Penn Summer Internships in Botswana

The Botswana-UPenn Partnership offers ten-week summer internships in Botswana from late May until late July for 10-15 Penn students across various schools at Penn.

What Does the Internship Provide?
- Each student intern is provided financing to cover round-trip travel to Botswana
- Housing is provided in the University of Botswana dormitories or near the placement site.
- Students will be responsible for their own food, incidental, and local travel expenses or excursions.

Who Can Apply?
- Current Penn undergraduate students: freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Graduating seniors are NOT eligible for internships through IIP.
- Penn graduate students from the Schools of Education, Social Policy & Practice, Veterinary Medicine or other graduate students who can demonstrate how this internship is integral to their academic career and who will return to Penn to complete their studies next fall.

How do I Apply?
- Interested applicants must complete a Penn International Internship Program (IIP) application online: http://sa.oip.upenn.edu/iip.
- Applications will be available online beginning December 1, 2012 and are due by February 1, 2013.
- Applicants will be reviewed with final candidates interviewed and selected in March.
- Successful applicants and interns usually can demonstrate the following:
  o Common sense and street smarts. E.g.: Interns need to be willing to successfully negotiate taxi prices and missed flights, and thwart would-be pickpockets.
  o Adventurous spirit and curiosity. E.g.: If the idea of killing a roach with your flip-flop, or watching others eat caterpillars (a delicacy in Botswana) horrifies you, this internship may not be the best fit.
  o Respect. Batswana value respect for elders and superiors, and successful students learn how to follow local conventions.
  o Real work experience. Any work experience, even babysitting of scooping ice cream, is valuable. Supervisors appreciate hard workers who do not require a lot of direction.
  o Flexibility and realistic expectations about what you can accomplish in your time. E.g., Not every job is glamorous or fascinating. It’s hard to change the world in ten weeks. We can’t tell you exactly what you’ll be doing every day.

Questions:
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More Info:
Penn’s International Internship Program: http://global.upenn.edu/iip
Botswana-UPenn Partnership: http://www.med.upenn.edu/botswana/
The 2013 internship placements include the following sites:

- **BONELA** - http://www.bonela.org
  BONELA (the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS) is a non-governmental human rights organization comprised of a national network of individuals and organizations that promotes a just and inclusive environment that contributes to the quality of life for people affected by HIV/AIDS through capacity building, education and training; a media campaign; outreach and legal assistance; research and advocacy. Under the leadership of the inspiring Uyapo Ndadi, BONELA employs a dozen fulltime employees but much of its work is done by interns and legal aid volunteers.

  2-4 placements available: 1) Law students interested in human rights. Placement will involve consulting, research and litigation in the area of HIV issues. 2) Social work or other students interested in the area of HIV in adults in children.

- **Botswanacraft** - http://www.botswanacraft.bw/
  Botswanacraft was established in 1970 by the Botswana Development Corporation to develop the rural based handicraft industry of the country. The company has grown to be Botswana's largest retailer and exporter of handicrafts. Privately owned since 1993 the company now directly employs over forty citizens and indirectly creates work for numerous rural craft producers throughout the country. Botswanacraft complements locally made products by importing handicrafts from the southern African region and other developing countries. The most famous of all the craft products of Botswana is the basket. As an integral part of the Botswana agricultural culture, baskets have been made and used traditionally for thousands of years. The main producers of baskets are the women of the Bayei and Hambukushu tribes in northwestern Botswana. Although baskets are still very much a common sight in rural Botswana, more and more are being produced today for the commercial market.

  The Botswanacraft internship may include travel to Etsha to meet the 26 women who comprise the Etsha Weavers, one of Botswana’s best weaving groups. There is no English language spoken there. You will be involved in seeing baskets made from sourcing of raw materials to the final piece. You will need to make notes and photograph your time here to use later. Etsha is about 160km north of Maun and is 100km south of Shakawe which is one of the most northerly towns in Botswana. Note that the past intern traveled to Etsha by bus.

  1 placement available. An African Studies, anthropology, design, fine arts or global business student would be a good fit. The intern must be independent and self-motivating and a real interest in Botswana culture. Some Setswana language study would be beneficial. The Intern must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.

- **Kamogelo Daycare Centre** - http://orfundfoundation.com/programs/ or http://kamogeloproject.files.wordpress.com/
  The Kamogelo Daycare Centre, under the leadership of the Trisanyo Catholic Commission, serves the entire community of Mogoditshane and surrounding areas by operating a free, quality Daycare Centre for orphaned and vulnerable children. The mission of Kamogelo is to provide all orphans and vulnerable children with a safe and stigma-free environment in which they can easily access quality services, as well as to empower the caregivers of vulnerable children to compassionately and competently care for them. Currently, there are over 150 preschool children from age 2-6 who attend Kamogelo. The daycare center provides preschool and early childhood education and classroom support. Kamogelo is based about 20km / 45 minutes by combi from Gaborone.

  2 placements available: any majors / schools, though of course the intern must like children. Interns with experience grant writing, communications, or IT can provide back-office support. An intern interested in social work or education would also be welcome. The Interns must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.

- **Nkaikela Youth Group** - http://www.nyg.org.bw/
  The objective of the Nkaikela Youth Group is to empower vulnerable groups particularly female youth, with knowledge, skills and support to alleviate poverty as a strategy to address one of the key factors contributing to the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS in Botswana. Started in 1998, and officially registered in 2004, Nkaikela Youth Group is located in Tlokweng in the Southeast district situated 5km from Gaborone. The group has a membership of around 15 peer educators and 5 staff members. The group’s main activities include:

  - Peer education outreach in bars, shebeens, truck stops and homes using participatory approaches like drama, role play, picture codes and discussion and also distributing condoms.
  - Income generating activities as an alternative for sex workers e.g. candle making.
  - Eduainment in the community.
  - Abstinence clubs in six schools in Tlokweng.
  - Counseling
  - Placement of young women in training centers like Sedibeng to acquire life-improvement skills.

  2 placements available: any majors / schools. The Intern must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.
The Tapologo Day Care Centre was started in 2006 in Boseja Ward in Mochudi. It is run in partnership with the Apostolic Faith Mission Church of Mochudi as a program of Youth for Christ Botswana. The Youth for Christ vision statement reads “As part of the body of Christ, our vision is to see every young person in every people group in every nation have the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become part of a local church.” As part of that work, Youth for Christ Botswana ministries focus in areas such as HIV/AIDS life skills training, bible studies, youth clubs, leadership training, camps, children’s ministry, and a care ministry that includes the Tapologo Day Care Center. Currently there are 23 preschool orphans and vulnerable children in the morning program, under the guidance of one teacher assisted by volunteers. The curriculum that is used is Christian-based and comes from Africa Child Mobilisation movement. The aim of the Day Care is to provide orphans and vulnerable children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ while creating a safe environment where the children are cared for and loved.

2 placements available: any majors but students must be comfortable working within a faith-based organization. The Intern must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.

• **Stepping Stones International** - [http://www.steppingstonesintl.org/newsite/](http://www.steppingstonesintl.org/newsite/)
Stepping Stones International is an innovative after school and community outreach program serving orphaned and vulnerable adolescents (ages 12-18+) and their caregivers. SSI’s Mission is to unlock the potential of orphaned and vulnerable adolescents by nurturing their mental, physical and emotional well-being and creating realizable opportunities for them to become self-sufficient. Located in the village of Mochudi about 45 minutes commute from Gaborone, the program is the only initiative in Botswana that focuses exclusively on the underserved needs of teenagers. SSI works with local school counselors to identify teens who under-perform academically, have lost one or both parents, have experienced abuse at home, or whose basic needs are unmet. SSI uses a holistic program model, which combines life skills, leadership, psychosocial support and community mobilization to enable youth to heal the scars of the past, reconnect with their lost childhood, while growing into self-sufficient young adults.

1 placement available: any majors / schools though ideally the intern will have a business background. A person who has Communications or PR background would also be a good fit so that they could develop and write new communication pieces to print for distribution. The Intern must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.

• **Private Veterinary Practice with Mike Sento, Vet & Agric Consultant, Gaborone**
Vet & Agric is a private veterinary practice similar to those in the US with primarily small animal work in the capital city. Since there is a limited supply of vets working in Botswana, occasionally the practice may be called to assist in wildlife projects or cattle and livestock work (tagging efforts, collection of bull semen, etc.) Veterinary students can expect to see some disease presentations only seen in textbooks, and many familiar diseases with different manifestations. Students will learn how to manage medical problems in an environment with limited diagnostic and therapeutic resources and see how cultural differences affect patient presentation and the provision of animal medical care in the region.

2 placements available for Vet students.

• **Private Veterinary Practice with Mark Bing, Lobatse**
Mark Bing has a private vet practice located in Lobatse that sees both large and small animals, including management of cattle diseases, feedlot inspections, vaccinations, some wildlife work, and responding to veterinary emergencies. The vet intern who is placed in this practice will live with Mark Bing’s female assistant in Lobatse (about 45 minutes from Gaborone) and will need to share household duties. See photos from a day in the life of working with Mark Bing here: [http://bupphotoslideshows.shutterfly.com/pictures/187](http://bupphotoslideshows.shutterfly.com/pictures/187)

1 placement available for a 2nd or 3rd year vet student. The Intern must be aware that there will be uncovered travelling costs to get to the placement.

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**About Botswana**

Just slightly smaller than Texas, Botswana is a land-locked and sparsely populated country of 1.8 million just north of South Africa. Formerly the British colony known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Botswana gained independence in 1966 and is now a parliamentary republic. The current President, Ian Khama, is the son of the country’s first elected President, a chief and king of the Bamangwato tribe. Education and healthcare are free; and the national literacy rate is above 80%. The country’s economy has flourished thanks to its great diamond wealth, beef exports and tourism with large nature preserves and good conservation practices.

But Botswana also has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates is the world with approximately one quarter of the population infected.

Since 2001, Penn has has a growing presence in Botswana with the Botswana-UPenn Partnership working to help build capacity in clinical care, education, and research and now employs 90 fulltime staff in country. Penn also has an important partnership with the University of Botswana.