



YOUTH IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

YIDA



2014 Interns

“It was a great experience overall. The organization itself, they included me very openly.”

- Kathryn Carroll completed her internship at the Burton Blatt Institute
- Vivian Fridas completed her internship at the National Democratic Institute
- Theophilus Jlateh completed his internship at the International Medical Corps
- Lindsay Lee completed her internship at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems
- Diego Mariscal completed his internship at the Inter-American Development Bank
- Maegan Shanks completed her internship at World Learning
- Erum Siddiqui completed her internship at Medical Management for Health
- Daniel Van Sant completed his internship at Human Rights Watch

In 2013, with the vital support of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF), USICD launched its first internship program focusing on youth with disabilities who are interested in careers in the fields of international development or international affairs. The project follows from a vision, core to USICD’s mission: to increase disability inclusion in U.S. foreign affairs by supporting future generations of Americans to invest their skills and talents in this field.

In the summers of 2013 and 2014, USICD’s internship program brought a total of 15 students and recent graduates from across the United States to Washington, DC, to complete internships at international organizations in the Washington, DC, area. During their first week in DC, USICD provides orientation and training. Then, for the subsequent eight weeks, each intern is placed at a different international organization to complete their internship. (See list from 2014 at left.) Additional lectures were provided periodically during the internship.

The program will be held again in 2015. The tentative dates during which YIDA interns will need to be in Washington, DC, are from May 24 to July 25, 2015; these dates may be subject to change. Applications must be received by January 28, 2015, to be considered. Learn more about the program and application process at <http://usicd.org/template/page.cfm?id=257>.

Are you eligible?

- You must be a U.S. citizen
- You must be a person with a disability
- You must have been born on or after May 24, 1984 (see website for a few limited exceptions to our age limit)
- You must be either a graduate student, a rising junior or senior in an undergraduate program, or a recent graduate. “Recent graduates” for the summer 2015 program need to have graduated between spring 2014 and spring 2015.

Do you represent an organization which can host an intern?

If your organization is interested in hosting an intern in the summer of 2015, please contact David Morrissey at dmorrissey@usicd.org or 202-347-0102.

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2014 program interns with Program Manager Andrea Shettle, after a workshop session.

“The YIDA internship is remarkable. I have met professionals, helpful staffs, and follow interns who are full of energy and have a shared passion for impacting the lives of others. Through meetings, trainings and mentoring, I am experiencing an increase in confidence. By hanging out with my peers, I have also learn how to manage my own disability, while helping other manage their disabilities, thus making our global community better and stronger. USICD staff members are helping me achieve my dreams.”
—YIDA intern, 2014

“My mentor was amazing She went around DC telling people in different agencies about me, got leads on possible future internships and employment, and has been sending my resume around the city. I feel like she has really gone to bat for me and I’m so appreciative.”

—YIDA intern, 2014

“I completed the edits and cover design for a large Human Resources for Health booklet in Nigeria that is being put to press. I’m very proud of my work!”

—YIDA intern, 2014

Our involvement with the YIDA program allows us to work with the human resources department to ensure ADA compliance. It’s an opportunity to talk with them about the recruitment of people with disabilities We’ve gotten our human resources office connected to networks in DC involved with ADA accommodations ... we’ve gotten our human resources staff to look at internal policies, helping the human resources people be more disability aware.”

—YIDA host organization, 2014

“Her [intern’s] presence is felt by everyone here and she has motivated everyone to consider inclusion in a way that is really exciting to see. She started as a resource for people and I think as soon as they met her the ideas and interest started flowing. After her first brown bag presentation, there were many ideas. ... Her positive energy is contagious.”

—YIDA host organization, 2014

“[We] came in with a preexisting commitment to increasing disability inclusion in programming, but participation in the YIDA program has directly strengthened these efforts through the issue area expertise that YIDA interns have provided as well as the opportunity that participation provides to highlight disability issues for staff.” (YIDA task supervisor, 2014)

—YIDA host organization, 2014