

The Humanity in Action 2009 New York Summer Program

The Program: participants & content

The Humanity in Action New York fellowship program is a 5-week, full time program for 15 students from the US, 15 students from Europe, and including 3 students from France.

Throughout the New York summer program (July 3rd - August 9th), fellows will:

- meet and discuss issues with experts and activists in the field of human rights and minority rights in the USA and New York in particular
- rediscover American history in relation to human rights and minority rights
- debate these human rights and minority rights issues with locals and among themselves, focusing on the specifics of the contexts they are exploring, crossing perspectives and exchanging best practices based on previous experiences and/or innovative ideas
- write a report in an small international team on a specific human rights or minority rights concern in the USA or New York, establishing some basic recommendations for social innovation

The Contract

Humanity in Action fellows are required to carry out an Action Project in the year following their participation in a Humanity in Action program. The Action Project must reflect a personal initiative, should be inspired by the knowledge gained through the HIA program, and should have a positive impact on a campus, a neighborhood, a city (or more), in a field which is related to human rights or minority rights issues.

This Action Project can be carried out alone or in a group, within an organization or not, and with the help and support of both HIA staff and HIA Senior Fellows (fellows in the previous programs).

Opportunities: Internships and the Senior Fellow Networks

Humanity in Action offers internship programs as well as individual internships for fellows who have completed the program with success.

Internship programs are organized for several fellows at a time in an institution, and require a time and financial investment over several months: while some of the costs may be covered by HIA, these full time internships are unpaid. HIA offers intership programs at the US Congress, the European Parliament, the ICTY, and various San Francisco grassroots organizations.

HIA also offers individual internships at Human Rights watch, the Memorial de la Shoah, the Ann Frank house, Interpol, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and other institutions in Berlin.

Humanity in Action also stays involved in the daily life of fellows who wish to stay connected to the network, through the internships mentioned above, short senior fellow programs on specific areas of interest, and Senior Fellow Networks, of which there are 9 today (USA, Germany, Denmark, Poland, France, the Netherlands, London, Brussels, and Sarajevo). HIA Senior Fellow Networks allow for senior fellows to stay in touch, get together regularly, organize joint events, carry out projects, and stay involved in the shaping of HIA programs and activities.

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Practical Considerations

➤ Eligibility

Humanity in Action - France will be looking for young people residing in France and who:

- are currently enrolled in a higher education degree program or received their degree in 2008
- are proficient in English
- can demonstrate their interest in human rights and/or minority rights
- can demonstrate a good understanding of the universalistic "Republican model"
- wish to be active in a broad network in the long term

Fellows are chosen based on their interest in human rights and minority rights issues in France and abroad; their curiosity and maturity; their ability to contribute gracefully to the group discussions and to the program in general.

➤ Selection procedure

Application materials will be put online on December 10th. Applicants have until February 7th, 2009 to send their completed application to:

Humanity in Action Selection Committee
89, rue du Faubourg Saint Antoine
75011 Paris

The Selection Committee is made of board members, HIA staff and senior fellows. The Selection Committee will select a few candidates to meet with in person for interviews based on an evaluation of their written applications. The final selection will be announced April 1st at the latest.

➤ Costs

Participation in Humanity in Action programs is free. HIA takes on all travel and housing costs directly related to its programs, and provides fellows with food stipends for program lunches. Personal leisure costs, as well as regular costs (Navigo or housing for Paris residents for instance) are not covered.

For further information, please visit our website, www.humanityinaction.org, or our host page on www.projets-citoyens.fr. You can also send enquiries to candidatures@humanityinaction.org.