

# Internship vacancy: UCOS is looking for an intern (m/f/x) for its student project WeDecolonizeVUB

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## 1. Who are we

The University Centre for Development Cooperation (UCOS) is a recognized Belgian NGO that aims to strengthen the global citizenship skills among students in higher education. We work together with our partners and our target audience to achieve sustainable human development by promoting global conscience and active global citizenship.

## 2. What we do

We organize:

- » Courses for Flemish higher education around global issues, development cooperation, and sustainable development
- » Guidance for teachers and staff working on internationalization
- » Student projects that reach a broad audience through its activities: CHanGE and WeDecolonizeVUB

This internship vacancy is for the position of project assistant for the student project WeDecolonizeVUB. This project aims to contribute to decolonial and anti-racist thinking and handling of students at the VUB. This contribution is twofold by, on the one hand, developing a safe space for racialized students. This safe space will allow us to discuss (de)colonization and its influence on 'race', class and gender and how that impacts everyday life. On the other hand, we aim at the larger VUB student population to critically assess their Eurocentric knowledge and world view by providing critical and diverse point of views through our library, online platform, and organized events. The driving force that stipulates the strategic goals are a group of students and representatives of student associations. UCOS supports and facilitates this participative process.

## 3. The internship

The intern will offer assistance to the student project WeDecolonizeVUB. There are very concrete, practical tasks within this project for the intern: managing content on social media, logistical support on the weekends and meetings, attendance at the library. In addition, other tasks are agreed upon according to the unique profile, education and interests of the student. For example: developing a communication strategy, organizing events, theoretical preliminary research on the obstacles for racialized students in higher education. There is also a possibility to combine the internship with a master thesis. In that case, UCOS will act as co-promotor of the thesis.

Apart from tasks for WeDecolonizeVUB, this internship will give the student insights in civil society and NGO's and provide skills in project management. The intern will work in a dynamic group with critical and enthusiastic colleagues. It will allow the student to translate

theoretical knowledge on decolonization into concrete and tangible actions. This is an internship with a lot of autonomy and opportunities. A compensation for the internship may be provided in case of a voluntary internship that is not in the framework of a specific study programme.

#### **4. Profile of the intern**

For this internship, we are looking for 1 intern that is available for at least 180 hours. The internship starts in September 2021. The 180 hours can be done fulltime over the course of five weeks or it can be spread over a longer period of time (ex. Couple days a week over the course of a couple of months).

Due to the high importance we hold for experts by experience for this project and the positive actions UCOS takes in its current staffing policy, we want to especially encourage racialized students to apply for this position.

We are looking for someone:

- » Interested in and knowledge of (de)colonization, anti-racism, and intersectionality
- » With good communication skills: you are a professional communicator with colleagues and partner organizations, you know how to position yourself as empathetic for people in a precarious positions
- » With good analytical skills: you can develop effective and creative strategies to achieve the objectives of the project and strategy, you are capable of processing and structuring information
- » A team player but also able to work independently and not shy from taking proactive actions
- » Creative, flexible, and enthusiastic person with a sense of responsibility
- » Familiar with Brussels and/or VUB

UCOS wholeheartedly encourages all (racialized) students, regardless of their sexual orientation, ability or gender to apply.

#### **5. Location of the internship**

The internship will predominantly be at the UCOS office: Karel Van Miert Gebouw Pleinlaan 5, 1050, Brussel.

Other locations are possible in case of events, weekends, and other gatherings.

Homeworking is discussable.

#### **6. Contact information**

For more information you can contact Latifah Abdou or Loes Verhaeghe via [Latifah.abdou@ucos.be](mailto:Latifah.abdou@ucos.be) and [loes.verhaeghe@ucos.be](mailto:loes.verhaeghe@ucos.be). The candidate-intern can always make an appointment to discuss potential tasks for the intern or in case of other questions.

#### **7. How to apply**

All candidates should send their resume and 1 page motivation to [latifah.abdou@ucos.be](mailto:latifah.abdou@ucos.be) and [loes.verhaeghe@ucos.be](mailto:loes.verhaeghe@ucos.be) by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The motivation letter needs to specify how long and when you wish to uptake this internship. Moreover, it should stipulate which tasks you wish to fulfill and what skills you have to offer to fulfill these tasks successfully. All candidates can expect an answer by 3/09/2021.