

### **Value of the Year Abroad program in International Development Studies**

*"Students who have first-hand, long-term (many months, not a 2-3 week visit) exposure in a developing country have gained an experience that will change their lives forever. The best in classroom teaching or reading books can't come even close to a real living and working experience in a totally different cultural, social and linguistic setting." (Alison Van Rooy, Trent graduate, Rhodes Scholar, former senior researcher with the North-South Institute, and currently in a senior policy role with CIDA).*

For over twelve years Trent has been running unique study-abroad programs affiliated with its International Development Studies undergraduate program (Trent-in-Ecuador, Trent-in-Ghana) or its Native Studies Program (Trent-in-Thailand). Undergraduate students in their third year of study in a four-year honours degree, spend that academic year living, studying and working in economically deprived regions of our world.

All programs have between fifteen and twenty-four students participating in any given year. In the Trent-in-Ecuador program which is based in Sangolquí students have the opportunity to become fluent in Spanish. The Trent-in-Ghana program is based in Accra (capital region) and in Tamale in the Northern region. The Trent-in-Thailand program is based in Chiang Mai. The Trent Native Studies students will have cross-cultural interactions with the Hill Tribe peoples of south-eastern Asia.

### **The Need for Bursary Support**

The students in these year-abroad programs pay additional fees (over their standard tuition) to cover the costs for local in-country program co-ordination. The additional charge is approximately \$3,500 per student. All students must also pay their travel costs (average of \$1,500). This extra cost has discouraged many Native Studies and International Development students from participating in the program. The Chair of the Program has estimated that close to forty students in the Trent program have decided to not participate in this opportunity due to financial limitations.