



Description:

The HBS Africa Research Center Summer program is a funded eight-week program that provides Harvard college students the opportunity to gain practical experience at the HBS Africa Research Center in Johannesburg, South Africa. The HBS Africa Research Center, the newest of our research locations around the world, is an arm of Harvard Business School (HBS), and plays an important role in helping HBS to develop and strengthen relationships with sub-Saharan Africa business and academic leaders. The center enables HBS faculty to more effectively study one of the fastest growing economic regions during a time of significant transformation. The center will be cooperating with HBS faculty on research and course development projects (case studies, research notes, books and articles) to further incorporate lessons from African businesses into the curriculum. Research topics currently range from transportation and food/beverage, to waste management and banking.

The center's research mission is twofold: to cooperate closely with HBS faculty on their research and course development (by writing case studies), and to work with companies all over sub-Saharan Africa to identify content for case studies and research that present significant learning opportunities. The work of our research centers is 100% pedagogical; there is no PR benefit to the companies. Beyond research, the office also works to support HBS across its functional departments, including admissions, Executive Education, Career & Professional Development, and Alumni Relations. While the intern will mainly support the research endeavors of the center, there may also be an opportunity to be involved with other center activities.

Program description:

Selected students will have the opportunity to participate in many aspects of the work at the Africa Research Office. Depending on the status of the ongoing case and research projects at the time of the student's arrival, they will participate in case writing and analytical work, desk research (e.g. company/ industry/ country micro and macroeconomic background research based on public data), help in pitching ideas in the discovery/ development phase, and more. This is an amazing opportunity for undergraduate students to delve into fascinating global management issues and be exposed to the world of doing business in Africa.

Desired profile: You have some professional experience, preferably international, and demonstrate deep interest in conducting research on business and management issues in various African countries and industries. You have excellent English writing skills and you can synthesize and think analytically. French language skills would also be beneficial.