

# International Human Rights Internships Program

## Application Package

2016



McGill Centre for  
Human Rights and  
Legal Pluralism

# Contents

I. Before you apply.....	2
II. Application contents.....	2
a) Cover letter .....	3
b) Detailed CV, including a reference .....	3
c) Short answer essay questions.....	4
III. Evaluation of applications.....	4
IV. Requirements table .....	5

## I. 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 October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm in room 312.
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.

## II. Application contents

Applications for summer 2016 internships are due **Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 at noon**. Please submit them electronically, as a single PDF document if possible, to

[hrinternships.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:hrinternships.law@mcgill.ca) with a cc to [marika.gilessamson@mcgill.ca](mailto:marika.gilessamson@mcgill.ca) . Applications should be addressed to Marika Giles Samson, Interim Program Director.

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:

a) **Cover letter**

Students are expected to consult the current internships page and research partner organizations before drafting their cover letter. Students may address their applications toward a particular internship placement based on geographic location, subject interest, or type of work, but they are not required to do so. In fact, we encourage you to demonstrate broad interest in human rights in your applications.

The cover letter should include a discussion of skills and experience that qualify the applicant for the IHRIP. Applicants are invited to provide information about relevant language skills and course work. Please do NOT include grades, grade point averages, or ranking on either the cover letter or the curriculum vitae.

If you are interested in specific internships, please highlight skills and experiences that qualify you for the position. Please refer to the current internships and the table below page for more details about the positions and required skills.

Applicants are also encouraged to contact previous interns in order to obtain valuable information about the internships.

b) **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.

### c) 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 at a specific internship(s), 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. Please include your responses following your cover letter and CV.

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).

## III. 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.

#### IV. 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	Knowledge of criminal law	Knowledge of criminal procedure,

Legal Services		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	Knowledge of public international law; strong research and writing skills	Interest in maritime law
One Earth Foundation (general)	Knowledge of public international law; strong research and writing skills	
Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (CRG) – Calcutta	Strong research and writing skills	
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne	Knowledge of aboriginal law; <b><u>valid passport for travel to the US and valid driver's license</u></b>	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