

Monash Oxfam in South Africa Student Placement Program January – February, 2012

Information Briefing

The Program & Partnership

Monash University and Oxfam Australia have partnered to provide you with the opportunity to gain experience working for local community based organisations in South Africa. The work will be varied and challenging, as will the context. However, through this volunteer placement program you will gain a deeper awareness of the issues affecting people living with HIV and AIDS in South Africa, an understanding of issues related to community development and build invaluable skills and knowledge that can be utilized in ongoing study and/or future careers.

About Oxfam Australia

Oxfam Australia's vision is of a fair world in which people control their own lives, their basic rights are achieved and the environment is sustained. Oxfam works towards increasing the number of people who have a sustainable livelihood, equal rights and status, and safety from conflict and disaster.

Partner organisations for the Student Placement Program

Through the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program in South Africa, Oxfam Australia works with around 40 partner organisations in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces to support some of the country's most vulnerable people and respond to the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS. These organisations are working to ensure people have enough food for an active and healthy life, promoting gender equality and providing care and support, and addressing the needs of orphans and vulnerable children.

Each of the organisations below is a current partner in the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program. Each has hosted Monash students in previous years, and it is likely that students will be placed with many of these organisations again for 2012.

Gay and Lesbian Network (GLN)

- Based in Pietermaritzburg, GLN aims to create an enabling environment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community by addressing LGBTI vulnerabilities to HIV and violence and people's ability to claim their rights whilst facilitating awareness about sexual orientation to the general public. A strong focus of their work includes lobbying and advocacy work for access to improved health and legal service for LGBTI.

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

- The Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust offers a holistic program of care and prevention for people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS in the outer west region of Durban.

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR)

- Advocates, strengthens and enforces the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other marginalised categories of migrants in South Africa. Provides free legal services and offers awareness-raising education programs to marginalised groups.

Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA)

- Aims to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on citizens of the Umgungundlovu Municipal District of KwaZulu-Natal, through gender focused work that addresses the power relations between men and women, considered to be key to the effectiveness HIV prevention work.

Project Empower

- Trains and supports young women in the Durban area to lead community action to confront unequal gender power relations and exercise their sexual rights.

Refugee Social Services (RSS)

- Provides support to the large refugee/asylum-seeker population in Durban and KwaZulu-Natal, particularly by promoting protection, social integration and self-reliance of the refugee community.

Save the Children KwaZulu Natal

- Works to identify gaps in the provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) to children aged 0-6 years in the Durban area and supports collective action by existing childcare centres through its Crèche Forum.

Woza Moya

- Woza Moya is an Oxfam partner within the Ufafa community, situated near the town of Ixopo in KwaZulu Natal, approximately 100km from Durban. The Woza Moya project focuses primarily on HIV prevention, healthcare and poverty alleviation.

What we are looking for

Students will be placed at an appropriate partner organisation to be determined by the organisations' needs and the students' skills. In your application, you will need to:

- Explain your interest in undertaking a volunteer placement with Oxfam in South Africa
- Demonstrate your background in one of the academic disciplines required by Oxfam (see the section on Eligibility below)
- Demonstrate an interest in community engagement
- Explain the strengths you would bring to the program. Two of the key qualities required for the Program are:

Flexibility: The environment in which Oxfam and its six partner organizations operate in South Africa can change very quickly. Partner organizations may have to pull out of the program at short notice (this happened in 2009 and 2010), and you may have to be placed with another partner organization at short notice. Therefore, you need to be highly adaptable.

Resilience: As was stated above, the nature of the work undertaken by Oxfam and its partner organizations in South Africa is varied and challenging, and you will need the maturity and strength to be able to cope.

The Summer Placement Program

Provisional 2012 program schedule:

8th January: Commence orientation to country at Monash South Africa

10th January: Travel from Johannesburg to Durban

11th – 13th January: Orientation to placements, Oxfam Country Office, Durban

16th January – 15th February: Volunteer placement with partner organization

16th February: Full debrief with Monash and Oxfam staff – Durban. Program concludes.

The full schedule will be confirmed closer to the date

Where:

Interns will be based either in or in the vicinity of Durban or Pietermaritzburg in South Africa.

How many:

There are up to 10 volunteer placements available.

- Two Law students to be selected through the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Please note that The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law manages applications for Oxfam internships which require a background in law. **Applications for the 2012 Castan Centre Internship Program have now closed.**
- Up to three students to be selected from Monash South Africa
- Up to five students to be selected from the Australian and Sunway campuses.

Accommodation:

Shared accommodation will be organized by Monash South Africa in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Ufafa (Woza Moya).

Costs:

You must ensure that you have a valid passport and all required vaccinations.

Monash covers all other costs. Participating students will be reimbursed for return flights to Johannesburg from the Monash campus at which they are based (i.e. Melbourne or Kuala Lumpur). Monash will arrange travel between Johannesburg and Durban/Pietermaritzburg and cover accommodation and transport costs in Durban/Pietermaritzburg/Ufafa.

Passports, Visas and Insurance

All students who are not South African citizens must have a current passport (with at least 30 days validity after planned return date) and all required vaccinations (at your expense). Australian citizens do not require a visa to travel to South Africa for this program. If you are not an Australian citizen it is your responsibility to obtain a visa to travel to South Africa if one is required.

Monash will work with Oxfam Australia to ensure that all students participating in the Summer Placement Program have adequate medical insurance cover for the duration of the Program.

Pre-departure preparation:

You will be well prepared for the Placement Program. Oxfam Australia will liaise with you and the partner organization to help you gain a better understanding of the organisation and their work. You will be provided with a security briefing and general induction by Oxfam Australia before departure for South Africa.

In-country orientation and debriefing programs:

Upon arrival in South Africa, you will be met by Monash South Africa staff and provided with an induction program at the Johannesburg campus. Once in Durban, the Oxfam Australia field office will provide you with further induction into the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program and the work of the partner organisations.

At the end of the volunteer placement, you will be fully debriefed by representatives of Monash and Oxfam Australia in Durban.

Post-volunteer placement duties

You will be asked to cooperate with Monash University and Oxfam Australia to publicise the South Africa Student Placement Program and share your experience with future cohorts of students prior to their own departure to South Africa.

Eligibility

You must be a currently enrolled undergraduate student at Monash.

At the time of application, you must have successfully completed at least 48 credit points of your bachelor degree at Monash, and you must have at least one unit of your bachelor degree to complete in 2012.

- You must be studying in a discipline required by the host organisations. For the 2012 program, Oxfam has requested students with a background in social work, social and community welfare, counselling, community development, gender studies, public health policy, health promotion, marketing or information and communication technologies (ICT).

Monash South Africa students must have participated in the Student Volunteer Program in 2011.

The Application Process

Complete the application form and return it to

- **Monash South Africa students:** craig.rowe@monash.edu
- **Australian and Sunway campuses:** adrian.devey@monash.edu

Applications close at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 31st August 2011. **Do not wait until the final deadline to submit your application because any applications received after 5.00pm on the 31st August cannot be considered.**

Interviews will commence in the week beginning Monday, 5th September, and successful interns will be advised of their placement by the end of September.