

# intern abroad

## Geneva Internship Program: Opportunities for Politics and International Relations Students

### International Internship Programs

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All Boston University International Programs internship placements are:

- Personalized
- Guaranteed
- Project-based
- Academically directed

#### Personalized Internships

Boston University International Programs internship coordinators sit with students to understand and assess the student's career goals, prior work experience and skill set, as well as their study abroad and internship expectations.

They then contact potential providers and customize an internship placement to the individual student. Each semester, approximately 30% of our internship placements are from new providers.

### Geneva Internship Program

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#### Past PO & IR internships providers

*(Please note : These are examples of past internship placements only. While we guarantee an internship to program participants, available placements vary from semester to semester.)*

- Comprehensive Dialogue Among Civilizations
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Green Cross International
- International Road Federation
- International Catholic Migration Commission
- International Commission of Jurists
- World Vision International
- Intellectual Property Watch
- South Centre

#### Guaranteed Internships

All students are guaranteed an internship placement while abroad with a Boston University international internship program.

#### Project-Based Internships

Students will work on a project (or projects) while at their placement during the semester. Past students with politics, international relations and economics interests have worked in non-governmental organizations, non-for-profit organizations, inter-governmental organizations, research and educational institutions, associations or think-tanks.

#### Academically Directed Internships

During the internship phase, students will be required to maintain a daily journal about their internship experience. By the end of the semester, all students will produce a comprehensive, academically directed portfolio about their internship project and their experience working with the placement provider.



## Comments from the Geneva Internship Program

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"IR students interested in the UN system have undertaken a wide variety of placements in Geneva with IGOs or NGOs focused on Human Rights, environmental issues, education, public health or peace and disarmament. As most of those organizations have a consultative status with the UN (ECOSOC), the students have been able to attend official UN sessions related to their organization's mission.

Those with an interest in economic aspects have had placements dealing with international trade, sustainable development, or international development."

- Aline Dimitriou  
Internship Director, Geneva

## Student Testimonial

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"My duties included attending Human Rights Council sessions, Working Group sessions, and meetings with other NGOs. I created lobbying tools based on information gathered by the Council and wrote reports on the Council sessions. I also updated our website with these reports, and sent out mass e-mails to our lists to inform our members of these changes. I worked alongside other NGOs in organizing NGO meetings and meetings with the Human Rights Council President. I also presented at some NGO meetings on the subjects I had been covering.

I loved my internship because I was given autonomy and responsibility to do work that I knew the organization would not have been able to do if it weren't for me. This sense of reliance motivated me to create the tools and write the reports for our members. It should also be known that nearly everyone in this office shares this sense of duty, and consequently works overtime frequently, which I did as well.

The internship introduced me to the work of NGOs in Geneva and complemented my academic studies immensely- one day I would utilize one organization as a resource, the next day it would be discussed in class. This internship has definitely been a life changing experience and has shown me that anything is possible. It has also set an incredibly high bar for my future workplace regarding the kind of working community I would expect because all of the women are absolutely awesome and fun."

- Student working for a women's rights NGO.

"I worked for an independent NGO whose aim is to inform and to facilitate dialogue between actors in the trade and sustainable development communities. I worked on the weekly newsletter. I would write 2-5 news articles per week, as well as compile a list of current events and resources that concerned the international trade and sustainable development communities. I also helped maintain the website, which is updated weekly.

Basic economic understanding and a willingness to read lots of news articles were necessary! I learned so much about the position of sustainable development advocates in international trade negotiations."

-Student working for a sustainable development organization.

"As an intern, I attended the Human Rights Council and reported on what happened pertaining to children's rights, both for my organization and for the Child's Rights Information Network. I also attended the side events. The last part of the internship, I spent doing research on Early Warning Mechanisms and Neglected Emergencies.

Attending the Human Rights Council was probably one of the best experiences I could have asked for. The experience I gained from simply being there was worthwhile. I liked the international range of people that worked in my office. I was introduced to many different people from different countries. My journalism/ writing skills definitely helped in taking information from the Council and extracting the most important parts and reporting on them. The internship definitely helped me figure out how I could merge journalism and humanitarian/human rights interests.

I really enjoyed simply working around people who knew so much about the topic, just listening to conversations, I could absorb so much."

-Student working for a children's rights NGO.

"I worked for an independent research project. It serves as the principal international source of public information on all aspects of small arms and as a resource for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists. The project has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, international public policy, law, economics, development studies, conflict resolution, and sociology.

I have been proof-reading, editing, fact-checking, formatting reports, copying, researching. I have worked on projects concerning illicit arms trade in Africa, the effects of small arms on Mozambique, the relations between China and Sudan, and the role of Libya as a mediator in the Darfur Conflict. It was an extremely interesting subject matter and I was glad my coworkers were so helpful even though they were so busy. Also, they were willing to let you provide input on what most interests you within the discipline."

- Student working for an arms control organization