“Social Engagement for Social Inclusion”
Research Internships in France - 2018

The FXB Center for Health and Human Rights (FXB), in collaboration with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA), and the Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights (EMR) has developed an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students at Harvard University to conduct collaborative research in France for two months during the summer. The aim is to give students an opportunity to engage with and research the circumstances of migrant and refugee populations living in precarious conditions in informal settlements or other temporary housing with a view to contributing towards policy and social inclusion.

Like other European Union (EU) member states, France has received a sizeable number of asylum applications, over 85,244 asylum applications in 2016 (OFPRA 2016). This large scale arrival compounds earlier migration flows. Nearly a decade ago, in 2007, the enlargement of the EU led to a steady influx of migrants from Romania and Bulgaria onto European soil. These new events have generated a new migration landscape in France and the EU, more broadly.

There are 571 informal settlements in France (DIHAL, 2017) with a population of 16,000 people (including 3600 minors), a third of these who live in Paris. The migrant populations living in the settlements are mostly from Bulgaria and Romania (Roma) but also include a growing number of non EU migrants. These settlements have generated serious concerns about the extent to which fundamental human rights and access to basic supportive services are protected and guaranteed for their migrant populations. Furthermore, European countries, including France, have witnessed an increase in racism and xenophobia towards minorities and refugees and a growing popularity of extremist and xenophobic parties (Pew Research Center’s study, 2016).

Goals, Format and Structure of the Research Internship:

• This internship program, now in its fourth year, builds on previous work of Harvard students.

• Students will be paired with local NGOs, international organizations and government agencies in cities in France (Paris and others) from May 21 to July 18, 2018.

• Students will compare similarities and differences in the full expression and realization of rights for the Roma, refugee, and asylum-seeking populations within France.

• Students will produce practical recommendations for the protection of basic human rights for migrant populations.

• The program will identify exemplary models of inclusion and assess their generalizability/replicability.

• The program seeks to contribute to local, national and international dialogues across academia, policy makers, and the civil society.

• Students will conduct interviews with community members, local, national, and international stakeholders that can include EU, UN, and French government officials, advocacy network members, scholars and NGOs.

• All participants will take part in a mandatory training program during the spring semester before commencing their work abroad, consisting of 6-8 two-hour workshops in mid-March to mid-May.

• During their internship, students will collaborate with scholars at Sciences Po, a top research university in Paris, for the duration of their internship and participate in a seminar.

• Students will share their findings onsite in France as well as submit a substantial detailed written report by the end of August.
• Undergraduate students will receive full funding to cover their airfare, room and board, and internal transportation.
• Masters and doctoral applicants will receive partial funding however must apply for additional funding.

Undergraduate Applicants must submit their proposals and all supporting materials by February 15, 2018, via the online application platform, CARAT (https://apps2.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/carat/applicant/index.) Undergrads with questions should contact Clare Putnam, Weatherhead Center Coordinator of Student Programs at cputnam@wcfia.harvard.edu.

Master and Doctoral students: Applications (Cover letter and resume) should be sent to Myriam Zuber, Director of the program by February 15, 2018 at: mzuber@hsp.harvard.edu.