

Public Health, Psychology, Business/Development, Social Work/Justice Internship in Cape Town, South Africa

Internship Description:

Gain Professional Experience in South Africa!

Open the doors to your future. This is a truly unique internship, offering professional hands-on experiences that most internships cannot offer. You will grow from student and intern to teacher and educator via training, exposure, and research within the underserved communities. Internships are customized to fit the career goals of each person and are personally mentored and trained by the program leadership with expertise in multiple fields.

Make an impact in the lives of others while experiencing your own life-altering journey. The breathtaking city of Cape Town proffers the unique dichotomy of the exceedingly underserved communities scattered among the splendid European-like African city. With seven native languages and remarkably deep-rooted cultures, South Africa is rich in diversity and exceptional complexities. You will be challenged to overcome oppressive barriers such as financial, physical, and mental health of those in the most need. You will be drawn to the underserved South Africans, as they touch deeply into your soul and inspire you to work beyond the capabilities you ever imagined for yourself with a newfound compassion, hope and strength. Your work to overcome the abundant challenges of the township residents is sure to be profoundly rewarding.

This fully-mentored internship program features an array of field work in the fields of:

- Public health
- Social work
- Pre-med/Nursing
- Nutrition
- Mental health/psychology
- Kinesiology/physical therapy
- Anthropology
- Business
- Marketing
- Economics/finance

Interns perform research in the communities alongside established South African NGOs to assess the most prominent and urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations. The research enables the interns to generate workshops, trainings, and educational material that will be highly impactful and fitting to the persistent needs. This is a sustainable approach, enabling the replication of these workshops by the NGOs for future education promotion. Depending on your specific field or interest and work, there are many options for a final culminating project, such as an impact paper to use for advocacy work, assistance innovating a biotechnological device, or preparing a market analysis for a community member trying to break the cycle of poverty and begin a small business.

Examples of Focus Areas:

Public Health

Simply being exposed to and observing health care status in the townships is truly powerful in gaining knowledge and new ways of thinking about the meaning of public health. You will be fascinated to see how health care providers approach and work around a troubled system. You will be inspired by the great strength and respect health care workers have for their clients. Learning experience, exposure, and research of the health care status for the township residents culminates into workshops developed and conducted predominantly by the interns for community members and to train health care workers. The scope of the research is developed directly by the interns under the guidance of the Impilo Phambili program director.

Psychology/Mental Health

Listen to the powerful stories of refugee women who struggle to find their identity in a foreign place with such diverse complexities. This divided South Africa is challenging for refugees as they experience displeasing xenophobia. You will form close relationships with these women and become eager to empower them and encourage personal growth and development. Learning experience, exposure, and research of the mental health status for refugee women in South Africa will culminate into workshops developed and conducted predominantly by the interns for the community members. The scope of the research is developed directly by the interns under the guidance of the Impilo Phambili program director.

Business/Development

Create a legacy in South Africa while enabling an underserved community member or group to grow beyond poverty and oppression. Interns have the opportunity to work with those interested in starting or expanding a small business. Or assist an NGO with capacity-building or infrastructure, in order to expand their scope and reach of services. Due to very limited resources, interns are challenged to develop innovative methods to launch a project or business. Additionally, our program allocates resources to the project, enabling interns to offer and engage in opportunities that were not previously available to the NGO or community member(s). Work closely and develop everlasting bonds with these amazing, resourceful people reaching to improve quality of life for those in need in Cape Town. Ideas and innovation are generated and put into action by the interns under the guidance and mentorship of the Impilo Phambili program director.

Grow and develop academically, professionally, and personally as you develop an international, professional experience in a developing country, surrounded by natives and foreigners that leave a lasting impression on your life, while helping to shape and open doors to your future.

