

Partnerships between JMU and African Countries
Rwanda Subcommittee
Spring 2024 Report

Membership

Chairs: Bryan Zugelder & Monica Smith-Woofter

Members: Rory DePaolis, Bernd Kaussler, Joseph Kush, Paul Mabrey, Sombo Muzata, Jean Michel Habineza, David Shonk, Cara Meixner, Besi Muhonja, John Hathcoat, 3 graduate students (2 from CAL, 1 from COB)

Charge

The Rwanda subcommittee supports and coordinates efforts to expand JMU partnerships with governmental and higher education institutions in Rwanda by focusing on identifying, growing, and maintaining university partnerships. These efforts include faculty development and exchanges, student study-abroad experiences and internships, and institution-to-institution collaborations.

Spring Activity

Graduate Student Recruitment & Retention: One new graduate student (Public Administration) joined JMU in January 2024. Co-chairs of the subcommittee and Oris Griffin, from the College of Education, helped facilitate the matriculation and student hiring processes for the students in partnership with the Center for Global Engagement.

iDebate Implementation Partner: iDebate Rwanda has been identified as a logical and natural implementation partner for JMU to execute work locally in Kigali and Rwanda due to ongoing relationships and partnerships with various priorities of the ministries involved in the JMU-Rwanda partnerships. The three priorities continue to include: 1) tourism and sports management, 2) education, and 3) health care. Each of the subcommittee members represents these areas of focus.

iDebate Rwanda prepared a document that can help stakeholders organize and plan for visits to Rwanda that include collaborative work related to internships, visits, meetings, etc. based on the work of unique disciplines and work related to the overall collective of efforts aligned with governmental priorities. With iDebate as the natural implementation partner for many of the projects, iDebate has the infrastructure to support ongoing connections. The attached document is a planning tool for JMU stakeholders to use, see Appendix A.

Teacher Leadership: iDebate Rwanda leaders have developed a plan to recruit teachers for the online teacher leadership program to be sponsored by individual schools. Zoom sessions have been scheduled for early summer as information sessions.

30th Anniversary Commemoration Event (Public Administration): Rob Alexander and Sombo Muzata organized, in collaboration with public administration graduate students from Rwanda,

an event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda with video, candle lighting, talking, and ceremony.

Appendices

Appendix A: Individualized program – JMU Summer Internships proposal

Appendix A



Individualized program - JMU Summer Internships proposal

(1 month)Week 1-2: Orientation and Introduction (Part of the Pre-Departure meetings)

- Introduction to the country, where they will live, and a small city tour.
- Engaging in iDebate activities(tournaments, training, and events)
- Getting acquainted with the place and where they will be doing the internship (location and schedule)
- Learn about the country's history (museum visits)

Weeks 2-4: Skill Building and Cultural Immersion

- Start their internship with a few activities scheduled within weekends that immerse them in the Rwandan culture(visits within the city)

(2 month)Weeks 1-2: Mid-Program Review and Exploration

- Continuation of internship and skill-building workshops.
- Mid-program review, feedback sessions, and personal development planning.

Weeks 2-4: Work on a Project

- Internship work with an emphasis on project development and implementation mainly within iDebate (could be an ongoing project or new) that serves the community

(3rd Month)Weeks 1-2: Finalize Project

- Completion of internship projects and preparation for final presentations.
- Final project presentations to peers, host organizations, and program staff.

Weeks 2-4: Finalize Internship and Farewell

- Finalize the internship
- Farewell activities
- Departure.

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Proposal

This internship experience is designed to provide students and young professionals with a comprehensive internship opportunity in Rwanda, Africa, in one of four key areas: Sports application, health services, education, or public Administration. This program aims to foster cross-cultural understanding, enhance professional skills, and contribute to the local community of Rwanda.

Objectives:

- To provide participants with hands-on experience in their chosen field internationally.
- To develop intercultural competencies and global awareness.
- To enhance participants' resumes and career prospects through international work experience.
- To contribute positively to host communities through meaningful work and engagement.

Program Duration: 3 Months maximum

Dates: TBD

Target Audience:

- College students (Undergrad or masters)

Program Structure:

Pre-Departure Meetings:

- Cultural sensitivity training.
- Overview of the host country's work culture and etiquette.
- Health and safety briefing.

Internship Placement:

- Participants will be placed in organizations or institutions relevant to their chosen field:
- Sports Application: Work with sports organizations, clubs, or fitness tech companies.

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- Health Services: Intern in hospitals, clinics, or public health organizations.
- Education: Assist in schools, educational N.G.O.s, or language institutes
- Public Administration: Work with government agencies, NGOs, or policy research institutes.
- Assignments will be tailored to match participants' skills and interests.

Cultural Immersion Activities:

- Language classes (if applicable).
- Weekly cultural excursions and activities.
- Opportunities for community service and engagement.

Professional Development Workshops:

- Workshops on topics such as leadership, communication, and global teamwork. (iDebate)
- Networking events with local professionals and alumni. (iDebate)

Mid-Term Review and Feedback:

- Individual meetings with program coordinators to assess progress and address challenges.

Final Project/Presentation:

- Participants will complete a project or presentation summarizing their internship experience and learning outcomes.

Post-Internship Debrief:

- Reflection sessions to integrate the experience into participants' personal and professional growth.
- Guidance on leveraging international experience in future career endeavors.

Support Services:

- Pre-departure assistance (Accommodation and schedule arrangements).
- On-site orientation and welcome packet.
- Local support staff is available 24/7 for emergencies.

Application Process:

- Online application form.
- Submission of resume/CV and cover letter.
- Letters of recommendation.

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- Online orientation.

Program Fees:

- Accommodation, placement services, pre-departure and on-site support, and cultural activities.

Things to consider during meeting:

Priority: Unpaid in-person?

Hosting fee:?

Location: Kigali or even outside kigali?

Is it a credit program or a summer internship that looks good on the resume??

Academic or upskilling program ??

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