

Haiti Justice Alliance Internship: Supporting Sustainable Change for Haiti

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Objectives

- To support the mission of the Haiti Justice Alliance by supporting sustainable structural changes for Haiti:
- Raise awareness about Haiti on St. Olaf and Carleton campuses in a collaborative effort of the Haiti Justice Alliance student advisory board
- Compile resources about the social, political, and economic history of Haiti as well as approaches to international social change to serve as background for potential interns.
- Identify costs and establish guidelines for an academic internship in Haiti.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Statue of the unknown slave, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Why Haiti?

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere
- 80% of all Haitians live in poverty
- Only 53% of Haitians over the age of 15 can read and write
- The average life expectancy in Haiti is 61 years
- There are 3,000 registered NGO's and 10,000 total charities in Haiti yet little measurable progress has been made

Student Advisory Board

- Serve as a link between Carleton, St. Olaf, and the Haiti Justice Alliance.
- Made up of students from Carleton and St. Olaf in a collaborative effort utilizing resources from both colleges.
- Create awareness about issues and problems affecting Haiti.
- Responsible for using the resources compiled to educate themselves and their communities in order to further the mission of the Haiti Justice Alliance.
- A group from which to select and develop potential interns.
- Responsible for using the resources to complete an internship orientation and guidelines for the intern.

Rubble after 2010 earthquake, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Internship Guidelines

- Purpose: To obtain practical and valuable experience, apply skills and knowledge, and gain exposure to various career opportunities.
- Complete all aspects of the internship during the specified dates, comply with general rules, policies, and procedures of partner organization.
- Work conscientiously under the direction of the supervisor assigned by the organization and comply with the rules of confidentiality.
- Remain open and sensitive to the culture in which they are immersed.
- Responsible for educating themselves prior to their departure about Haiti's history, culture, etc.
- Identify academic interests to incorporate into effective experiential learning in Haiti.
- Set concrete expectations and goals to accomplish in Haiti with and for the partner organization.

Internship Budget

- Round-trip flight \$850
- Living expenses



Haitians protest UN response to cholera outbreak, Mirebalais, Haiti

Resources on Haiti

- History:
 - *The Uses of Haiti* by Paul Farmer
 - *Haiti: State Against Nation* by Michel-Rolph Trouillot
- Politics:
 - *Damming the Flood: Haiti and the Politics of Containment* by Peter Hallward
 - *In the Parish of the Poor: Writings from Haiti* by Jean-Bertrand Aristide
- Social & legal justice:
 - *Pathologies of Power* by Paul Farmer
 - *An Unbroken Agony* by Randall Robinson
- Health:
 - *Aids and Accusation* by Paul Farmer
 - *Infections*



Children served by the What If? Foundation, Haiti

International Service

Resources to explore U.S. policy abroad, globalization, cultural sensitivity, asset-based research and ethical concerns of pursuing international service work:

- St. Olaf and Carleton faculty familiar with the challenges of international service work
- Foundation for Sustainable Development - www.fsdinternational.org

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References

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