

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is recruiting interns for a project on statelessness, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, commencing in February 2017. For this project, applications can only be accepted from Masters or advanced-level Bachelor students enrolled in a relevant degree programme in Tilburg.

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) is an independent, non-profit organisation based in the Netherlands and affiliated with Tilburg University. Established in August 2014, it is the only *global* centre dedicated to leading an integrated, inter-disciplinary response to the injustice of statelessness and exclusion. We believe in the value of research, education, partnership and advocacy as means to promote the inclusion of the stateless and the disenfranchised. We aim to develop and share our skills and expertise with partners in civil society, academia, the UN and governments, and to serve as a catalyst for change. See www.institutesi.org.

The project

Statelessness has been described as the world's most forgotten human rights issue. In a system of nation-states, nationality unlocks access to rights and to political participation. This makes the over 15 million people affected by statelessness among the most vulnerable and marginalized on the planet. It also makes them invisible, and voiceless – unable to vote on policy that affects them, stand for government to change the laws that constrain them, or even to travel in order to participate in international meetings that could draw a spotlight to their situation. For UN and civil society actors concerned about human rights protection, this presents a distinct challenge. At the same time, the plight of the world's stateless is also of real concern to development actors, with the mission to "Leave no one behind" at the very heart of the post-2015 Development Agenda. The true test of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will come in their ability to help the most hidden and hard-to-reach populations of the world.

With funding from Tilburg Municipality's "Wereld te Winnen" programme, ISI will carry out a project that aims to articulate the connections between the global challenge of statelessness, the international human rights framework and the SDG agenda. It will zoom in on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council as a means through which both human rights and development concerns relating to statelessness can be monitored, publicised and tackled. Through a combination of analytical and consultative research, ISI will create a knowledge instrument that will better inform civil society's approach to statelessness within the UPR system and contribute to greater visibility of the situation of stateless persons more broadly within the human rights and development discourses.

The vacancy

ISI is recruiting a number of student interns to help research, design and deliver a knowledge instrument on statelessness, human rights and development. The interns will work both independently and as a group to conduct an analysis of statelessness within the first and second UPR cycles and to illuminate the links between statelessness, human rights and the SDGs. As part of this project, the interns will also engage in consultations with international experts to seek input for the knowledge instrument. They will participate in a consultation visit to Geneva where they will meet with key actors and observe meetings relating to the UPR process. The interns will also take the lead in organising a knowledge-sharing event in Tilburg to raise awareness of the interaction between the global human rights and development agendas, including the specific position of stateless persons within these frameworks. Throughout the project, the interns will receive content supervision from the ISI Co-Directors Dr. Laura van Waas and Mr. Amal de Chickera. They will also be assigned an ISI staff member as a group mentor.

Required qualifications

Applicants must be enrolled in a relevant degree programme, such as (international) law, human rights or development. Due to the specific deliverables for this project, applicants must be studying in Tilburg. Applicants should have experience with analytical research and should have excellent writing and communications skills in English. Good writing skills in another language, including Dutch, is an asset, as is experience in organising events and graphic design skills. Applicants must be able to work independently and plan and execute tasks with minimal supervision. The successful applicant is reliable, shows initiative, has an interest in social / human rights issues and has excellent inter-personal skills, including the ability to work well within a team.

Practical details

Interns are expected to work on this project for a minimum of 2 days per week in the period 1 February – 30 June 2017, with the possibility of extension until the end of August. Work space can be provided at Tilburg University for part of the time required for the project but interns will also work from home / another location (exact arrangements to be agreed upon commencement of contract). This is an unpaid position and interns have no entitlement to any financial compensation nor reimbursement for commuting costs. To apply for this position, please submit a **CV** and **letter of motivation** outlining relevant interests, qualifications and experience to jobs@institutesi.org. The deadline for applications is **Monday 9 January 2017**. Interviews will take place between 16-20 January.