Elizabeth Macdonald

Clinical Professor of Global Business and Director of Business Communication

About Thunderbird:

Thunderbird is the world's No. 1-ranked school of international business with more than 65 years of experience in developing leaders with the global mindset, business skills and social responsibility necessary to create real, sustainable value for their organizations, communities and the world. Dedicated to preparing students to be global leaders and committed global citizens, Thunderbird was the first graduate business school to adopt an official Professional Oath of Honor. Thunderbird's global network of alumni numbers 40,000 graduates in 147 nations worldwide. The school is sought out by graduate students, working professionals and companies seeking to gain the skills necessary for success in today's global economy.

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Areas of Expertise:

Teaching English as a Second Language, Teaching of Writing, Teacher Training, Business Communication

Courses:

Business and Managerial Communications, Business Presentations & Public Speaking Workshop, Business Report Writing

Elizabeth Macdonald is a clinical professor of global business at Thunderbird School of Global Management. She is the Director of Business Communication at Thunderbird, providing workshops in both Public Speaking and Business Writing. She also teaches actively in Thunderbird's corporate learning division, providing business communication coaching for clients from SK, Walt Disney, Henkel, and Wal-Mart, to name a few. She has lived and worked for different periods of time in more than 45 countries around the world, developing a keen sense of the requirements and advantages of communication skills among people of different backgrounds, a necessity in global sourcing and other business transactions.

Ms. Macdonald, who served in the Peace Corps from 1989 to 1997, has authored several publications for the global agency. Included among her writings for the Peace Corps are the "Program Manager's Guide to Training Americans and Host Country Nationals," "Girls Education Programming, Training and Activity Guides," and "Community Content-Based Instruction: A Guide for Enhancing Service Learning in Curricula and Lessons." She has also contributed a commentary--"Ideas and Activities for Teaching Speaking"--in a 1994 TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) publication, New Ways in Teaching Speaking. Her presentations at professional conferences include presentations on distance learning, best practices in pre-service training, participant-centered staff development, principal-based teacher training, and community-content-based instruction.

Prior to joining the faculty at Thunderbird, Ms. Macdonald served in the position of Director of the ESL (English as a Second Language) program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She served in the same capacity at Thomas More College in Kentucky, directing the ESL program in the International Studies Department. She also worked as a consultant, serving a number of different clients, both corporate and academic, including the Apollo Group, PETsMART, Project Equality, and North Dakota State University.

Among Ms. Macdonald's honors and awards are the Most Outstanding Elective Faculty Member Award, received in 2011 and 2002, as well as twice receiving Thunderbird Student Government's True Spirit of Giving Award.

She received her MA at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, where she was the recipient of a Peace Corps scholarship, and her BA from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where she majored in Sociology and minored in French.