



Centre for
Refugee Research



**Centre for Refugee Research
and
Master of Social Development**

**School of Social Sciences and International Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2011



Refugee women from Burma on Thai/Burma border



UNSW | Arts and
Social Sciences

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MASTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND
CENTRE FOR REFUGEE RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS 2011

As part of the Master of Social Development a number of international internships are offered each year. Students can enrol in these as an Internship Course or as a Project in either Session 1 or Session 2. Summer session internships may also be available upon request.

In 2011, internship trips are planned to Geneva in June, to India in November and to the Thai Burma border in November/December.

These trips are self funded by students and the cost includes a contribution towards the administrative costs and the costs for refugee participants. The cost ranges from \$4000 to \$5,800 all inclusive depending on the location. Except where noted, costs for internships are to be confirmed.

Tasks undertaken by students include participation in training courses, project development, community engagement and support. In June there is also an opportunity to participate in meetings of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva to and undertake policy research, advocacy and documentation for these meetings.

Examples of internships held previously include United Nations advocacy training and follow up work, community based advocacy training, community based human rights training, income generation, marketing, training and project development, and counseling training and follow up projects conducted with refugee communities from Burma in Thailand and India. For Geneva, students worked to prepare for international advocacy campaigns and for the establishment of an international working group on the protection of refugee women and girls. They also acted as documenters for a major United Nations meeting.

Student response to the internships has been extremely positive.

"It was a life changing experience."

"The internship allowed me to develop my advocacy skills and navigate the UN system."

"Both internships exceeded my expectations in terms of the skills I acquired and the access we were granted to both senior staff at UNHCR and the opportunity to work alongside refugees in India."

"Invaluable! I would really like to emphasise that I don't think I would have the job I currently have if I had not undertaken the internship with the CRR."

Internship places are competitive and dependent on a high credit average (70% and over in all work). A proven interest in refugee issues is required for the Geneva Internships. Preference in the Geneva internship will be given to students with experience in policy analysis or some knowledge of refugee law. This opportunity is available to all students across the university undertaking a related course. However in cases of high demand, preference will be given to students enrolled in an Internship or Project course as part of the Master of Social Development, Masters of Arts Development Studies or Social Justice Law programs.

To apply please complete the attached expression of interest form and email it to Effie Mitchell at e.mitchell@unsw.edu.au by the dates indicated for your preferred internship. Interviews will be held in March.

**Option One: UNHCR - Geneva, attending the ExCoM Standing Committee and Annual NGO Consultations with the High Commissioner for Refugees
14 June to 1 July 2011 (To be confirmed)**

Students will apply to take this internship as a Session 1 or Session 2 Internship or Project.

This internship involves a three week block of time from Tuesday 14 June to Friday 1 July 2011 (exact dates to be confirmed in March). In addition, interns will be required to attend a series of training days and meetings in preparation for Geneva. These will begin in March.



The first four days of the formal Internship take place in Australia at the University of New South Wales. These will involve the interns as active participants and documenters in the 4 day Refugee Conference to be held at the University of NSW from Tuesday 14 June to Friday 17 June 2011 (see flier attached). The interns will then travel to Geneva on Saturday 18 June 2011 to attend the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting and the Annual Consultations with NGOs. In Geneva the interns will work with the staff team from the Centre for Refugee Research to finalise the outcomes from the Sydney Conference for formal presentation to UNHCR and international NGOs.

Tasks involve:

- Passing a pre-departure skills assessment and all hurdle requirements.
- Documenting the 4 day refugee conference in Australia and working with the conference workshop convenors to prepare a series of individual reports on key topics for presentation at UNHCR Geneva. Topics will include: Regional Refugee Protection, Refugee Women and Girls, Refugee Settlement and Resettlement, IDPs and Climate Change related displacement, Refugee Youth, and LGBTI refugee protection.
- Supporting the refugee representatives with background research, report writing and fundraising.
- Attending **all** pre departure training days and relevant conference meetings. These will be held monthly from early 2011 and more frequently immediately prior to the conference. Each intern will be linked to one of the conference sub committees or conference partners.
- Lobbying and documenting at United Nations meeting (in some cases representing the Centre for Refugee Research).
- Contributing to the substantial report from the meeting.
- Participating in two training / debrief days in Geneva.

On return:

- All interns must contribute to the preparation of the Final Report and a 1500 word analysis paper.

All participants must arrive in Geneva on the arranged date – no late arrivals or partial attendance will be considered.

Geneva Costs:

Excluding airfare: \$3000 - Totally inclusive of UN accreditation, 14 nights twin share hostel accommodation, meals, local transport, special events, travel insurance¹, project coordination and administration.

- *Please note: student meals will be provided free of charge at the 4 day Sydney conference however accommodation and travel costs are not covered.*

Estimated return airfare cost to Geneva is \$2,800

Estimated total cost - \$5,800 (Note: students may book their airfares independently)

Option 2: Thai Burma Border - November/December 2011 (Dates to be confirmed)

Students will apply to take this internship as a Session 2 Internship or Project.

More detailed information on the Thai-Burma border internship will be available in early March.



Tasks involve:

- Passing a pre-departure skills assessment and all hurdle requirements.
- Attending all pre-departure training workshops at UNSW. Sessions are usually held in the evenings. Dates to be confirmed.
- Assisting in the preparation of training materials, background research and fundraising activities.
- Participating as documenters and facilitators in a series of training courses with refugees, including:
 - income generation and marketing
 - human rights and gender
 - a community response to violence against women
 - counselling
- Participating in training / debrief days in Thailand.

On Return:

- All interns must contribute to the preparation of a Final Report and/or funding proposal and a 1500 word analysis paper.

All participants must arrive in Chiangmai on the arranged date – no late arrivals or partial attendance will be considered.

Thailand Estimated Total Cost: \$4000-\$4500. Full costings available in early March.



Thai/Burma Border Refugee women working with UNSW and UNHCR staff

Option 3: India – November 2011

An internship is planned to New Delhi, India in November. Details are currently being confirmed with our partners in India.

Further information will be available in March. If you would like to receive updates on this internship opportunity please fill in the expression of interest form and we will arrange to send you further details as soon as they become available.

Application Procedure

Applications for Geneva internship due 28 February 2011.

Applications for Thailand/India internships due 15 March 2011.

Please lodge your application (form below) with Effie Mitchell, Centre for Refugee Research, Room G37, Morven Brown, UNSW, NSW 2052. An electronic version of your application should also be sent via email to e.mitchell@unsw.edu.au

Interviews for all internships will be held in March.

PLEASE NOTE:

There is **NO FUNDING** available through the university for these internships and the costs do not include Course Fees.

- Only students who are enrolled in an approved UNSW Course will be able to participate with the approval of that Course Coordinator. This can include courses in International Studies, Politics, Medicine and Law. Students will register as interns with the Centre for Refugee Research. It is expected that their course assessment be linked to the project on which they are working.
- Interns must complete all pre departure tasks including passing hurdle requirements in order to proceed with the internship.
- Final costs for internships will be confirmed in early March. Deposits are required for all trips and these are non-refundable. **A deposit of \$500 is required for all internships by mid March.**
- Whilst on the internship students are covered by UNSW insurance, however this policy does not include coverage for laptops, cameras or cash.
- Once enrolled, students will receive more detailed information on their chosen internship including assessable requirements, meeting dates, travel options and costs and tasks.
- Further details for both the Thailand and India internships will be available in March.
- For further information on any of the intern opportunities listed above please email Effie Mitchell at e.mitchell@unsw.edu.au



United Nations, Geneva

MSD and Centre for Refugee Research Internships 2011

Expression of Interest

Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Email: _____

Program in which you are enrolled (please circle):

Master of Social Development MA Development Studies Other (specify) _____

Courses you have completed or are currently completing:

Internship option (please circle): Geneva India Thai-Burma Border

Do you wish to undertake (please circle):

- a. An Internship as a course which is part of your program of study
- b. A Project

Please attach:

1. One page letter outlining your relevant experience, academic performance to date and your interest in undertaking an internship as part of the MSD or with the Centre for Refugee Research.
2. A brief CV including details of two referees who can comment on your work experience/academic performance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____