Research Internship with WACC
Fall Term 2019

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) is an international non-governmental organisation that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people’s dignity and community. WACC works with all those denied the right to communicate because of status, identity, or gender. It advocates full access to information and communication and promotes open and diverse media. WACC strengthens networks of communicators to advance peace, understanding and justice.

WACC has members in some 120 countries and supports grassroots-level projects in 40-50 countries each year. WACC’s current programmes focus on supporting grassroots organizations to use traditional and new media to enable their communities to claim their rights, access social services, engage in policy-oriented advocacy, and enhance their participation in democratic processes. WACC is also heavily involved in action-oriented research on gender and media, as well as on representations of poverty in news media. To learn more about WACC’s work, we invite you to read our Annual Reports, Strategic Plan, and Project Lists.

Internship Opportunity

WACC is seeking a research assistant to support its various programmes. Please note that this is an unpaid internship opportunity. The work/training that is done will be documented and recognized towards attaining course credits in the program for which the intern is registered: University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs - Peace, Conflict, and Justice Major.

The intern will work 7 hours per week between the week of September 9th and the week of December 2nd from WACC’s offices at 308 Main Street, Toronto, ON, M4C 4X7. (Main Street subway station).

You will be supervised by one of WACC’s Programme Managers.

Duties and Responsibilities

Research, drafting and briefings (approx. 70%)

As part of its efforts tackling communication and information-related development challenges, WACC regularly provides support materials to its partner organizations in the global South in order to help them to better engage in awareness raising, advocacy, and networking efforts. One of the key resources produced by WACC is the No Nonsense Guide series, which address a broad set of development and social justice issues, including Peace Journalism, the Right to Information, and Indigenous People’s Communication Rights.

The Research Intern will play a central role in reviewing and updating the existing No Nonsense Guides, as well as in researching, drafting, and coordinating translation of a new set of No Nonsense Guides. Topics to be covered in the new set of No Nonsense Guides may include:

- Migration, Displacement, and Communication,
- Communication and Shrinking Space for Civil Society,
- Digital Rights, and
- Climate Change Communication.

Writing internal communication pieces (25%)

WACC operates three different brands online in order to advance its programmatic and awareness raising objectives. They include WACC’s main website, the Who Makes the News portal (focusing on gender issues), and Many Voices One World (focusing on emerging communication rights issues). Based on research related to development of new No Nonsense Guides (see above), the Intern will be asked to draft 400-word articles in a journalistic style to be featured in our Comment Blog, one of WACC’s main external communication products across its three platforms.

Reflective essay (5%)

Write a short essay (500-1000 words) in which you describe the internship experience and reflect on its applicability to the PCJ academic program (to be graded by the faculty supervisor).

Skills and knowledge

1. An understanding and/or interest in communication, freedom of expression, and information issues as they related to sustainable development and social justice
2. Excellent research, writing and editorial skills in English – able to produce clear, focused and factually-correct materials. Ability to read and write Spanish and/or French will be desirable
3. Experience in creating and managing web and social media content
4. Ability to write, understand, evaluate, organize and summarize material gathered from multiple sources
5. Self-directed learner with sense of initiative
6. Willing and able to take direction

To apply, send your resume and cover letter by August 20 to SM2@waccglobal.org with PCJ Application- WACC Research Intern on the subject line.

Questions may be sent via email to SM2@waccglobal.org or Tel. 416-691-1999 ext. 225.