

## Espace OPOKO

Sibiti, Republic of Congo



Applications  
due: April 1

[Espace OPOKO](#) is an NGO founded in 2012 with the mission to create positive change in the indigenous communities of Sibiti and Bambama in the Republic of Congo by developing the leadership potential of young people through education.

Indigenous persons represent 2% of the national population of the Republic of Congo (estimated at 5.1 million, in 2017). However, they are subject to persistent discrimination in education, work, access to health services, and natural resources. Such marginalization puts indigenous communities in further danger of exploitation by those with greater power.

ESPACE OPOKO supports the schooling of indigenous students through a variety of education- and health-related initiatives, including mentoring programs, student sponsorship, distribution of essential resources, health campaigns, transportation assistance to schools, and more.

For more information about Espace OPOKO's work, please view [this video](#) and read [this recent post by the Presidential Precinct about Espace Opoko's founder](#).

*This Virtual Global Internship is offered through a partnership between UVA's International Studies Office/Global Internships and the Presidential Precinct. The Presidential Precinct has proudly hosted Mandela Washington Fellows in Charlottesville since 2014. Mandela Washington Fellows are accomplished young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa. A fellowship alumna/us will serve as host and mentor of this unique Virtual Global Internship.*

### Description of internship:

- Student-interns will work with Espace OPOKO in many facets of the organization's work and mission. Activities may include:
  - The analysis and implementation of our 2020-2021 action plan. Student-interns will contribute their own comparative, international perspective to the evaluation of the plan and suggest procedures for standardizing the organization's practices. The intern

- can also bring his or her expertise in the field of social justice theory to help us create training materials and references for our staff.
- Student-interns may also work in data collection to better understand the difficulties related to the education of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Congo. Data collection, storage, and interpretation will provide a much-needed picture of our work and our context. The intern will also be asked to create graphics to depict the organization's activities and progress.
- Finally, the intern will contribute to several other tasks, including engagement with partners, the search for new partners, the management of the website and various social networks, editing of the English version of the organization's newsletter, fundraising, and team motivation.
- *What can an intern expect to learn in this internship?:* During the internship, a student-intern would have the opportunity to learn about indigenous communities in the Republic of Congo and the resilience of such communities in the face of inequalities. He/she will be able to observe efforts to mobilize indigenous Congolese persons to embrace schooling as a path to progress.
- *How will an intern contribute to this organization's mission?:* Student-interns will provide a much-appreciated comparative perspective on the work of Espace OPOKO.

## Preferred qualifications:

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

- Espace OPOKO would benefit from an intern with previous experience with/strong will learn to about: programme management, organisation, team management, fundraising, social media communications.
- An ideal candidate for this position would have some previous knowledge of or be interested in the education of minority populations.
- Students should be interested in learning as much as they can about the region- its peoples, its cultures, and its particular conditions.
- Compassion would be a valued attribute of a student-intern.
- Candidates must have the strong motivation to work in diverse teams and across language barriers, if necessary, to facilitate projects in an inclusive and cooperative manner.
- 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 changing needs of the organization in whatever ways are most useful.

## Language requirements:

- French (intermediate to advanced) and English.