Undergraduates at Brandeis University are seeking internship sites for the Sorensen Fellowship, a program of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. Since 1998, the Sorensen Fellowship program provides a stipend to Brandeis undergraduates to cover their basic travel and room and board expenses while participating in the internship. In addition, a small stipend (up to $500 per student for 8 weeks) is available to the host organization, to compensate the intern’s supervisor or cover other expenses. Host organizations are NOT expected to pay student interns.

Internships should:

- be during May, June, July and/or August of 2016
- be a minimum of eight consecutive weeks, full or part time (at least 25 hours a week)
- be suitable for college undergraduates entering their junior and senior years
- involve the Fellows in hands-on work that will challenge and stimulate them and that will contribute significantly to the work of the organization
- be accessible to students who might only speak English (some students may have additional language skills, but not all students will)
- offer careful and supportive supervision (see below)

As part of the application process, potential Sorensen Fellows will apply to the Brandeis Ethics Center with a few possible organizations in mind. From this applicant pool we will select 6 to 8 Fellows to do internships in organizations in different regions around the world. Of course, the interns will be expected to do whatever is needed by the organization, but we’re also asking them to think of specific contributions they can offer to your work.

Once selected as Fellows, we require students to submit their internship proposal to the one organization that seems like the best fit for their experience and interests, and to obtain a letter of offer from that organization. If you’re interested in hosting the student as an intern, please respond to the student with a letter or email indicating your commitment to working with them. Please include your thoughts about the work the student might do.

In the past, students have been helpful in documenting projects (in writing, photographs, and video), interviewing participants about their experiences (sometimes with the help of translators), doing research, writing funding proposals, doing physical labor, teaching English, setting up websites, and leading activities for youth. In some cases, Fellows might participate in performances, media projects, or seminars and conferences. The work should not require specialized skills and training beyond the undergraduate level.

Students should have a genuine mentor and guide, who will supervise their work, give them guidance, and help facilitate living arrangements. You may serve as the mentor, or you may prefer that someone else in the organization serve in this role. Ideally, the mentor would support the student during non-work hours to make links to other worthwhile organizations, perhaps
doing volunteer work in a variety of settings. Mentors will be asked to complete an evaluation of the intern’s work at the conclusion of the internship.

The mentor should also take steps to help ensure the student’s safety. We are not trying to eliminate risk, but we hope that the mentor will provide enough guidance to minimize the risk that an American college student might face. We trust that the mentor will provide appropriate guidance especially to women about precautions they should take in relation to safety issues that might affect them particularly as women. Please include the supervisor’s contact information in the letter of offer.

This competitive Sorensen Fellowship program draws from among the best students at one of the top universities in the United States. Brandeis students are known for academic excellence combined with a strong passion for social justice. Sorensen Fellows are bright, engaged students, generally excellent writers, with a passion to serve and to make a difference. Host organizations have found that the energy and enthusiasm of these students make a positive contribution to their ongoing work.

The internship is just one part of a three-part experience for Sorensen Fellows. During the spring of 2016, Fellows will take a course to prepare them for the internship and expand their knowledge of the issues. The summer internship is followed by a fall tutorial course, in which the Fellows integrate the spring academic learning with the summer practical experience through close group work with a professor.

To learn more about the program, former students, and former internship sites, visit http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/sorensenfellowship

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