The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center at Harvard University’s Field Education Internship Program, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and the Committee on Ethnicity, Migration and Rights are offering research internships to Harvard undergraduates and master’s degree candidates who are seeking field experience in community development and health and human rights.

Students would work with the largely impoverished Roma ethnic minority population in France. This population consists of between 15,000 and 20,000 people spread over 400 settlements, almost half of which are located on the outskirts of Paris. Roma have moved from their home countries in Eastern Europe to flee poverty and prejudice in search of better conditions for their families, exercising their European Union rights to freedom of movement.

Format and Structure of the Internship

- The internship builds on a highly successful pilot program conducted by Harvard FXB Center in the summer of 2015, which sought to actively engage the Roma in the research process.
- Selected undergraduates will receive funding to cover their airfare, room and board, internal transportation, and research expenses. Master’s candidates will receive partial funding but must apply for additional funds. (Master’s-level applicants: contact Myriam Zuber at mzuber@hsph.harvard.edu to discuss funding.)
- Interns will be paired with local NGOs in either Paris or Marseille from mid-May to mid-July 2016. All participants will take part in a mandatory preliminary training.
- The central goal is to work with the Roma to develop public policies that enable them to access their full range of human rights (health, education, housing, and employment, a healthy environment, safety, and respect) and to be protected against stigmatization and discrimination.
- Students will collaborate with scholars at Sciences Po, a top research university in Paris, for the duration of their internship.
- Work will also include conducting surveys and facilitating focus groups with Roma living in informal settlements. Students will prepare a detailed report of their accomplishments upon returning to Harvard and may present their findings in a seminar.
- Qualified interns will have the opportunity to conduct interviews with local and European “stakeholders,” including government officials, service providers, advocacy network members, scholars, and other European representatives.

Application Requirements

Applicants must have good French language skills and an interest in human rights and development work. Rising seniors are encouraged to use the research internship as their senior thesis field research project. Rising juniors are encouraged to use the experience as a springboard for their senior thesis research.

Submit all supporting materials by February 16, 2016 via CARAT, the online application platform.

Questions? Undergraduates may contact Clare Putnam at the Weatherhead Center: 617-495-9899 or cputnam@wcfia.harvard.edu.

Master’s students may contact Myriam Zuber at mzuber@hsph.harvard.edu.