



Summer Internship 2024: Analytical Research Intern

Description

The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES) partners with the Center for Applied Nonviolent Actions and Strategies (CANVAS) to offer an internship for an analytical research intern for the summer of 2024.

CANVAS was founded in 2005 in Belgrade by a team that organized a successful nonviolent movement, Otpor!, which led to the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic. CANVAS now operates a network of international trainers and consultants with expertise in building and running successful nonviolent movements around the world. CANVAS trainers have broad experience in working with activists from more than 50 countries. They also regularly teach courses on nonviolent strategy and a range of international educational institutions. The organization disseminates knowledge through a variety of sources including, social media, books, videos, and specialized courses. CANVAS has produced several publications on nonviolent resistance based on intensive research and its members' decades of experience in the field.

Location & Timeframe

The internship is based in Belgrade, Serbia. The working language is English. Timeframe: 30 hours per week, eight weeks – June and July 2024.

Compensation

This internship will be fully funded by CES. The funds will cover travel, accommodation, and food expenses.

Responsibilities

The CANVAS analytical research intern will primarily conduct case studies and situational analyses and assist with ongoing academic research projects with our university partners. The duties of our interns are dependent on the current needs and projects of the organization at the time of their internship. Intern responsibilities include:

- Conducting region-specific analyses and research.
- Conducting case study research.
- Tracking current events.
- Drafting and proofreading English-language publications.
- Managing social media.
- Researching and publishing of our weekly reports.

Qualifications

- Strong research and writing skills.
- Proficiency in using Microsoft Office Suite.
- Passion for the betterment of humanity and the planet, such as in areas of human and civil rights, education, climate justice, and transitional justice.
- Preferred academic and/or professional background in political science, government, international relations or security, conflict, or peace studies.

Additional Information about the CANVAS Experience

Students will gain valuable experiences by engaging with the practice and the theory of nonviolent struggle. Through the various activities and responsibilities, CANVAS interns will discover why nonviolence is the best approach to social change.

CANVAS developed a range of modules covering essential topics to aid activists in ensuring their nonviolent movement will be successful. This includes themes such as strategy, tactics, message development, negotiations, security, fundraising, branding and more. Backed by 16 years of experience in training and workshops across the globe, our modules bridge theory and method with practice to create workshops relevant to the specific needs of various activist groups. Interns will have the opportunity to get acquainted with CANVAS' modules and the elements necessary for a successful nonviolent movement or campaign.

Interns will analyze both historical and contemporary cases of civil resistance, and will deal with questions such as:

- What is the influence of nonviolent struggle throughout history?
- Why are some civil conflicts successful while others are not?
- What are the key tactical and strategic considerations for activists who opt for nonviolent struggle?
- What role do new media and communication technologies play in the nonviolent struggle and how can activists benefit?
- How can creativity and humor help spread the message of a movement?
- What is the role of activists in the transition period from dictatorship to democracy?

This program is oriented to encourage the development of analytical thinking skills. As interns learn the strategies and tactics of nonviolent struggle, they will conduct research and see how their newfound knowledge can be utilized on the ground. By the end of their time with CANVAS, interns will hold the skills to think more critically about their role in civil society and how nonviolent struggle can influence the world around them.

Office Research Support and Issue Research

Often, our trainers need to know about new developments in a particular region of the world, or they need background information about a specific issue before participating in a conference or panel. Therefore, CANVAS interns research the issues at hand and draft a document with necessary information to keep our network of trainers informed.

Country Analyses

Interns can be tasked with writing country analyses with a complete run-down of information about a specific country and its current situation. CANVAS country analyses usually contain the following information:

- An introduction and a brief background/history of the country
- The current political situation
- The current socio-economic situation
- The state of civil society and human rights in the country
- The country's relationship with the international community
- Analysis of the pillars of support in the country
- The possible future outcomes

Weekly Report

Interns are responsible for writing and mailing out CANVAS's Weekly Report every Friday. The Weekly Report consists of a list of countries that are researched and updated with new developments. The sections are evenly split among CANVAS interns. The newsletter is emailed through CANVAS's MailChimp account.

Drafting Articles

When a particular topic is hot-and-happening, we write articles to offer clarity of the situation from CANVAS's perspective. You will be working as part of the intern team on such projects, and of course, your ideas and creativity are always appreciated.

Content Development

Every year we update CANVAS' modules and curriculum for our university courses and other programs, so that we are disseminating the most recent and accurate information. CANVAS interns participate in the research process and in drafting different case studies.

In addition, there is an opportunity for CANVAS interns to participate in ongoing academic research about political transition. They could be involved with the literature review and the process of interviewing activists.

Social Media Management

CANVAS interns have access to and are tasked with updating CANVAS's social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) with important news about ongoing nonviolent struggles, raising awareness of important issues, CANVAS or affiliate workshops and events. Interns usually create visuals and captions for such posts.

Learning

As a CANVAS intern, you will expand your knowledge about activism, movements, and nonviolent struggle through various research opportunities and projects.

Most [CANVAS publications](#) are available for free to download on our website. As well as [short, animated videos](#) explaining some of our key training modules, which is a great way to familiarize yourself with our material.

The CANVAS Summer Academy, organized every year in June, consists of interactive sessions covering different aspects of activism and the most important trending issues in nonviolent struggle. We have top experts and activists participating in the panels and answering questions from the audience. To get a better sense of what CANVAS Academy is about, [take a look at last year's brochure](#).

From people nonviolently fighting for human rights under oppressive regimes, to environmental activists organizing powerful global campaigns, you'll have plenty of opportunities to get to know the essence of activism and people power during your time with CANVAS!

With all mentioned assignments, we offer different options to get involved with CANVAS. Interns' preference is important, and we value when students are speaking their mind so we can together decide what works best for both sides.