COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

APPLIED PEACEBUILDING PROGRAM

- PARTNERNSHIP OVERVIEW -

What are the Benefits for Partner Organizations?

Now in its 20th year, the Columbia University *Applied Peacebuilding Program* provides your organization with one or more skilled graduate student intern-consultants. Your interns will design and implement an activity or project that you specify and develop with the students. Your organization will reap significant value, including new ideas and energy, and the substantial concrete outputs of the specific activities or project you define. Students also help create a link between your organization and Columbia University International Conflict Resolution Program, opening possibilities for further collaboration. As the instructor for the course and program, I will also be available to you throughout the spring and summer, should you need anything I can provide.

Who are Partners and what are the Projects?

Partner organizations range from international, national and grassroots local NGOs, to regional organizations, and UN agencies and Country Offices. Projects have included research, design, monitoring and evaluation, assessment and analyses, conferences and training workshops, curriculum design, video and documentary projects, among many others. You will determine the specifics of the activity or project, based on your organization's needs and the student's skills.

What is the typical Student profile?

The students will have completed one year of advanced graduate work in international affairs or a related field at Columbia. They bring rich and diverse regional and thematic knowledge, in addition to the skills they develop in the Applied Peacebuilding course.

What is the Process?

In late January, each student will select (with guidance from the Professor) a partner from the roster of organizations. From mid-January through late April, your graduate student interns will communicate with you regularly to define the specific scope of the project or activities that you want to have implemented for your organization. In the summer (mid May through late August), students travel to work directly with your organization to implement the project, with the active support and supervision of the Project Supervisor you have designated.[1]

What is the Role of the Project Supervisor?

The role of the "Project Supervisor" from your organization is critical to the success of this initiative. Project Supervisors need to communicate regularly with interns throughout the spring as the students work to design the project, based on your guidance. During the summer internship, Project Supervisors should have daily direct interaction with students in the field to provide support and feedback.

[1] Students choose projects primarily based on the information supplied by you in the TOR. Because I strive to send students with appropriate backgrounds to your organization, I cannot guarantee that each organization will be matched with a student every year.

What Commitments do Partners make?

We ask that each organization contribute whatever they are able to defray the costs incurred by students in the course of their fieldwork. Logistical support and work space, including access to translators, staff and security are basic commitments that the institution must make. When available, additional support can come in the form of cash stipends or in-kind support, including room and board, transportation, and other basic needs.

Easy next steps!

To be included as an organizational partner for the Applied Peacebuilding program, all you need to do is submit a completed online Terms of Reference Questionnaire (TOR). In the TOR, describe your organization's needs and the kinds of project or activities that you envision having the graduate student intern complete for your organization during the summer. You will also need to identify a Project Supervisor from your organization who will work with the students to design and implement the activities to fit your organization's needs.