Intern Title: Intern, Global Commission on Adaptation  
Internship Length: Four months (May-August 2020)  
Intern Status: Sponsored: University  
Preferred Start Date: May 2020  
If Sponsored, by whom? College Credit  
Anchor Manager: Jonathan Cook  
Dept/Program/Center: Governance Center  
Add'l Jobvite Users: Emma Pearlstone, Carolyn Turkaly  
Additional Info & Comments:  

WRI Overview

World Resources Institute (WRI) is an independent, nonprofit global research organization that turns big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and human well-being. We are working to address six critical challenges that the world must overcome this decade in order to secure a sustainable future for people and the planet: climate change, energy, food, forests, water and sustainable cities.

Internships at WRI provide opportunities for motivated, young professionals to learn from our experts and participate in engaging work at the intersection of environment and development. WRI provides many internship opportunities throughout the year in all our programs and offices. We seek interns with diverse backgrounds and who are passionate about the environment to help us make a direct global impact.

WRI is committed to advancing gender and social equity for human well-being in our mission and applies this principle to our organizational and programmatic practices.

Climate Resilience Practice Overview

Over the last decade, more countries, cities, and communities have sought to protect economic growth and reduce extreme poverty by better managing the impacts of climate change. With the signing of the Paris Agreement, 192 governments agreed to a global goal on adaptation. Current mitigation commitments have reduced the trajectory of emissions to give us a chance to keep global temperature increase to 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Risks associated with this temperature scenario could threaten our ability to reduce poverty, develop sustainably and achieve well-being and security for all. The decisions we make today could lead us toward a more climate resilient future, or they could undermine food, water and energy security for decades to come.

WRI’s Climate Resilience Practice (CRP, located in the Governance Center) seeks to incentivize and support actions that enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change – in a manner that promotes sustainability and gender and social equity. We will do this with a focus on helping countries integrate, or mainstream, adaptation into their development and sector planning (including budgeting) and implementation. We will also do this by helping countries understand whether, when and where transformative approaches to adaptation may be needed to better manage the significant systemic adaptations that will be needed in some circumstances.

Global Commission on Adaptation Overview

WRI through CRP co-manages the Global Commission on Adaptation. Composed of current and former heads of government and leaders from business, philanthropy and civil society, the Commission seeks to elevate the political visibility of adaptation with a strong focus on solutions. The Commission has developed a narrative.
Learning Outcomes

- You will gain in-depth knowledge of international, national and subnational adaptation planning and adaptation principles, key challenges and opportunities

Internship Summary

The Global Commission on Adaptation Intern will assist the Commission and CRP in its work to incentivize and support actions that enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change and will contribute to the Commission’s Year of Action, with a focus on cities action. This could include drafting case studies and other materials to highlight a city’s success or conducting research to identify case studies where similar challenges have been successfully overcome. The Intern could also help to gather and share lessons learned from ours’ and our partners’ in-country experiences at a global stage, further developing good practices in building climate-resilient public and private investment policies, mainstreaming climate-related considerations into actions at every level, and exchanging such knowledge with governments, research organizations, and other partners globally. The Intern may also assist with research on how to promote sustainability and gender and social equity.

The intern will join a team of highly motivated and experienced individuals, including members of WRI’s senior leadership and global experts to support the development and production of outputs and engagement during the “Year of Action”. The intern will learn on the job, and will gain experience with stakeholder engagement, science communication, qualitative research, and project and event management.

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- You will gain in-depth knowledge of international, national and subnational adaptation planning and adaptation principles, key challenges and opportunities
• Illustrative tasks include:
  o Conduct searches and review articles and publications regarding specific aspects of urban climate resilience and adaptation
  o Compile abbreviated notes on publications highlighting main points of literature reviews
  o Assist in mapping the institutional landscape of specific countries’ and cities’ adaptation efforts and relevant policy frameworks
  o Support engagement with partners of the Global Commission on Adaptation, including Commissioners, country government partners, Action Track partners, and civil society and youth organizations
  o Support development of monitoring and accountability frameworks for the Action Tracks, and prepare reports on progress of Action Track implementation
  o Provide event planning support to organize Global Commission events and speaking opportunities, and prepare outreach and engagement materials
  o Provide administrative support as needed

• You will have the opportunity to maximize your learning opportunities across WRI by participating in seminars and presentations offered by a wide range of programs, centers and initiatives, including the Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

**Internship Qualifications**

• Must receive college credit or stipend through university
• Background in public policy, international affairs/relations and development, climate change issues
• Strong interest in CRP’s work on climate change adaptation policies, challenges, and opportunities
• Background and interest in urban planning and policy appreciated
• Flexible multi-tasker and able to problem solve in high-pressure situations
• Dedicated, hardworking, punctual, dependable, and a great teammate
• Qualitative and quantitative research skills, with the ability to express complex concepts clearly and concisely; strong writing skills preferred
• A self-motivated learner with a willingness to take on new challenges as required
• Interest in strategy development and building new programs
• Confidence and independence to take initiative, with the awareness and judgement to seek help when needed
• Exposure to literature review, online search tools, reference managers and word processing and document processing tools

**General Internship Requirements**

• Applicants must have personal health insurance coverage.
• U.S. work authorization is required for this opportunity. WRI does not sponsor interns for visas.

Stipend

University Sponsored: This position is dependent on the student receiving college credit from their university. WRI does not offer stipend for this internship.

Duration

This is a four-month Summer internship with flexible start and end dates (May to August) based on the student’s availability and need for the project.

How to Apply

Applicants must apply through the WRI Careers portal to be considered.

The World Resources Institute (http://www.wri.org) is an environmental and development research and policy organization that creates solutions to protect the Earth and improve people’s lives. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, it is WRI’s policy to recruit, hire, and provide opportunities for advancement in all job classifications without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, parental status, protected veteran status, or disability. WRI’s global agenda requires a staff that is diverse – with respect to race, gender, cultural, and international background. Diverse perspectives and experience enhance the way WRI selects and approaches issues, as well as the creativity and applicability of WRI’s policy research and analysis. WRI, therefore, encourages applications from U.S. minorities, persons from other countries (especially developing nations), and from women of all backgrounds.