



Health Action International (Global)

Manual Project Assistant Volunteer Internship

Terms of Reference

Background

HAI is a non-profit, independent, global network of over 200 consumer groups, public interest NGOs, healthcare providers, academics and individuals in more than 70 countries, operating from four regional offices (Amsterdam, Penang, Lima and Nairobi) and HAI Global (Amsterdam). HAI promotes increased access to essential medicines and their rational use, through research excellence and evidence-based advocacy, and works to achieve a world in which all people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, are able to exercise their human right to health.

Manual ‘Understanding and Responding to Pharmaceutical Promotion’

The WHO/HAI teaching manual aims to provide practical training for students on how to recognise various promotional techniques and how to access good quality, independent information about medicines. It is distributed to medical and pharmacy schools who teach it, along with feedback forms. This will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the manual's content and the resources provided.

The manual is comprised of nine chapters, covering a variety of techniques used in pharmaceutical promotion:

- Promotion of medicines and patient health
- Techniques that influence the use of medicines
- Analysing pharmaceutical advertisements in medical journals
- Pharmaceutical sales representatives
- Promotion to consumers: Responding to patient requests for advertised medicines
- Learning how not to do the pharmaceutical industry tango:
- Raising student awareness of ethical conflicts of interest
- Regulation of pharmaceutical promotion: Why does regulation matter?
- Using unbiased prescribing information
- Promotion, professional practice and patient trust

General

The overall objective of the position is to coordinate the manual ‘Understanding and Responding to Pharmaceutical Promotion’.

The successful applicant will:

- Acquire valuable experience of working in an international advocacy NGO
- Gain extensive knowledge of leading a project independently
- Gain extensive knowledge of the politics of pharmaceuticals

Specific Responsibilities

The intern will work in close collaboration with the HAI Global team, and under the supervision of Renée Vasbinder, Promotions Manual Logistics Coordinator, and will:

- Execute strategies to expand the Manual 'Understanding and responding to Pharmaceutical Promotion', including identifying relevant universities, medical schools and associations of interest, and communicating with them about teaching the manual
- Collect addresses and update the Manual files
- Provide logistic support for the Manual distribution
- Carry out administrative duties relevant to the Manual
- Create new strategies for dissemination of the Manual

Essential skills and competencies

- Excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Fluent in the English language. Spanish or Russian languages are an advantage
- Excellent organisational skills
- Flexibility and ability to handle multiple tasks independently
- Commitment to HAI's values regarding pharmaceutical promotion

Desired experience

- Previous experience/knowledge of logistic support
- Previous experience/knowledge of health and related NGOs at the national and/or a Global level

Conditions of employment

This position is for a minimum of three months. The project will begin in mid-February, the exact starting date will be discussed with successful applicants.

This position is for a minimum of 32 hours per week.

Remuneration: €150 per calendar month. Please note: interns will be expected to make their own arrangements for travel to the Netherlands and accommodation.

Application: Please submit a covering letter (no more than one page) and an updated CV in English to Ms. Renée Vasbinder: renee@haiglobal.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please note: Applicants must have a student and/or work and/or residency permit for the Netherlands. Applications that do not meet with these specifications will not be considered.