



LABOR SEMESTER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMARY

The UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education (Labor Center) is pleased to announce a new semester-long program for UC Berkeley graduate students to serve as paid research externs with unions and worker non-profit programs in Northern California. This is a unique opportunity for Berkeley students during the school year to learn from and work with organizations that are in the forefront of innovative efforts on behalf of the California workforce. While carrying out applied research on policy issues, students learn first-hand about the concerns, dilemmas, and activities of working people.

Students will spend the semester on location at labor unions and community-based organizations for 15-20 hours per week. Research projects will be on matters of public interest and results may be disseminated publicly. Examples of possible projects include research with a non-profit group on job growth and job quality in the East Bay, a study with a major building trades union on health care cost savings, and a feasibility study of sectoral restructuring in the hospitality industry. Research will be supervised jointly by the host organization and the staff of the Labor Center.

This program is modeled on the Labor Center's Labor Summer program, a full-time summer internship that has been in place for five years and has resulted in high quality research on critical policy issues and opportunities for students to pursue careers in labor organizations. More information on Labor Summer can be found at <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/laborsummer>.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Labor Semester Externship Program are:

- To provide experiential learning for graduate students interested in labor issues
- To improve the research skills of students by applying their skills to real-life situations
- To provide academic quality research assistance to unions and community organizations that have major research projects of broad public interest but cannot afford to hire researchers for this project

APPLICATION

Unions and non-profit organizations with labor programs may apply to the Labor Center to be considered as host organizations. Consideration will be given to organizations that have public interest research projects that may result in significant improvements for working people; have a project plan with clear goals, objectives, timeline and budget; have capable supervisory staff assigned to the externship; and have financial need. Applications can be downloaded at <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu>; the deadline is November 30, 2006.

Graduate students who qualify for graduate student researcher (GSR) status may apply to the Labor Center to be considered as externs (see <http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/apptknow.pdf>). Students will be selected based upon the specific interests, skills, and experience required for the research project of the host organizations. In-state tuition and fee remission will be paid for graduate students accepted to the program. Pay will follow GSR union rates. Out-of-State tuition and fee remission is not available. Applications can be downloaded at <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu>; the deadline is December 18, 2006.

For more information on the proposed program, please contact

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