Graduate Intern: Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA)

The International Development Office at The Open University is seeking a part-time graduate intern to participate in the TESSA research and development programme. This programme supports the development of teacher education in twelve sub-Saharan African countries. The graduate intern will participate in the administrative and research activities for nine months from November 2012 to July 2013 (start date to be discussed with the successful candidate). The intern will receive a stipend of £550 per calendar month and will have an opportunity to participate in fieldwork in one or more of the African partner countries. Informal enquiries may be made to Sally Pritchard (sally.pritchard@open.ac.uk) telephone 01908 858669 (Mondays to Thursdays).

Further Particulars

The Open University International Development Office

The International Development Office (IDO) supports and encourages the development of sustainable, scalable funded programmes by promoting and strengthening local partnerships to help build human capital. IDO works collaboratively with colleagues across the OU to use the University’s expertise in distance learning and electronic media, and to support teaching and research capacity building partnerships at scale.

IDO provides a professional hub for managing the international development programmes. It does this by providing effective and robust project and programme management, and supporting the academic programme directors from the scoping stages through to implementation and delivery of programmes with the partner organisations and governments.

IDO’s current primary focus is to capitalise on the OU’s strategic advantage and proven capabilities to encourage the development of sustainable, scalable programmes in Africa and South Asia in four areas:

1 Teacher education, English language teaching and CPD for teachers
2 Health education, health systems and health information management
3 Governance, leadership, and business management
4 HE and IT systems support.
The TESSA Programme

TESSA is a major research and development programme investigating new approaches to teacher education. During its first and second phases, the OU has led a strong and vibrant international consortium to develop ‘open educational resources’ (OER) to support teachers and teacher educators working in sub-Saharan African countries (www.tessafrica.net). The TESSA programme brings together academic research by and for Africans and, as such, aims to contribute to the education of the millions of teachers needed for the basic education sector in sub-Saharan Africa.

TESSA’s current phase includes a number of discrete projects, each looking at different aspects of teacher education and teacher support in sub-Saharan Africa.

Internship

The internship is an exciting opportunity to be at the leading edge of development and research into teacher education programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. It offers the chance to participate in the development agenda for education in sub-Saharan Africa and to be part of a close knit team dedicated to educational innovation and resource sharing across the continent. The graduate intern will work closely with both academic and administrative colleagues in an international arena and will be given the opportunity to develop their skills and experience across a range of administrative and research activities.

Responsibilities associated with these include, but are not limited to:

(i) supporting the implementation of four TESSA research and development projects
(ii) supporting the development of implementation materials, tailored to each project
(iii) maintaining and supporting the development of the TESSA website, including monitoring user forums and enhancing communication via social media
(iv) assisting with TESSA research activity
(v) producing a quarterly TESSA Newsletter
(vi) assisting the TESSA Programme Manager with conference event logistics and publicity materials
(vii) liaising with TESSA partners at an international level

The intern will be supported by members of the TESSA team. S/he will have the opportunity to attend conferences and seminars, to experience management and administrative systems within the University and to have at least one trip to Africa with TESSA colleagues and to work with TESSA partners, particularly in Africa.

The intern will be expected to work for 3 days each week. Graduate interns are not salaried but a stipend of approximately £550 per calendar month is paid. This does not include accommodation but assistance in finding accommodation can be given. The intern will be located in the International Development Office, The Open University based in Milton Keynes. The intern will be allocated computer equipment and facilities.
**Person Specification**

It is essential that candidates have:

- A good first degree or equivalent qualification, ideally in a related field
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral
- The ability to work well within an international team
- Excellent IT skills, particularly using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Outlook, Internet Explorer and on-line environments
- The ability to work on their own initiative, and to work well under pressure
- A strong interest in educational issues in Africa

It is desirable that candidates have:

- Knowledge of French
- Some experience of an administrative role
- An interest in research activity

**How to Apply**

Email your CV and a covering letter responding to the Person Specification and explaining why you are interested in the post, to:

Mrs Julie Herbert, International Development Office

j.m.herbert@open.ac.uk

to arrive by noon on Wednesday October 10th.

**References**

Two referees should be nominated. Please provide full contact details in your letter, stating any reservations you may have about our approaching them.

**Shortlisting and Interview**

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by telephone and by letter of interviews which will be held on Wednesday October 24th in Milton Keynes.