Graduate Student Internships to Improve Labor Standards in Cambodia

Call for Applications (deadline January 26, 2015)

The University of Michigan President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights (PACLSHR) in partnership with the law school's Program for Law and Development in Cambodia announces up to two summer 2015 internship travel awards depending on quality and feasibility of proposed projects with a clear labor standards focus. These internships will provide financial and logistical support of $5000. Internships should be at least 10 weeks with flexible start and end dates.

Awards are open to enrolled graduate students in business, economics, law, snre, political science, public health, public policy, and social work. Preference will be given to students with living and/or working experience in a developing country. Proficiency in Khmer or Cambodian is a plus but not necessary. Students graduating in April 2015 are not eligible.

The award will cover the costs of airfare, housing, visa fees, immunizations, international health insurance and a living stipend that is intended to cover meals, ground transportation, and incidentals. This internship does not pay a salary. Awards will be deposited to the student's account. Applications will be reviewed by a faculty subcommittee.

Applicants are invited to apply for co-support from other funding sources but must disclose additional support received to committee staff within 2 weeks and receive verification that the co-funding amount is permitted. Awardees are required to register their travels in the U-M Travel Registry and sign up for the HTH Health insurance. The PACLSHR committee may request a brief oral or written report at the completion of the experience.

Applicants are encouraged to email questions not answered in this announcement to: InternshipCambodia@umich.edu

Internships in Cambodia offer the opportunity to see and participate in the rebuilding of a society from the ground up. The final demise of the Khmer Rouge movement combined with the completion of several national elections (relatively peaceful, even if subject to other criticisms) means that the country is enjoying real peace for the first time since the 1960's. Cambodia's recent history meant that the country was left with a largely dysfunctional economy and legal and social infrastructure. The country is rapidly changing, not always for the better. A number of organizations which are at work on various aspects of this process are in a position to accept students to work with them as interns. These include human services and legal services organizations, the UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, World Bank, Cambodian government agencies and private human rights organizations with a wide variety of concerns: womens justice issues, juvenile law, labor disputes, land rights, health care, economic development, land management, etc.

Application process: There are no application "forms" as such. Applicants are to submit materials by email to InternshipCambodia@umich.edu

1) An up-to-date CV/resume
2) A brief (less than 2 page) statement in pdf format explaining your interest.
3) One faculty letter of recommendation sent by the faculty to InternshipCambodia@umich.edu
4) Current transcripts. Wolverine Access copies are acceptable for this purpose.

Enter “PACLSHR Cambodia Internship” as the subject line and do not include any additional text in the e-mail. Interviews will be scheduled between February 2-13 with offers immediately thereafter.

Applications with a clear labor standards focus will be of more interest to the review committee. Depending on the number of applicants, students may be requested to submit additional documents during the review period.

Information on Cambodia is available on the web. Some of the web material will help applicants focus their interests and compose more persuasive grant application statements. The sources listed below would be a good start – but only a start. Also below is a list of a number of the host organizations with whom students have worked in the past.

Some Past Intern Placements:

ADHOC
Cambodia MSME Project
Cambodian Defenders Project
Cambodian Women’s Crisis center
Center for Social Development
Community Legal Education Center
DC-Cam
East-West Management Institute
Family Health International
Grassroots Women for Change
GTZ
ILO
Khmer Institute of Democracy
Labor Arbitration Council
Legal Aid of Cambodia
Ministry of Commerce
Ministry of Land Management
Project Enlighten
Royal University of Law and Economics
The World Bank
UNCOCHR
UNDP
UNESCO

Useful websites

http://www.canbypublications.com/phnompenh/ppintro.htm
http://www.moc.gov.kh/
http://www.csdcambodia.org/
http://www.phnompenh.gov.kh/default3.htm
http://www.cambodia.org/
http://www.mpdf.org/d-psd-activities/d1-psd.jsp
http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cb.html#Issues
http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/
http://www.lac.org.kh/
http://www.cchr-cambodia.org/EN/
http://www.phnompenhpost.com/
http://www.mekong.net/cambodia/index.htm
http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/home.view.html
http://www.cambodia.org/index.html
http://www.gocambodia.com/

Reading

Osborne, Milton Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness
Shawcross, William Sideshow
Shawcross, William The Quality of Mercy
Chanda, Nayan Brother Enemy
Chandler, David A History of Cambodia
Kiernan, Ben The Pol Pot Regime
Martin, Marie A. Cambodia
SarDesai, D.R. Southeast Asia
Osborne, Milton Southeast Asia
Fawthrop & Jarvis Getting Away With Genocide?