



UNIVERSITY
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INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES OFFICE

Kevin Rohan Memorial Eco-Foundation

Kathmandu, Nepal

Application due: January 21, 2020



UVA Independent Global Internship

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21

The [Kevin Rohan Memorial Eco Foundation](#) (KRMEF) was established in 2008 near Khokana, in the southwest of the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. We built the foundation of the community with the following values: respect, integrity, dignity, productivity, trust, and inclusiveness. From there, we applied a number of innovative and environmentally aligned practices into our daily living and have attracted a local and international community excited to work and prosper together. We believe everyone has something to offer. Creativity and participation make the community thrive. Our hope is to demonstrate a fundamental kinship with the environment and with each other to offer an inspirational living model to anyone wishing for a healthy and balanced existence.

The KRMEF is currently implementing projects related to: eco-tourism and hospitality; sustainable fuel production; biodynamic farming; crafts; ecological architecture; training for handicapped, elderly, and leprosy-affected villagers; Waldorf-inspired schooling; free medical care; English-as-a-second-language training.

Internship title:

- Project Intern

Description of position:

- We are looking for people committed to stay at the KRMEF to act as leaders of projects in order to help short-term volunteers maximize their time at the Foundation. This internship opportunity is for people who are enthusiastic and are looking to make a difference. It's also a great opportunity to bring your own innovations to our projects, or even forge your own! We are always looking for fresh, innovative ideas that will help us to serve our community better.
- Current internship needs include:
 - *Project management/ Volunteer coordination*— KRMEF is home to a big family of international volunteers and visiting students. We are looking for people to help everyone feel at home and to lead/delegate projects every day.
 - *Sustainable development* – People with knowledge/experience with waste management, alternative energies or community development to help implement new ideas into our working model.



- *Marketing/ research/ media* – Anyone with experience developing promotional materials, website management or IT experience, grant writing, etc. would be much appreciated to help us grow.
- *Architecture/Engineering* – People with knowledge and skills regarding building, particularly in sustainable and earthquake resistant ways.
- *Interior Design* – We are planning to renovate our Eco Cafe, and someone with experience in interior design would be very appreciated for this project.
- *Publicity/marketing* – We need assistance in selling the crafts and products that help fund KRMEF, especially to new markets.
- *Product Design* – Related to the above, we need people with design skills in jewelry and weaving. If you have skills in other natural products we might be able to create and sell, please mention your ideas in your application. It's always great to have new ideas! The designer would need to work with our craftswomen to create original designs which are Nepali-inspired, but which could be sold to markets around the world.
- *Education*- Students with interest in early child education would be welcome to serve as teaching assistant in the KRMEF's Waldorf-inspired grammar school. Additionally, students interested in teaching English as a second language could assist in regularly occurring English classes for local KRMEF staff and other adults.

Preferred qualifications:

UVA requirement: All candidates must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

- The ideal candidate for this position should have some previous knowledge about sustainability, be interested in exploring environmental issues across disciplines, and must be willing to actively work in diverse teams.
- The motivation to work with international volunteers and local community members across language barriers is critically necessary in order to facilitate projects in an inclusive and cooperative manner. Students should be interested in learning as much as they can about Nepal- its peoples, its cultures, and its particular conditions (especially as related to the environment).
- Interns must be highly independent and self-motivated so they can successfully complete projects as assigned and as established by themselves.
- Students must be supremely flexible and willing to contribute to the daily functioning of the Foundation in whatever ways are most useful as needs arise.

Language:

- English is spoken by some staff of the KRMEF and is the lingua franca among international volunteers and interns. Study of Nepali language is strongly recommended prior to arrival and during one's internship, as it will aid in developing relationships with local individuals and in navigating Nepal.



Dates and timings:

- Summer 2020, exact dates to be determined in consultation with KRMEF leadership; it is strongly recommended (by UVA Global Internships) for interns to coordinate the dates of their internship and travel with fellow UVA student interns.
- Minimum length: six weeks
- Sunday-Friday, 9:30am-5:30pm (~40/week)

Number of positions offered:

- Up to six

Support:

- At the cost of \$15/day, interns will receive lodging and breakfast at the KRMEF guesthouse. The kitchen is available for cooking and is fully stocked with veggies from our bio-dynamic farm. Volunteers are free to cook whatever dishes they like with ingredients which are locally available. Lunch is Dal bhat- the national dish of Nepal—and is always prepared to serve guests. Shared rooms (with 1 to 2 other volunteers/interns) and shared bathrooms are clean and simple.

Pre-internship preparation requirements:

- Interns must discuss their interests with KRMEF leaders prior to their arrival in Nepal. Background research and/or technical skills development may be required in advance of arrival.
- Student-interns will be strongly encouraged to engage in self-study of Nepali in the Spring semester if not familiar with the language. Workshops will be held in the Language Lab in March and language-learning resources will be made available.

Additional information:

- If under their care, you must have your parents/guardian's permission to apply for this position before submitting an application.
- Students should plan to wear culturally appropriate attire-- no bare shoulders or low-cut shirts; skirts and pants should reach mid-calf; interns should make an effort to appear well-kempt.

Previous interns' reflections:

My experience with KRMEF this summer is beyond amazing! I'm always learning new knowledge about sustainability and Nepali culture every single day while working on the foundation or cultural exchange excursions once in a while. Everyone here, including the Gurung homestay family, foundation staff member and international



volunteers, are so welcoming and warm-hearted, and I could call this place my cozy second home! Learning about a new culture far away from home and using knowledge you learned to change the world bit by bit is the best part about doing an internship abroad from my perspective! ~TOMMY XIA (Summer 2019)



Interning abroad in Nepal has done so much for me both personally and academically. Never before have I been prompted to question my place in the world until now; settling into a new place halfway around the globe for eight weeks has connected me with so many people and has forged my understanding of my studies in a global context. I'll cherish the experiences I had in Nepal forever and am grateful that an internship has afforded me so many valuable and transformative experiences in my college years. NOW is the time to step out of the comfort zone and to widen my worldview by putting my passions and studies into practice internationally!

~LEA TAYLOR (Summer 2019)

