

# Phoebe Kirkup

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Canadian nationality · Toronto, Canada · Available to travel.

## PROFILE

Project and stakeholder engagement professional with experience bringing diverse people, organizations, and sectors together around shared goals in education, culture, public policy, and community development. Skilled in building partnerships, facilitating dialogue, and coordinating complex initiatives that promote inclusion, participation, and social impact. Passionate about fostering meaningful participation and ensuring diverse voices help shape the decisions that affect their communities.

**Core competencies:** Project & program coordination · Partnership & relationship management · Stakeholder engagement & facilitation · Strategic communications · Event & conference management · Research, analysis, & reporting · Knowledge mobilization & dissemination · Cross-cultural collaboration.

**Areas of expertise:** Social inclusion & equity · Education & public policy · International development & cooperation · Youth & intergenerational engagement · Cultural policy & sustainable development · Intercultural relations.

**Languages:** English (native speaker) · Spanish (professional fluency) · French (beginner).

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Project Consultant · [UNESCO Executive Office of the Culture Sector](#)

06/2024 - 12/2025 (Remote)

- Helped shape the world's largest cultural policy conference - MONDIACULT 2025 (2,500+ participants, 163 countries) - contributing to conceptual design, regional consultations, and the multi-stakeholder process underpinning its outcome document, in which Ministers called for culture as an independent goal in the post-2030 agenda.
- Co-built a 3-day MONDIACULT program across 6 domains and 2 focus areas: 20 ministerial sessions and 195 side events.
- Co-designed and facilitated the MONDIACULT youth strategy and forum, engaging 48 youth representatives from 34 countries and securing a dedicated platform to deliver their statement on cultural policy priorities to Member States.
- Curated and reviewed knowledge products (English/Spanish) for an open-access repository on culture with 325 contributions.
- Independently coordinated the UNESCO Expert Group on Culture for Peace by facilitating a collaborative process with 10 experts through to publication and dissemination, advancing international dialogue on culture's contribution to peacebuilding.

### Co-founder · [AgoraZul](#)

04/2024 - Present (Remote)

- Co-founded an organization centred on promoting inclusion and connection across communities and generations, with a view of sharing knowledge and delivering project management and consultancy services.

### Education Consultant · [UNESCO Section for Higher Education](#)

03/2021 - 01/2024 (Remote)

- Coordinated program development, stakeholder engagement, and session planning for UNESCO's World Higher Education Conference 2022 (WHEC2022), which brought together more than 14,000 higher education stakeholders through 180+ conference events and activities.
- Facilitated the generation and collection of over 250 knowledge products for WHEC2022, broadening the knowledge base and diversity of voices informing global higher education discussions.
- Contributed to UNESCO publications on equity, inclusion, and academic wellbeing, supporting evidence-informed policy discussions and the translation of publications into English, Spanish, and French to expand their global reach.
- Planned, moderated, and supported various sessions, consultations, and events on diverse topics, facilitating knowledge dissemination and exchange across diverse stakeholders while identifying new opportunities to support institutional objectives.

### Secretariat, Expert Group on Universities & the 2030 Agenda · [UNESCO Section for Higher Education](#)

09/2020 - 05/2022 (Remote)

- Led coordination of a 14-member global expert group examining universities' contributions to sustainable development, managing project oversight and facilitating collaboration among international experts from 12 countries.
- Supported the development of a flagship report and guided its finalization through publication approval processes, providing quality assurance while strengthening its equity, gender, and interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Organized report dissemination events and delivered introductory comments at the official launch during WHEC2022.

### Researcher · [GLOBED](#)

10/2018 - 09/2019 (Temuco, Chile)

- Designed and implemented an independent mixed-methods research project in Chile (Master's research), examining intergroup relations between Mapuche and non-Mapuche students across three primary schools.
- Engaged more than 100 students, educators, and community stakeholders through surveys on social networks, interviews, and focus groups, and generated insights through quantitative and qualitative analysis.
- Produced tailored reports for participating schools to support reflection on inclusion, identity, and school-community relations, ensuring findings were accessible and directly useful to educational stakeholders.

### Education Policy Intern · [UNESCO Section for Higher Education](#)

07/2018 - 09/2018 (Paris, France)

- Contributed to a working group on Indigenous inclusion in higher education, including desk research on access and retention and identification of good practices in inclusive programming for Indigenous youth.

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## **Junior Policy Analyst & Research Assistant · [Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs \(CIRNAC\), Government of Canada](#)**

05/2014 - 08/2017 (Gatineau, Canada)

- Supported policy research and stakeholder engagement related to Indigenous land claims and self-government.
- Prepared briefing materials and analyses to support dialogue between Indigenous communities and government representatives at local, provincial, territorial, and federal levels.
- Contributed to relationship-building efforts involving Indigenous governance and treaty-related initiatives.

## **Swim Instructor, Coach, & Administrative Coordinator for Aquatics · [Town of Pelham · City of Welland · Phoebe's School of Fish](#)**

06/2011 - 08/2013 (Niagara, Canada)

- Delivered swim instruction and coordinated aquatic programming across municipal and private settings, supporting swimmers with diverse needs and facilitating positive relations through clear communication.
- Founded and managed a private swim instruction service, handling client communication, lesson coordination, and administrative processes including secure registration and data management.

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

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### **Certificate Program in Aging & Gerontology · [Toronto Metropolitan University](#)**

01/2026 - Present (Remote, Toronto, Canada)

- Developing knowledge of aging populations, age-related policy and service systems, the range of factors influencing older adults' quality of life, and the design of programs and services that support health aging and well-being (part-time).

### **Master in Education Policies for Global Development · [GLOBED](#)**

09/2017 - 09/2019 (Barcelona, Spain & Amsterdam, Netherlands)

- Full scholarship holder in Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree, delivered by a consortium of four universities: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, University of Oslo, University of Amsterdam, and University of Malta.
- Studied social inequalities, policy actors, global policies, and advanced research methods in education.
- Thesis: Intergroup Relations, Identity, and School Composition in Chile - A Study on the Relationship between Mapuche and Non-Mapuche Students in Araucanía Primary Schools.

### **Honours Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Development & Globalization (Co-op) & Minor in Latin American Studies · [Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa](#)**

09/2012 - 06/2017 (Ottawa, Canada)

- Studied diverse topics, building a strong knowledge base and critical awareness for international engagement.
- Completed an Ontario Public Interest Research Group placement on living and coexisting well on Turtle Island with Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas, Elder and Professor at the Institute of Indigenous Research and Studies (2016).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **Awards**

- Book Award from the Department of Modern Languages and Literature at the University of Ottawa, presented by the Argentinian Ambassador for Canada (2016).
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award and participant in youth leadership conference (2013).
- Positive Female Role Model Award for Notre Dame High School (2011).

### **Presentations**

- UNESCO Conferences: MONDIACULT (2025) and WHEC (2022).
- Intersectionality of Indigenous Youth and Gender Mainstreaming at Girl Effect (2021).
- Keynote speech at Rurality and access to higher education: an international symposium (2021).
- Thesis Research at Education Policies for Sustainable Development Conference (2019).

### **Professional development & technical competencies**

- Digital skills: Office · Google Suite · NVivo · Egonet · UCINET · Trello · Prezi · Moodle.
- Online courses: *Educación de calidad para todos: equidad, inclusión y atención a la diversidad*, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (2022) · *Reconciliación and Indigenous Education*, University of British Columbia (2019).
- Additional training: Indigenous Community Development Training, Health Canada / CIRNAC (2015).

### **Events**

- National Youth Summit on Agenda 2030's SDGs, run by Students Commission of Canada (2021).
- IASAS Global Summit on Student Affairs and Services (2021).
- RightsCon Online Conference on human rights in the digital age (2020).
- Deputy Returning Officer for the Canadian federal election (2019).

### **Community involvement & volunteering**

- Member of Senior Pride Network Canada's Community Advocacy, Research, and Education Committee (2026, ongoing).
- Indspire's 2020 Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering (2020).
- Swim instructor for individuals living with disabilities through Swim Ability (2014-2017) & Brock Niagara Penguins (2009-2011).
- Various community events with the Rotaract Club of Ottawa, a university youth club (2013-2016).
- Youth leader for high school youth leadership program SLAPSHOT (2014).
- Leader for orientation week for first year students at the University of Ottawa (2014).