GESI Community-Based Research Fellow

Objective:
Provide in-country student and program support to a GESI student cohort and assist with assessment of past GESI projects and community partnerships. This position will be open to an alum/na of the GESI program as an opportunity for sustained engagement with GESI host communities. The CBR Fellow will support the FSD or SEC site team and assist GESI interns to facilitate constructive engagement and successful community integration. A primary function of this position will be to research previous GESI projects and pursue community-based research to better assess and understand community outcomes/impact achieved through collaboration with organizational partners. Ideally, the CBR Fellow will also perform the role of student instructor during GESI pre-departure and final summit, which includes leading activities and discussions during the preparation and re-integration phases of the program.

Job Responsibilities:

**Field Support** [10-15 hours; 35%]

1) Assist site team with in-country orientation
   a. 30-minute presentation including overview of important things to know right away (safety, host family adjustments, transportation, etc.) and personal experience and tips to have a successful internship
   b. Listen in and provide additional insight based on previous experience

2) Assist site team with site visits, one day a week
   a. Have students relay what they have done in the past week and any assistance they need or roadblocks they may be encountering
   b. Help brainstorm ways to move forward with project or improve it
   c. Do one-on-one check-ins about personal life and adjustment
   d. Relay any necessary information to site team if site visit was done alone

3) Assist with office work, one day a week
   a. Call to check in with students or relay information to them
   b. Help with weekly reports
   c. Assist with GESI staff visits, as needed

4) Assist with cultural immersion events, speakers, teambuilding activities, midterm reflection, excursions, exit interviews, etc., and other program coordination, as needed.

5) Provide additional, individual student support and observe potential issues that might impact life and work abroad (culture shock, language ability, group dynamics, misconceptions about culture and scope of work) in order to reinforce (not hinder or replace) communication between students and in-country staff.

**Community-based Research** [30 hours, 60%]

6) Conduct assessment of recent student work/engagement, according to the following objectives:
   a. To ensure that GESI proceeds according to established principles and outcomes achieve developmental objectives of partnering organizations.
   b. To document community experiences, test our assumptions, and provide guidance for future practice.
   c. To support ongoing sustainability efforts of community initiatives by understanding what works and why.
   d. To improve what we do, and ultimately to contribute towards improving the communities in which we work. This includes gaining an understanding of community partners’ long-term objectives so we can better support these organizational efforts through the program.

7) Research the evolution, continuation, sustainability of efforts initiated by/with FSD or SEC community partners:
   a. Record interviews with organizational and community partners, home stay families previously associated with groups of GESI students.
   b. Conduct focus groups, individual interviews, surveys and identify other resources for observation, impact evaluation and data collection. Research methods will be mutually agreed upon in consultation with site teams and host organizations.
   c. Provide site team and GESI with final report on all collected data, observations and findings.
   d. Commit to ongoing communication with GESI and site team staff + faculty advisors while abroad.
   e. Commit to orientation on research methods with Northwestern faculty and FSD or SEC staff before departure (to be coordinated during May/June).
Other Duties [5-10 hours, 5%]

8) Other projects as assigned or decided upon in coordination with site team and host organization/NGO.

Qualifications and Eligibility:

- This position is open to GESI alum/na (Northwestern only) who previously participated in GESI in Uganda, India, Bolivia or the Dominican Republic. Students will return to the same host community to provide field support and pursue community-based research.
- The ideal candidate will possess an existing, positive relationship with the FSD or SEC site team and previous experience with assessment or coursework in research methodologies (participatory action or community-based research, preferred).
- For Bolivia and the Dominican Republic – Fluent Spanish preferred.

Dates:

- Ideally, the GESI Community-Based Research Fellow will also perform the role of student instructor during GESI Pre-departure Coursework and Final Reflection Summit from June 15-22 and August 17-19, respectively. This will allow 8 weeks in-country from June 23-August 16 to perform the duties outlined above.

Compensation:

- All CBR Fellows will receive up to $6000 in funding for travel, living expenses, immunizations, travel medical insurance and stipend.

Reports to:

- FSD or SEC Program Director

Questions?

- Contact Patrick Eccles at patrick.eccles@northwestern.edu or 847-467-0844.