International Human Rights Internships Program

Application Package

2018

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# Before you apply

A good knowledge of the Program, its requirements, and our partner organizations is essential for applicants. Consequently, we invite you to do the following:

1. Attend the information session on September 29th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in NCDH 200
2. Review the Program’s web pages, including the student blogs, current internships, and FAQs for applicants’ sections.
3. Contact previous interns to obtain information about specific placements and the Program as a whole. They will be more than happy to help.
4. Think carefully before you apply; applicants are expected to follow through the entire process once they submit an application.

# Application contents

Applications for summer 2017 internships are due **Monday, October 23th, 2017** at **noon.** Please submit them electronically as separate PDF documents to [hrinternships.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:hrinternships.law@mcgill.ca) with a cc to nandini.ramanujam@mcgill.ca. Applications should be addressed to Professor Nandini Ramanujam, Executive Director, Centre of Human Rights & Legal Pluralism.

Interviews will commence in mid-November. Short-listed candidates will be invited to a 10-15-minute interview with a 3-person panel.

Applications consist of the following:

## Detailed CV, including a reference

Please provide us with a detailed CV. Remember not to include grades, GPA or rankings in this document. This document should contain the contact information of a reference, preferably within the Faculty of Law.

## Short answer essay questions

Applicants are asked to submit three brief responses to the following questions. Please do not exceed the word limit indicated in parentheses. If you are interested in a specific internship, you may focus your responses on those placements; however, we encourage you to demonstrate broad interest in human rights. Keep in mind that these short responses will form part of the assessment of writing ability.

1. What does human rights work mean to you? (150 words)
2. What do you hope to take away from the experience as an intern at a human rights organization? (150 words)
3. Visit the McGill Human Rights Internship Program blog page:

<http://blogs.mcgill.ca/humanrightsinterns/>

How would you respond to unforeseen challenges during your internship? Please refer to ideas expressed in one or several blogs in your response. (300 words).

# Evaluation of applications

The Selection Committee will consider applications on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of initiative, dynamism, and ability to work independently;
2. Clear interest in engaging with human rights;
3. Relevant paid or unpaid work experience;
4. Excellent writing and communication skills;
5. Other relevant extra-curricular activities.

# Requirements table

The following internships require certain competencies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Essential** | **Desired** |
| Inter-American Court of Human Rights | Strong written Spanish language skills (i.e. capable of legal writing in Spanish) | Excellent writing and research skills |
| Ateneo Centre for Human Rights |  | Knowledge of public international law |
| Human Rights Watch | Knowledge of international criminal and humanitarian law |  |
| The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network |  | Knowledge of criminal law, constitutional law; independent research skills |
| Cambodian League for the Promotion & Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO) | Strong writing skills | Interest and knowledge of civil society advocacy / interest in social movements; general knowledge of HR law |
| Equitas | French language skills | Excellent organizational skills and ability to work in a team |
| Avocats Sans Frontières | French language skills | Familiarity with international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and international organizations |
| Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services | Knowledge of criminal law | Knowledge of criminal procedure, aboriginal law, and family Law |
| Disability Rights International | Spanish language skills | Demonstrated commitment to disability rights; knowledge of human rights law |
| Disability Rights Watch |  | Demonstrated commitment to disability rights; knowledge of human rights law |
| Center for Health, Human Rights and Development |  | Knowledge of human rights law, interest for public health and or medical law |
| Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa | Knowledge of public international law | French/English, Portuguese is a plus; knowledge of issues in international development |
| Oceans Beyond Piracy – One Earth Foundation | Knowledge of, public international law; strong research and writing skills | Interest in maritime law and maritime piracy. |
| Our Secure Future Program (Women, Peace & Security) – One Earth Foundation | Knowledge of gender issues and public international law; strong research and writing skills | Knowledge of international development, political science, international relations, peace and security studies, or other relevant fields. |
| OEF Research & Development – One Earth Foundation | Knowledge of public international law; strong research and writing skills | Knowledge of international development, political science, international relations, peace and security studies, or other relevant fields. |
| Mohawk Council of Akwesasne | Knowledge of aboriginal law; **valid passport for travel to the US and valid driver’s license** | Experience working with First Nations; access to a vehicle will greatly facilitate transportation for this internship |
| L’organisation Aswat Nissa (Voix de femmes) | English and French language skills | Demonstrated interest in North African and Middle Eastern affairs; preference for basic Arabic language skills |
| National Human Rights Council of Morocco | English and French language skills | Demonstrated interest in North African and Middle Eastern affairs; preference for basic Arabic language skills |
| Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, Budapest |  | Demonstrated commitment to disability rights; knowledge of international human rights law |
| Canadian Civil Liberties Association |  | Knowledge of Canadian human rights and civil liberties law |
| Yukon Human Rights Commission |  | Strong research skills; experience in a legal clinic |