



ISHR

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Internship Opportunity: Human Rights Defenders Program Intern

### Internship Sessions:

Session

*Spring: January – May*

Application Deadline

*December 10*

**Schedule:** Internships are full-time. Monday thru Friday, 9AM – 5PM.

**Location:** 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

**Reports to:** Direct Supervisor (Program Manager)

### About the Internship

ISHR is an independent, non-profit organization with offices in Geneva and New York. The internship offers a unique opportunity to view the United Nations human rights system at work in New York. It provides hands-on experience working for an international non-governmental organization (NGO) as well as the opportunity to contribute to our work supporting human rights defenders, strengthening human rights systems, building and leading human rights coalitions, and responding to significant and systemic situations of concern. For more information, consult our website [www.ishr.ch](http://www.ishr.ch).

### Key tasks:

- Undertake advocacy at regional and international human rights mechanisms, in coalition with other NGOs as relevant;
- Assist with research in relation to international human rights mechanisms;
- Represent ISHR at meetings, including with States, UN representatives, and NGO meetings;
- Assist with ISHR's work with regional human rights defenders' networks and human rights bodies at the regional level;
- Monitor and take minutes at meetings, including UN human rights meetings;
- Contribute to ISHR's publications, including through drafting and editing online web articles, briefing papers, and other reports as needed;
- Assist in the planning and execution of events;
- Approximately 10-15% of the work will be administrative in nature.

### Training and Opportunities:

- Staff meetings which include presentations from ISHR staff members on current activities and their own experiences;
- Opportunities to interact and network with human rights defenders, diplomats or other

UN and NGO professionals both at the United Nations and at ISHR office during meetings;

- Practical sessions and guidance in monitoring and writing reports for various UN mechanisms;
- Individual supervision and mentoring.

## **Requirements**

To be considered, applicants should:

- Be a student or recent graduate studying international relations, law, international human rights, or related studies. Graduate students are preferred. Highly qualified upper-level undergraduates will be considered for summer internships;
- Be motivated to pursue a career in human rights and have a particular interest in the UN human rights system, regional human rights systems and mechanism, and/or human rights defenders;
- Be able to report thoroughly and accurately on meetings;
- Be flexible and self-motivated;
- Be able to work as a member of an international and multicultural team and willing to participate in a variety of tasks, as required;
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Knowledge of official UN languages, especially Spanish and French, is desirable.

## **Salary**

This is an unpaid internship. ISHR will cover a monthly public transportation pass. ISHR is also willing to assist with applications for funding made by applicants.

## **To Apply**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample (including a bibliography) by email to [internshipny@ishr.ch](mailto:internshipny@ishr.ch). Please note that we can only consider the applications of US citizens or holders of US permits.