



Summer 2009 Internship Program

Penn GDI places Penn graduate and undergraduate students from a range of academic disciplines directly into NGO field offices, drawing on their academic and professional expertise to work on a related project. All positions are in developing countries around the world, and include a grant of up to \$3,000 for travel and living expenses. Please read this document carefully before opening an application.

Confirmed 2009 Penn GDI Partners: Africare, Plan International, Save the Children US, and the Rural China Education Foundation (RCEF)



Deadline: February 23. Applicants will have a chance to select a regional and sector preference in the online application, and will be matched to a position. See **Selected 2008 Project Descriptions, pg. 2** for an idea of the kinds of positions Africare will offer in 2009.



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Rural China Education Foundation

乡村教育促进会

Deadline: February 23. Interns will work together with RCEF staff in Guan Ai Primary School, located in rural Shanxi Province. Guan Ai is a boarding school serving 1st to 6th grades. Interns will have meals at school with students and teachers and live in the village. Two internships are available; **applicants must be competent in Mandarin.** The **Monitoring and Evaluation Research Intern** will collect data through classroom observation, interviews and focus groups. The **Communications Intern** will create written and visual content about RCEF programs for use on the RCEF blog and website and in newsletters and other materials for fundraising and public awareness purposes.



Save the Children. **Early bird Deadline: February 17!** STC research fellowships are appropriate for students who have lived independently in developing countries, who have taken coursework in quantitative or qualitative research, or who have conducted their own research. Students not selected for fellowships with STC will be considered for internships with other partners. **Interested students should contact Jennifer Kobrin: jkobrin@upenn.edu for a list of 2009 Save the Children US projects. Please refer to 'Save the Children' in the subject line.**

Selected 2008 Project Descriptions, Africare & Plan International

- Interviewing mothers and healthcare team members in local communities, and providing nutrition counseling for a community-based growth promotion project, in a range of locations within **Ghana**.
- Assisting with the selection of partner NGOs and Field Officers, organizing a training workshop, sensitizing target communities, and finally inaugurating two Village Savings and Loan Associations in **Ghana**.
- Finalizing an assessment tool that will be used by clinicians when preparing patients to start Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), and carrying out a workshop with HIV positive support group leaders on ARV education and adherence in **South Africa**.

FAQs

- ***Who is eligible?***

Undergraduate students: Current Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors are eligible for the International Internship Program. Due to the rigorous and independent nature of this experience, preference will be given to Sophomores and Juniors.

Graduate students: Preference will be given to students returning to Penn in the fall, with the exception of students in one year Master's programs.

- ***Is a stipend provided?***

Penn GDI will offer a grant of up to \$3,000 for summer 2009. This stipend will cover airfare, housing, and per-diem expenses. Penn GDI partners will assist in locating housing, but it will ultimately be up to the student.

- ***How many positions are provided versus total number of applicants?***

This year, up to 20 positions will be offered. Although we can't predict the volume of applicants before the close of the online application, we received over 100 applications in 2008 for roughly the same number of slots.

- ***What does the review committee look for in candidates?***

Strong candidates will be able to meet two or more of the following criteria: coursework relevant to sector work in international development, personal or professional experiences in demanding circumstances, work and/or travel time spent abroad, second language proficiency, and the ability to work independently.

Comments from 2008 GDI Interns

“As a student from a developing country (Ethiopia), I thought I knew the challenges of health care in a developing context (i.e. facilities, equipment and manpower). Little did I know that the challenges are more than just a lack of facilities and equipment. Mobilizing, teaching and implementing health care services as an outsider is very difficult. In school, writing proposals is very easy, but going out and actually implementing those ideas in the community is another story. I believe that the GDI summer internship gives Penn students once in a lifetime opportunities to go out of their comfort zones and to learn by interacting with people on the other side of the globe. Besides great classroom teachings, it is vital that students become world citizens.”

“Although I had already traveled to Ghana for a semester abroad, I truly believe that I was able to gain the most out of my time in Ghana through my GDI internship. Unlike my semester abroad, I was not surrounded by other international students or working for myself. Rather, I was submersed in an atmosphere of complete foreignness – throughout my internship I worked alongside Ghanaians: Plan employees, local NGO employees, and villagers. I was able to gain a greater insight into the culture of Ghana as well as a deeper understanding of myself. Additionally, the experience taught me that I truly want to pursue a career in international development. I was so inspired by work with Plan that I have since founded the University of Pennsylvania’s Ghana Microfinance Initiative to provide Ghanaian NGOs with research, loan portfolio management, fundraising, and business plan development. I only hope that future Penn students will have the opportunity to participate in the GDI program.”