

Kaillie Winston - United We Stand: An Internship with the United Nations Human Rights Council - TPG Proposal – Fall 2015

The summer before my junior year at Ohio Wesleyan University I interned in Paris, France with an organization that helps recover victims of female genital mutilation. With that organization, I attended one Human Rights Council conference in Geneva, Switzerland and witnessed the panel speak about the current challenges in ending and processes in fighting against FGM. The women with whom I worked encouraged me to apply for an internship with the United Nations Human Rights Council alongside an officer of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. I did apply and I now have the opportunity to contribute to the fight for human rights with the United Nations, which I see as a responsibility to step up to the plate and improve and gain skills; these are skills that I have gained at Ohio Wesleyan University and skills that I have yet to acquire from experience.

Of the 193 member states of the United Nations, there are 47 member states in the Human Rights Council. Issues handled by this council include violence against women, human trafficking, children's rights, and racial discrimination, among others. I can be one of the few students fighting for human rights with this council.

United We Stand: An Internship with the United Nations Human Rights Council

Part I: Purpose

My goal is to complete a two-month long internship for the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland along side an officer of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Adwoa Kufuor. By fulfilling these goals, the purpose of this internship is to gain professional experience fighting for human rights.

Objectives

- To use this internship to gain experience in the field that I plan to make a career
- To improve fluency and make me a stronger French major
- To continue to build my writing skills that I have developed as an English major
- To use the knowledge gained from this internship toward lessons on topics of gender roles, racism, sexism, and education in my French and English classes

Part II: Description

I will complete this internship with the head of the Human Rights section of the United Nations, Ms. Kufuor. Under Ms. Kufuor's guidance, I will focus on violence against women. I met Ms. Kufuor at the United Nations Human Rights 29 event in Geneva, Switzerland this past summer, while I was interning for the Clitoris Retoration Fund. I recorded the minutes and wrote an article on this event and shared them with the panel. Due to my writing skills, Ms. Kufuor offered me a traineeship with the United Nations, a two-month long internship, which takes place at the Palace of Nations in Geneva. It is required that anyone applying to the United Nations for a career has performed at least one traineeship. If I can go to Geneva to carry out this internship, I will be one step closer in the competitive field to achieving a career in the United Nations.

My French and English Literature majors are linked with the location, task, and skills required for this experience. French and English are the two required languages the United Nations, and they are two of the most common languages in Geneva, Switzerland. I am an advanced proficient French speaker and writer after eight years in French courses. My skills include my experience as an intern in Paris, France. I completed an internship last summer for two months with the Clitoris Restoration Fund, a fund that enables victims of female genital mutilation to receive clitoris restoration surgery. With my coworkers of the Clitoris Restoration Fund, I attended the United Nations Human Rights Council 29 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland and took the official minutes for the event.

The task of this internship, to fight for human rights, go hand in hand with my experience as I currently have an internship with the head of the Inter-African Committee, for which I read and respond to child protection system policies of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). I am also currently on the planning committee for the upcoming International Human Rights Conference, scheduled to take place on February 6 in Geneva, Switzerland. Both of these positions require me to read, analyze, and review documents in English and French. Coupled with the skills that I have gained in my French and English Literature courses at Ohio Wesleyan University, such as writing clearly and concisely, analyzing and comprehending texts, translating words and ideas, and thinking critically, I will put theory into practice with this grant.

Part III: Evaluation, Assessment, and Sharing

I will document all of the notes, articles, and emails that I write during my internship with the United Nations, and add them to a portfolio. Once I have compiled all of my work into my portfolio, I will bring it back to Ohio Wesleyan University and present it to my peers, faculty, and staff. The evaluation of my

presentation will be based on how informative my presentation is, as well as how successfully I educate my peers, faculty, and staff on my summer work.

Part IV: Personal Statement

This project is important to me because I can shadow a professional to learn how to improve humanity and simultaneously apply my skills in communication with English Literature and French. I will be able to quench my curiosity of other cultures, as I will be surrounded by the various cultures in and around the United Nations and Switzerland. This will further expand my knowledge and acceptance of others' beliefs and values.

I am motivated to take on this internship because of the people I have worked with and how much I discovered about myself in my previous internship. I formed bonds with Dr. Levin, Ms. Koonce, and Ms. Adebayou as I showed them that I genuinely cared about our fight against FGM through my writing and my work ethic. They encouraged me to apply for this internship because they knew that I was capable. I discovered that I am able to work with such distinguished women who fight for human rights every day, and so I am motivated to work for the United Nations because I am confident that I can do the job well.

I am prepared to complete this internship with a few tools including my laptop and my camera. I will keep all of my work on file and present it to my family and friends when I return. Undoubtedly, I will be enlightened by what I learn at the United Nations and I will enlighten others with this information when I bring it back to Ohio Wesleyan University. From my previous internship, for example, I learned about FGM and the impact that this practice has on women worldwide. I spoke with the first lawyer to prosecute against FGM and learned about the stigmatization that people fighting this cultural practice can endure. I was able to bring this information back to Ohio Wesleyan University and enlighten students. In this upcoming internship, I might learn about the many cultural stigmas attached to poverty, race, education, etc. I will be able to meet people from these cultures, listen to their own testimonies, and bring this information back to Ohio Wesleyan University students.

This internship will clearly incorporate Ohio Wesleyan's core values as a liberal arts university: development and understanding of oneself, responsibility of an individual in society, and appreciation of others. The United Nations brings a broad expanse of cultures and nations together to appreciate one another's values. I will gain responsibility, as I will have a duty to perform every day on behalf of human rights, rights for every human on earth. I will develop and understand myself because I will gain an even better work ethic, how to better distribute wealth, and how to overcome some trial and error. I will appreciate the people I work with because we will share a passion for helping others in need. I will appreciate the people I work for because I will recognize my own fortune, helping me to grow as an individual.

Itinerary

On June 3, I will leave from my study abroad location in Grenoble, France on Eurostar. I will arrive in Geneva, Switzerland on the same day and begin working on June 4. The day that I arrive I will meet with Ms. Kufour to speak about my role in the office. For the following two months I will take notes, respond to emails, and write articles for Ms. Kufour on a daily basis. Travel throughout the city and outside of the city will also be required in order to meet with members of the United Nations and discuss current issues and resolutions. During each meeting or conference I will be required to take notes. We will meet victims of domestic and sexual violence who currently work for the United Nations as ambassadors, journalists, and lawyers. On August 4, I will depart from Geneva, Switzerland and return to Newark airport.

Schedule

June 4:

- Leave from Grenoble, France at 3:00pm

June 5:

- Arrive in Geneva, Switzerland at 6:00pm
- Take bus from Geneva Euro Rail station to youth hostel

August 4:

- Depart from Geneva airport
- Return to Newark EWR airport

Theory-to-Practice Grant Proposal Budget
United We Stand: An Internship with the United Nations Human Rights Council

Transportation	Type/Quantity of Tickets	Total Cost
Eurostar Train	1 one-way ticket from Grenoble to Geneva	\$50
Airfare	1 one-way ticket direct from Geneva Airport to Newark EWR Airport with United Airlines	\$1,300
Transportation in Switzerland	Swiss Travel Pass (Bus, Train, Tram, Taxi, Boat)	\$2,000
Transportation outside of Switzerland	Bus, Train, Eurostar, Plane	\$1,000
Insurance	\$12/week	\$50

Lodging	Monthly Cost	Total Cost
Airbnb Apartment	\$1,500/month	\$3,000
Cleaning Fee	\$50/month	\$100

Meals	Cost Per Meal	Total Cost
Breakfast	\$7	\$441
Lunch	\$25	\$1,575
Dinner	\$20	\$1,260

Total Expense	\$10,776
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