

Center for Africana Studies



EVENT

Call for Applications: Undergraduate Research Experience in Chad

This is a call for applications from undergraduates interested in obtaining field research experience in Africa. This research experience is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The principal investigators on the study with which the student would be affiliated are Siba Grovogui (Political Science) and Lori Leonard (Public Health).

The opportunity:

We have an opening for one undergraduate to conduct research in Chad in the summer of 2010 as part of a multi-disciplinary research team. The student who is selected would join an on-going research project on the effects of a major oil and pipeline project (the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project) on the lives and livelihoods of communities in the oilfield region of southwestern Chad. The pipeline project is an extractive industry project that was intended to be a model for development programming. Our multi-disciplinary team has been investigating social, legal, environmental, and health related aspects of its implementation since 2001.

With faculty support and guidance, the selected student will develop and carry out a semi-independent research project as part of this experience. The selected student will work with a research team comprised of faculty from Johns Hopkins and their collaborators at the *Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI)*, the leading medical, public health, and social science research NGO in Chad.

The selected student is expected to participate in fieldwork activities in Chad and to attend daily debriefings that are held in a well enclosed and secure camp where the research team has its base. The student is also required to submit a 15-page final report summarizing the student's experience that will be shared with CSSI and the NSF.

Selection criteria:

The student will be selected competitively on the basis of three criteria: (1) a short statement of interest and discussion of research interests (no more than 5 single-spaced pages); (2) how well the proposed area of concentration and research interest match with our project in Chad; and (3) language competency (please note that the ability to speak French is required).

We will necessarily assist the selected student as they acquaint themselves with research-related procedures including human subjects' clearance and other administrative procedures.

The student will receive a subsidy for a roundtrip economy-class ticket to Chad. Expenses in Chad, including room, board, and local transportation will be provided. Assistance may be available to cover some or all of the students' pre-travel vaccinations.

Please note:

The length of the research would be a minimum of 4 weeks. Travel time would be in July-August.

Applications are due January 15th, 2010. They should be sent electronically to Mary Otterbein at motterb@jhu.edu. Please be advised to indicate Chad Research Experience in the subject line.

No late applications will be reviewed. Decisions will be made by March 1, 2010 to allow the selected student enough time to acquire research clearances.