

Graduate Research Intern

Summer 2015

Unpaid Internship

30-35 Hours/Week

Landesa: Grounded in the knowledge that having legal rights to land is a foundation for prosperity and opportunity, Landesa partners with governments and local organizations to create laws, policies, and programs that provide secure land rights for the world's poorest. Founded as the Rural Development Institute in 1967, Landesa has helped more than 100 million poor families gain legal control over their land. Landesa is headquartered in Seattle and works in Sub-Saharan Africa, China, and India.

Landesa places special emphasis on establishing and protecting land rights for women and inheritance rights for girls to improve family welfare, nutrition, and productivity. With secure land rights, families can eat better, earn more, educate their children, practice conservation, and achieve dignity for generations. For additional information, visit the Landesa website at www.landesa.org.

Summary: The Landesa Internship Program is part of Landesa's broader efforts to increase the number of professionals who work on and/or have an understanding of land rights and women's land rights, whether in the land rights field specifically, the wider development community, the government sector, or elsewhere. Interns have the opportunity to increase their understanding of Landesa's strategies and methodologies by attending project meetings and staff meetings. They also take part in Q&A sessions with Landesa's land tenure experts who can speak to land rights issues, specific projects, and careers in law and the international development field. Upon completing the internship at Landesa, interns are invited to join an alumni network comprised of current staff and previous research assistants, interns and fellows.

The Graduate Research Intern conducts research and supports the research efforts of others on a variety of topics relevant to Landesa's work. Past internship assignments include: compiling case studies of large-scale corporate land acquisitions; identifying and analyzing the particular effects of climate change on women's land rights; conducting a legal review of Rwanda's land laws; helping to write a concept note (a Landesa project design tool) for a project proposing to use mobile technology in Kenya; and identifying and analyzing Myanmar's resettlement practices and laws on takings and compensation.

The Graduate Research Intern will be supervised by a land rights attorney and will work with Landesa program staff requesting research including various program directors and project leads.

Essential Functions:

- Conducts research on a broad range of topics such as rural land rights in developing countries: comparative real property law, commercial law, social/economic conditions, and world affairs
- Prepares memoranda and other written work, presenting and explaining research results
- Edits and cite-checks work prepared by Landesa staff and partner organizations

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree
- Completion of one year of graduate school

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Passion for work that seeks to alleviate poverty and foster social justice
- Commitment to Landesa's core values of impact, respect, collaboration, dedication and learning
- Ability and commitment to apply a gender-sensitive approach in his or her work
- Self-motivated and able to set and meet goals
- Ability to work effectively with a team, regardless of role within team and to proactively seek ways to contribute to the team's success
- Flexibility and ability to work simultaneously on multiple projects
- Exceptional ability to communicate in writing and orally in English. Ability to work in another Landesa relevant language (e.g. French, Portuguese, Chinese) is a plus
- Proficiency using Microsoft Suite of products including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and other software
- Proficiency using electronic legal and social science research tools and willingness to learn unfamiliar research tools

If Interested: Send resume, cover letter, and writing sample to internships@landesa.org no later than March 6th, 2015. Please include "Graduate Research Intern" in the subject line.