

2012 Sorensen Fellowship**Internship Site Description****International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life****Brandeis University**

Undergraduates at Brandeis University are seeking internship sites for the Sorensen Fellowship, a program of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. Now in its 15th year, 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 June, July and August of 2012
- 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 an internship proposal of their own design, and a specific organization in mind. From this applicant pool we will select six 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.

We ask applicants to submit their internship proposal to the organization and obtain a letter or email of interest from that organization. If you're interested in potentially hosting the student as an intern, please respond to the student with a letter or email indicating your interest in working with them should they receive a Fellowship. Your letter of interest can be brief, but it would be helpful to us if you include your general thoughts about the student's internship proposal. **THIS IS A TENTATIVE INQUIRY**, and we cannot promise that the student will be selected as a Fellow or be able to serve as an intern in your organization.

You may be contacted by more than one student. Feel free to write letters of interest for any that you think might be a match. If you can only make use of one intern, please indicate that in your letter, and we will select the strongest overall applicant.

Your letter of interest will go directly to the student for inclusion in the application. The application deadline for the student to submit all materials to the Ethics Center is November 1, 2011.

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, non-violent political actions, 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 relief work or other 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 students' 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.

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 2012, 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 six 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>

For more information, please contact:

International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life
Brandeis University MS 086 PO Box 549110
Waltham, MA 02454-9110 USA
781-736-8577 FAX 781-736-8561
ethics@brandeis.edu www.brandeis.edu/ethics