Humanitarian Innovation Internship

Description: The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA) started 2016 with a new challenge: to support the dissemination and promotion of humanitarian innovation worldwide. This initiative, spearheaded by the development of a web platform called High Tech Humanitarians (HTH) and promoted by IIHA’s Humanitarian Innovation Fellow, has a special focus on Open Source Technology. The open approach allows NGOs and local organizations to use, modify, adapt, and improve the solutions they prefer according to their own needs. The IIHA now seeks an intern to support the work of this new and exciting collaborative initiative. The Humanitarian Innovation Intern will work under the close supervision of the IIHA Humanitarian Innovation Fellow to assist with the continued development of the IIHA’s focus on humanitarian innovation, including research, partnership outreach, event planning and management, and support for the development of the HTH platform.

The position will offer the student the opportunity to learn, develop and sharpen her/his knowledge of the most important issues and challenges in humanitarian action (and their solutions), and to hone her/his skills in networking and leveraging the power of broad partnerships for social impact. Depending on her/his capacity and performance, the intern could be offered various opportunities such as designing and developing relevant activities or projects, contributing to public documents and communication materials, and even writing dedicated blog posts for the HTH platform. In particular, the Humanitarian Innovation Intern will be given a dedicated time in the planning to design and develop her/his own idea in the framework of the project, with the assistance and under the supervision of the Humanitarian Innovation Fellow. Finally, the internship also represents a unique opportunity to contribute to the start up phase of a brand new initiative that could impact the work and life of various actors within the humanitarian sector. This is an unpaid internship and the time commitment, negotiable between the Humanitarian Innovation Intern and the Fellow, will depend on the availability of the selected candidate and on her/his effectiveness. However, it is generally required that all interns dedicate at least 15 – 20 hours a week to their work.

Responsibilities (including but not limited to):

- Undertaking research and critical evaluation of trending and emerging technologies in humanitarian action, to be analyzed and presented internally and to the public;
- Contributing to the management of the content of the HTH platform, vetting materials to be uploaded and disseminating the platform through HTH’s social media;
- Identifying potential interlocutors and supporting the establishment of a broad network connecting with all local and global actors involved with innovation, with a special focus on open source;
- Supporting in the design, planning and implementation of events, workshops and hackathons;
• Selecting and preparing relevant materials for newsletters and external communication, ensuring interaction with HTH users and partners in a timely and professional manner;
• Assisting in keeping track of the calls for papers/funding as prioritized by internal planning, and preparing relevant contributions as required.

Qualifications:
• Undergraduate or graduate student with a concentration in Communications, Information Technology, International Relations, Humanitarian Affairs, Sociology, Political Science, English, or Journalism
• Proven knowledge of technology-related trends (no technical skills required)
• Outstanding ICT capacity and researching skills
• Excellent organizational skills
• Strong written and oral communication skills (knowledge of foreign language an asset)
• Ability to multitask and complete projects ahead of or by deadlines
• Driven by curiosity, humanity, courtesy and a strongly proactive attitude

How to Apply: Please submit a cover letter, resume, and brief writing sample (2 pages max) to Kasia Laskowski, Program Officer, at Laskowski@fordham.edu

About the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs: Founded in 2001 in partnership with the Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation (CIHC), the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA) is a university-wide center that reports directly to the President of Fordham University. By incorporating the academic rigor and intellectual standard of Fordham University with the experience and expertise of aid and development agencies in the field, we endeavor to advance the methods and framework by which humanitarian workers operate. As such, we serve as a unique bridge between academia and humanitarian efforts worldwide.

Our mission is to train and educate current and future aid workers at local, regional, national, and international levels. We accomplish this by hosting humanitarian training courses in various rotating locations around the world, which equip individuals with the tools needed to respond thoughtfully and effectively in times of crisis, conflict, and disaster. We also publish on a wide range of humanitarian topics and regularly host events that further create an increased understanding of global humanitarian crises through critical analysis and shared experiential knowledge.