from a different country is one that would enhance my teaching career. The knowledge and skills I would obtain while on the program, are things I would ensure I come back to South Africa with, implement in the classroom on a day to day basis, looking to be a key staff member, with the sole objective of assisting each and every learner to reach their full potential.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

Classroom Management. How they deal with differentiation in the classroom

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

I would look to observe how good the classroom management is, allowing me to see the different ways they use to manage their classrooms. One of the challenges I face at times is accommodating all my learners in the lesson. Classrooms have a diverse group of learners with different personalities and learning styles. I want to observe how they do differentiation in their classrooms in terms of how they are able to reach out to all different learners in their classroom. How would I go about exploring them? During each lesson, I would take notes and ask the teacher questions that are related to the two questions I would be exploring.

Gontse Mgidi

Female

21 years

GTI

Maths

Host School:



Gontse is a student teacher at LEAP Science and Math School and Studying BEd Senior and FET at University of South Africa. She is majoring in Mathematics and Life Orientation and minor subject is Setswana Home Language. She is assisting with Grade 9 and 10 Maths classes and tutoring the Grade 12's. As part of social development, she accompanies learners at Bana Tlhalefang Pre-School in Ga-Rankuwa, and she is also involved in activities that are done at the Pre-school. They assist with teaching the children, playing with them, cleaning their environment and preparing their food.

Being in the GTI program has helped her with a lot of things, classroom management, how to discipline learners, how to interact with learners, how to teach certain topics, how to conduct herself as a teacher (professionalism), setting a question paper, attending meetings, preparing a teacher's file and marking. She is working towards becoming a liberated teacher and the agent of change within the education system. Her objective is to help each and every learner to improve their math and be able to pass it with good marks. With the characteristics mentioned above that's the reason why she chooses the path of education. She is more of helping people reach their goals or dreams, seeing other people reaching their goals makes her happy.

During her school days Gontse was involved in many activities. She played Netball and was part of the dance cultural activity. She was in the debating club where they travelled around Pretoria for debating with other schools. She was part of the Top 6 Representative Councillor Learners (RCL), where she was an RCL treasurer. She was part of the Math Olympic. She was one of the top learners in school within 3 consecutive years.

When she is not at school, she is spending time with her family and friends because they bring joy and happiness in her life. She enjoys listening to music and being around her loved ones. When she is bored, she likes solving math problems. Laughing is one of the best things she loves doing because she believes that laughter is the best medicine.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

Learning is a never-ending wheel. One can never stop learning nor teaching others whatever knowledge they have acquired. That statement sums up the internship for it increases knowledge for me as an aspiring teacher and the children I will be teaching that is the reason why I am interested in this internship because of its positive outcomes that help me become a better educator at the same time an eager learner that does not want to cease learning.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

The school system of South Africa is really struggling from very illiterate reading skills to almost no comprehension of mathematics the pass rates the government keeps implementing isn't helping these issues. I believe it needs a radical change and new teaching and learning methods that can be beneficial to both educators and learners. I hope to achieve that through this internship learning these new methods to better the learners I teach and will teach in the future.

What is the proposed topic for your Action Based Research Project?

Tutoring lessons

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

It will give me a broader look on teaching methods that I never knew about and ones I never knew how to implement. I have seen other educators that have went through the internship that initiated a culture with their learners that didn't make learning a chore but a part of them something they could enjoy and fall in love with whatever they were teaching through the use of practical measures and examples.

My question will be based on "teacher to child ration", where the teacher has a certain number of children, he/she is entitled to. Does it mean that the child will enough attention or the child will shy away from talking in class because the number might be so small or too big. I want to truckle this question by using the natural phenomenal where I go to class with more learners and observe how learners are and also go to a class where there are less learners and also observe how the learners are in terms of paying attention in class and their participation.

Nthabiseng Matsetela

Female

30 years

GTI

Maths

Host School:



Nthabiseng Matsetela was born in Limpopo province but currently lives in Johannesburg. She is doing her third year of B.Ed. studies at Unisa majoring in mathematics. She teaches grade 4 and 5 mathematics at Iphutheng primary school in Alexandra and she also taught grade 8 and 9. She is a maths private tutor and currently volunteering at Boys and Girls Club Alexandra.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I am interested in the program because I would like to learn and share teaching strategies with other educators.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

I hope to accomplish ideals on how to deal with similar situation which arise among our learners in schools.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

I think the impact that the internship program will have in my teaching professional practicum is that I will grow professionally, and my confidence will improve.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

Integrating Technology in the classroom

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

I am interested in integrating Technology in my teaching on daily basis. I will investigate how teachers plan their lessons including technology, what are the advantages and disadvantages.

Lunganathi Mathebula

Female

25 years

International School of South Africa

Maths and Science

Host School:



I grew up in a small rural village where I started my educational career in a junior school. I come from a big family, but I have three siblings, a sister and younger brother. When I went to high school, I was given an opportunity to study at a different school, a prestigious school Ridgeway College through a scholarship, Sumbandila Scholarship Trust. I am currently working as a teacher while I finish my studies towards a Bed (Bachelor of Education) degree majoring in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Pretoria. I want to be a teacher because I believe that as a teacher you have influence on young people and the opportunity to mould young minds into great citizens who are part of the community.

I like playing netball and basketball although I'm still rusty with basketball. I enjoy cooking and reading. I work well as an individual and as part of a team.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I want to grow as an individual and as a professional in the education sector

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

I want to discover more about my teacher identity through interaction with other teachers as well as students

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

Growth and development as a professional.

What is the proposed topic for your Action Based Research Project?

How Science is used in African traditions and how it affects the thinking and logic and cognitive development of learners in rural traditional areas.

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

How Science is used in African traditions and how it affects the logic and cognitive development of learners in rural communities.

Andile Mthenjwa

Male

27 years

Wits University

English/ History/ Social Study

Host School:



My name is Andile Mthenjwa. I am 27 years old and I am studying a degree in Bachelor of Education at the University of Witwatersrand. I am doing my second year in FET phase and my majors are Social Science and English. I have taught at Thuthukani Primary School and Johannesburg Secondary School as part of my Teaching Practice. I must say that Teaching Experience has been an eye-opening experience for me, and I enjoyed every second of it.

My hobbies are reading and travelling. I think the reason I have passion for these hobbies is because I am curious by nature and love to learn about other people and cultures. My friends like to say I have an amazing sense of humour, probably that is why they always enjoy being hang out with me. On campus I am a member of various clubs, including the Wits Debating Union. On Saturdays I like to volunteer for a campus voluntary organisation called THE ASSIST. The organisation tutors' kids from underprivileged schools in Alexander, one of the poorest townships in South Africa. I am also a mentor to one of the learners who are part of our program.

The reason I aspire to be a teacher is because when I grew up, I always liked to help my cousins and former classmates with their schoolwork. So, when I got good grades and got a chance to go to university, teaching became the most obvious career for me to do. I believe that through education in South Africa we could reduce inequality and eradicate poverty. So, one way I want to play my part in the fight against poverty is through shaping the minds of the youngsters in my poor community.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I wish to improve my teaching knowledge by learning from teachers in the US and from the education system in the US.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

I hope to learn new methods of teaching and learning. I will take that knowledge and share it with my colleagues when return to South Africa.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

The program will give me a broader perspective of the teaching profession. That is important for me as a student teacher because it means I will get better training and qualify to be a global teacher that can teach anywhere in the world.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

Does code-switching when teaching a class with diverse learners promote cultural inclusiveness and learning?

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

I like to wonder what are the best practices that teachers could use to maintain discipline in the classroom. During my Teaching Practice I observed with disappointment when teachers sometimes struggled to maintain order in the classroom and often had to resort to violent ways of discipline. I also wonder what methods teachers could use to create passion for learning in all their students, so that these kids could be able to work independently without being pushed by the teacher. I am also interested to know if using code-switching or multilingualism when teaching a class with learners from diverse backgrounds could improve performance for students who do not speak English as a first language. I intend to answer these questions by observing lessons, for example, that have learners from diverse backgrounds. I guess some of the learners in that class would not be speaking English as a first language or would be speaking Spanish as their home language. I will also have interviews with different teachers and get their views on these questions.

Bakang Mputle

Male

22 Years

Wits School of Education

History/ Social Studies

Host School:



Bakang is an astute young man who has shown deep interest in participatory democracy and active citizenship. He has shown a keen interest in developing his knowledge of the Constitution of South Africa and its application in the public sphere. He is also committed to infusing this knowledge, as a young beginner teacher, into the content of his own classes, to influence and enrich the youth he encounters in schools.

He is an advocate for teacher knowledge of children's rights, in particular, the right to practice religion or belief freely in schools and to express sexual identity without interference. He is outspoken, participates readily in rigorous debates on various controversial political and social issues in a democracy. He constantly demonstrates the ability to think critically as he constructs arguments on current affairs, especially when these focus on governance, gender and social justice.

The knowledge that Bakang has gained in classes has led him to various activities in the broader university. He enjoys attending public addresses by politicians and human rights activists. He is dedicated to positively contributing to South Africa as a non-racial and non-sexist society. Bakang is well-liked by his peers and his lecturers. He has the propensity and confidence

to engage openly with people of all backgrounds. Currently Bakang is reading for his Master of Education degree in Education for Sustainable Development, Educational Sociology and Environmental sociology. His hobbies include photography, yoga and going to art galleries. Bakang grew up in a family of teachers and has always been surrounded by educationalist.

Why are you interested in the internship programme?

I learned about the GTI - USA Internship Program in 2017 at the GTI summit. I without hesitation thought that this is a great opportunity. The United States of America is a first world country with great education systems which many of us who are not from there would love to learn about more through being placed in schools in the USA by engaging with the teaching materials, the manner in which the syllabus is structured, engaging with knowledgeable and highly experienced teachers made one to be interested in the internship program. USA has the best educationalists who have and continue to shape the educational landscape of America and the world large. I strongly believe that I will greatly learn and benefited from the program and all the skills acquired during the program will shape the teacher I am and subsequently shape the teaching and learning I do in South Africa.

What do you hope to accomplish while in the US professionally through the internship program?

Professionally there is a lot to learn through the program, such as experience how the teachers in the USA applied the teaching theories practically, classroom management and various teaching strategies.

What impact do you think this internship program will have in your teaching professional practicum?

It will have a great impact, as I would have been capacitated professionally as a teacher. Internship programs give interns hands on experience. I will be guided by great teachers. And this I believe will be a lifelong lesson which I will carry with me throughout my budding career.

What is the proposed topic for you Action Based Research Project?

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ANALYZING PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES FOR PROMOTING ESD IN GEOGRAPHY - A case study of geography and social science teachers in the USA.

As part of the internship program all interns are expected to conduct action-based research on a topic of their own. Briefly explain what classroom and educational questions are of interest to you and how you would go about exploring them?

This is great, I love research and I have learned a lot about research during my honours. My question(s) will be around Educational for Sustainable Development - This is also in line with the United Nations Development Goals.

According to the World Development Report 2018 (WDR 2018) by 2050, nearly half of the entire world's youth will live in Africa, and another 40 percent in Asia. Of concern education systems prepare the next generation to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. According to Bailey, et al (2007) education for sustainable development (ESD) is enacting an important and increasing role in all sectors of education including basic education. Therefore, a strong motivator for advocate for ESD is in the curriculum, Moore (2005b).

It is therefore of paramount importance to link the dialogues on this century's education with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This research investigates the pedagogical practices employed by teachers to promote ESD. Role of schools in the transition to a 'fairer and greener' world. With regards to research methodology, the study will be qualitative in nature and will employ teacher interview, questionnaire and classroom observations. Ethical issues will be taken into consideration and the participant details will be protected.