



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH Elimu SUMMER 2015

POSITION TITLE: Intern

LOCATION: Kianyaga, Mt. Kenya region, Kenya

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOST ORGANIZATION: Elimu Impact Evaluation Centre, created by McGill Professor Matthieu Chemin in 2006, is a Kenyan NGO which undertakes the rigorous evaluation of development projects in order to identify the most effective ways to reduce poverty. Elimu uses randomized experiments to achieve this goal. This initiative stems from the realization that without a proper counterfactual, it is impossible to ascertain the effect of development aid. By randomly assigning the treatment to a treatment group, and comparing it to a control group, much like in a randomized drug trial, the problem of the counterfactual is solved, and Elimu can discern which development projects are successful, and which initiatives are the most cost-effective methods to improve living standards. Since 2006, Elimu has been involved in multiple projects.

On-going project: Micro-hydro electricity

Green Power (GP) establishes micro-hydro mini-grid systems that are constructed, financed, owned, and operated by farmer cooperatives without access to electricity at the present time. With affordable electricity, farmers may use water pumps for irrigating high value crops, microentrepreneurs may create businesses that require light or powered machines, children may spend less time collecting firewood and more studying at night under proper lighting, women may devote less time to household chores and more to other valuable things such as education.

GP partnered in 2006 with Prof. Chemin to rigorously evaluate its project. GP aims to measure the potential benefits of access to electricity and compare them to the costs of running such an operation, in order to inform decision makers and other African communities about the desirability of such a project. Elimu collected a baseline survey of 3,200 households in the community, and organized the randomized distribution of electricity. GP is currently collecting funds to repair the first turbine in this on-going project.

Past project: Health insurance

The Kianyaga community is composed of poor small-scale farmers, in the informal sector, who do not have health insurance, despite the existence of affordable products. For example, the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) offers an insurance product that covers all hospitalization costs for a small sum. This health insurance product could avoid poor farmers to pay very large catastrophic expenses in case of hospitalization, that could significantly run down their savings and trap them into poverty.

In collaboration with the Kianyaga community and NHIF, Elimu has undertaken a research project to discover the reasons of this low take-up rate. Several interventions were put in place in randomized sub-groups to evaluate the most cost-effective way for NHIF to reach the poor. Examples of such intervention included disseminating information about insurance, offering assistance to register, distributing monetary or in-kind subsidies, sensitizing about insurance through a local NGO, and organizing information meetings for existing

informal insurance groups. In the conclusion of this project, Elimu is now collecting an endline survey on 2,300 households to evaluate the impact of health insurance on those who decided to take-up.

Current project: Access to the judiciary

It has been recently forcefully argued by economists that the quality of institutions, rather than geography or culture, explains why some countries are rich and some others poor. One such institution is the judiciary that secures property rights (e.g. of farmers), enforces contracts, and therefore promotes investment, business creation and economic growth. However intuitive theoretically, it has been very difficult to prove this point empirically, since the influence of the judiciary cannot easily be disentangled from other factors.

Elimu has thus launched for the past year the first randomized experiment measuring the impact of access to the judiciary on economic growth. The goal of the project is to provide legal aid to the poor small-scale farmers of this rural community. Elimu is collaborating with Kituo Cha Sheria, a Kenyan legal aid NGO, which provided a paralegal training to our fieldworkers, and started providing legal aid to community members. The hypothesis is that small scale farmers with a better access to the judiciary, and more secure property rights, will increase their agricultural productivity, and exit poverty.

In this project, Elimu is:

- Identifying potential participants by visiting people door to door and asking if they are involved in legal conflicts, asking them to refer to friends with legal conflicts, and asking elders in the community to refer us to cases
- Collecting a baseline survey with questions on the security of property rights, contracting behaviour, investment, entrepreneurship, access to credit, informality, and poverty.
- Providing legal aid to a randomized treatment group together with Kituo Cha Sheria
- Collecting the endline survey after this is completed

In addition to providing free legal aid to the treatment group, which is the focus of our study, Professor Chemin has expanded the project to include four alternative treatments:

- Assisting clients through methods of informal conflict resolution, such as mediation
- Providing training on buying and selling land
- Providing training on writing wills
- Providing financial assistance to purchase certificates for respondents' plots of land

Giving back to the community: the library

To thank our respondents for their continued participation in our research, Elimu opened in 2012 a community library in Mucharaga primary school. The library has been equipped with shelves and books. An Elimu librarian organizes activities for students. Elimu has provided funding for greater security measures and electricity so that we can now begin fundraising for computers. Once computers have been installed, Elimu hopes to create an online tutoring partnership between the students at Mucharaga and students at McGill.

INTERN'S DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Intern will be hosted by Elimu, which comprises the office manager (a McGill student based there for the year) and six Kenyan fieldworkers.

The intern will be expected to support the office manager as well as the activities of the evaluation unit. In particular, these may include:

- Working closely with the other evaluation field officers in the collection, electronic entering, or cleaning of survey data
- Working closely with Kituo Cha Sheria and Elimu's paralegals on the provision of legal aid to participants

- Undertaking qualitative interviews on relevant topics, such as informal conflict resolution mechanisms
- Working closely with Elimu's paralegals to provide trainings to community members
- Assisting Professor Chemin with research for various related projects
- Providing basic computer training to local staff
- Writing grants for Elimu, or partners such as Kituo Cha Sheria
- Fundraising for the library to acquire computers and organizing the Muchagara/McGill tutoring partnership
- Organizing activities in the library in collaboration with the librarian and primary school teachers

The precise duties will be determined in discussion with the intern and depend on the organizational needs during that period and the interest and expertise of the intern.

Duties and projects may not be as listed. These will depend on the needs of the host organization.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must fulfill Faculty of Arts requirements as outlined in the Handbook for Interns at www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/forms
- U2, U3 or graduate (MA, PhD) McGill Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Education student
- Minimum CGPA of 2.7
- The student must be registered as a full-time-student when applying for the internship and be entering or be enrolled in their third or fourth-year of undergraduate level studies, or be enrolled as a masters or PhD student.

HOST ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

Suitable interns should:

- Have practical backgrounds/interests in one or more of the following areas: community/participatory development, economics, law, computer science. An interest in statistics and econometrics is a plus. Technical knowledge of Excel, Access, and/or STATA is appreciated.
- Have good interpersonal skills and experience working in teams
- Be excited to interact with local community members
- Be someone who takes initiative
- Demonstrated cultural sensitivity and interest
- Have experience living abroad, specifically in a developing country, is an asset
- Interns are required to conduct public engagement activities on campus and/or in their community, upon their return to Canada

The intern's duties and projects may not be as listed. These will depend on the needs of the host organization.

DATES: The intern can expect to work twelve weeks between the beginning of May and the end of July 2015.

HOURS: This is flexible depending on activities, but is normally 35-40 hours per week.

REMUNERATION: Unpaid. Successful applicants may be eligible to apply for Faculty of Arts Internship Awards. See <http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/awards/apply> for more information.

COSTS: The intern is responsible for all costs associated with the internship including transportation, accommodations, etc.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Preparing travel arrangements to and from the internship host community is the responsibility of the intern.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Finding suitable lodging during the internship is the responsibility of the intern. Should there be vacancies in the rooms within the office building, Elimu may be able to provide accommodation for the intern. However, this is not guaranteed.

HOW TO APPLY: Students must complete the online Arts Internship Application Form <http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/find/mcgill/online-application-form-arts-internship-office-internships>

and submit the following in person to Leacock room 307:

- Official McGill transcript printed in a sealed envelope (note: This must be ordered on Minerva at least two weeks in advance)
- A photocopy of your McGill ID

The AIO will only consider applications received from students' official McGill e-mail accounts

Please Note:

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. At that time, you may be asked to come in for an interview. The Arts Internship Office will then transmit the selected applications to the host organization, which will ultimately be responsible for the selection of the candidate(s).

If you feel you have experienced barriers that have had an impact on your academic performance and wish to highlight these to the selection committee, the documents or comments will be taken into consideration in the application process.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 24nd, 2014

INTERNSHIP TRAINING MODULE: Successful candidates are required to attend all Faculty of Arts Interns Information Sessions and Workshops listed at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/calendar>. These include the mandatory AIO Interns Meeting held on March 12, 2015 for all AIO interns.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS OUTSIDE OF CANADA:

WORKSHOPS:

Successful candidates are required to attend the following sessions:

- Faculty of Arts Interns Information Session – Mid-March 2015
- Cross-Cultural Workshop – March 2015
- International Internship Experience Panel – April 2015
- University-Wide International Travel Pre-Departure Session – April 2015
- International Internship Debriefing Session – September 2015

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

All applicants should consult the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) Travel Reports for the internship host country prior to applying for this internship.

http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp

Traveling, living and working abroad can involve certain risks to your health and safety that differ from your home country. These may include: crime, political/social instability, tropical diseases/infections, extreme weather conditions, poor infrastructure, etc.

The Arts Internship Office cannot guarantee the safety of any intern in their host country. It is up to the student to fully assess and prepare for any health or security risks that may be involved in pursuing this internship. Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential risks with their family prior to applying.

Applicants must ensure that they are physically and mentally capable of successfully completing an internship in the internship host country. The Arts Internship Office may request a doctor's attestation that an applicant is sufficiently healthy to complete an internship.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Interns are responsible for informing themselves of what entry requirements are required to visit and work as an intern in the internship host country. These may include a visa, work permit, passport valid for at least 6 months after entry, and proof of certain vaccinations.

The intern is responsible for acquiring all necessary documents in time for the beginning of their internship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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