World Affairs Council of Atlanta Graduate Internship

The World Affairs Council of Atlanta, a non-profit, non-partisan organization affiliated with the Washington, D.C.-based World Affairs Councils of America and Georgia State University, anticipates accepting graduate students as Research Associates each academic semester. Many Council interns are part of the research team working on the Robinson Country Risk Index (RCRI), the Global Strategic Leadership Forum (GSLF), and additional public programs and roundtables. Other Council interns are part of the program and membership team working on events and membership operations. All interns should have a strong interest in political-economic leadership, country risk, “emerging markets,” corporate social responsibility, and, more broadly, the major global issues of the 21st century.

- The RCRI, published annually through a partnership between the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business, offers a unique and comprehensive way of measuring country risk across more than 120 economies. By incorporating a holistic, ecological conceptualization and variable taxonomy, interwoven longitudinal dynamics, and extensive operations and societal data, the RCRI distinguishes itself from other risk indexes currently in use. The RCRI serves as a basis for research, a tool for teaching, and a starting point through which businesses, non-governmental organizations, and governments can analyze and mitigate country risk.

- Four GSLFs have been held to date—September 2009, April 2010, April 2011, & September 2012. The Forum was initially chaired by former Coca-Cola Company CEO Neville Isdell and the first three GSLFs centered on Mr. Isdell’s ideas surrounding “connected capitalism.” The September 2012 GSLF was chaired by Frank Blount, Chairman & CEO, JI Ventures, and focused on Global Board Governance. Senator Johnny Isakson helped launch this ongoing initiative, and participants have included Dr. Laurence Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the White House Economic Council, and Dr. Helene Gayle, President of CARE. The fifth GSLF is planned for Fall 2013.

- Additional Council programs include major conferences, such as the May 2013 “Atlanta Summit: Sustaining American Leadership in Global Health and Hunger”; presentations and discussions with U.S. and foreign diplomats, government leaders, global business executives, and country experts; a Business Roundtable series; monthly briefings and other events by the Council’s Young Leaders; and an annual conference on international topics organized by the Young Leaders.

Council interns should have a keen interest in political economy, emerging markets, corporate social responsibility, and international affairs. Candidates should also have excellent computer skills and be highly motivated and creative, with the ability to work on multiple tasks. Expectations include a commitment of a minimum of 16 hours per week (20 preferred). The internship is unpaid, but those accepted may be eligible for course credit as determined by their academic department. If interested, please send a cover letter, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Chris Brown (c/o Ms. Clare Higgins-Morton) at the address below. Applications may also be submitted electronically. Applications can be made at any time, but review of applications for each semester begins as follows: Summer—mid-March; Fall—August 1; Spring—mid-October.

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