INTERNSHIP WITH
the Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) Project:
A Partnership between McGill University &
The African Conservation Centre (ACC) in East Africa
SUMMER 2016

POSITION: Intern/Research Assistant

LOCATION: Nairobi, Kenya with possible posting to other partner organizations in Kenya and Tanzania

DESCRIPTION OF HOST ORGANIZATION: The I-CAN program is a partnership project involving a rich network of collaborators and partners from universities, research institutions and NGOs in Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S., the Netherlands, and Germany. The project looks into governance and environmentality in the conservation of rangelands, wetlands and forests of the East African savannah, especially in the borderlands between Kenya and Tanzania where the world’s greatest concentration of biodiversity and its most significant repository of wildlife lies. The I-CAN research team addresses the challenge of combining protection of biodiversity with strengthened livelihoods, whether through recognizing local rights over resources, livelihood diversification, or stimulation of a new green, post-oil economy, including ecotourism. A major goal of the research is to identify the most effective designs for effective future Community-Based Conservation programs by examining the impacts of ongoing conservancy experiments on community livelihoods and members’ attitudes and practices towards natural resources. On the basis of the results obtained, critical issues of public policy – at local, national and global levels – regarding the rights and obligations of communities in managing and utilizing the natural resources on which communities depend, will be assessed. Therefore, the I-CAN project addresses in depth the conundrum of whether often-indigenous community members should be included in the management of protected areas and in conservation enterprises, as partners and stakeholders.

The African Conservation Centre, based in Nairobi, Kenya, is an independent nonprofit conservation organization. Founded in the 1970s by a small group of Kenyan nationals associated with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the organization is an African conservation hub with significant international recognition. The ACC is guided by its vision to conserve biodiversity in East Africa and beyond through collaborative application of scientific and indigenous knowledge, improved livelihoods and good governance through development of local institutions. As a result, the ACC has become a pioneer in community-based conservation, ecosystem monitoring, ecotourism, and biodiversity informatics by integrating knowledge, environment and livelihoods through cutting edge ecological research and community-based conservation practices that bring together the people and resources needed for long-term solutions.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERN:

- Assist the I-CAN coordinator in research team coordination and communications. This could include report and newsletter writing, compiling content for website integration, and managing email and telephone communications with specific partner organizations;
- As needed, assist in data collection activities under the supervision of ACC and a partner organization, such as household survey implementation and interviews;
- Write funding applications and reports for partner organizations as needed;
- Contribute to the organization of various project-related workshops, including Participatory Video workshops;
- Write a personal research paper related to project activities (for students returning in the fall, this research paper will be submitted for credit).

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

HOST ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Strong interest in learning about issues around community conservation in East Africa
- Willingness to study Swahili either in preparation for, or during, the internship
- Some academic background in issues related to conservation and/or development
• Strong writing skills, ideally with grant writing experience
• Demonstrated leadership skills
• Strong inter-personal and communication skills, ability to work in a team
• Ability to take initiative and work/complete tasks with little supervision

HOURS: Full-time, normally 35-40 hours per week.

The Internship will run from May 9th to August 1st, 2016.

REMUNERATION: If the internship is 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.

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


ELIGIBILITY:
• McGill Faculty of Arts student completed 60 credits
• Minimum CGPA of 2.7
• Returning to McGill in the fall following the internship
• Students must fulfill Faculty of Arts requirements as outlined in the Handbook for Interns at www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/forms

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.

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 which have had an impact on your academic performance and wish to highlight these to the selection committee, the documents/comments will be taken into consideration.

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WORKSHOPS: Successful candidates are required to attend the following sessions:
• Faculty of Arts Interns Meeting (All internships)
• Cross-Cultural Workshop (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• International Travel Pre-Departure Session (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• International Internship Debriefing Session (Internships outside of Canada, the U.S & Europe)
• Success in a Professional Environment (Internships in an office setting)

HEALTH AND SAFETY: All applicants should consult the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFATD) 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.