



# Research and Economic Empowerment Sefrou and Ifrane, Morocco *May 20 - July 30, 2017*

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

With thanks to the deep connections to communities in central Morocco brokered by Susan Schaefer Davis and Doug Davis (Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Haverford College), the Center is pleased to offer up to three opportunities for CPGC interns to work with Moroccan NGOs in summer 2017. For decades, Susan Schaefer Davis has worked to foster women's craft cooperatives and assist the artisans to bring their products to the global market. Through this work, she has forged connections and partnerships beyond the craft cooperatives, resulting in this invitation for CPGC-sponsored students to work with university-based research centers, women's empowerment networks and the craft cooperatives themselves.

The CPGC has planned the 2017 program's dates to accommodate the change of pace in host communities during the holy month of Ramadan, June 5-July 6 this year. Because work schedules at host organizations will be shortened during this time, the CPGC interns will each conduct an independent research project around a research question of their choosing over the course of this month. During this time, interns will be expected to produce a presentation (as an organizational annual report, short film, website, or photo essay) and submit it to the CPGC staff and a faculty advisor of their choosing. *Accordingly, in the application, students will be asked to submit a research question that could guide their free time and enhance their cultural immersion during Ramadan.* Additionally, students will be asked to continue to work with their partner sites, building towards a full resumption of programmatic activities after Eid al Fitr. The CPGC can help you identify a faculty advisor!

## **2017 Program structure**

The students will land in Casablanca and travel as a group to Fez by train. They will then acclimate to Fez for a few days during an intensive *darija* language immersion. From Fez, the group will travel to their respective sites in Sefrou (two students) and Ifrane (1 student) for the rest of the summer.

## **Ramadan Research Project:**

Ramadan is a time of endless evenings, family-centered activities and delicious meals: it's a humanities or social science researcher's dream! Student-devised research projects will begin during Ramadan, and (given the heat and where key informants will be located during the day) should center around "inside/indoors" research sites. During this time period, students may only be needed at their worksite in the mornings, and will be free to schedule individual meetings with key informants, or to pursue research projects in the afternoons and evenings. For students interested in learning about issues in women's lives (ranging from social media to "clothesism" to food or prayer), this provides a great opportunity to practice research skills. For students interested in more quantitative aspects of social science research, this could be a good time to embark on research on women in the Moroccan labor market, and students could produce an annual report or build a website for a women's initiative to share with buyers abroad. Any student hoping to publish this data as academic research (as part of a thesis, for example), will need to go through the Haverford IRB procedures before landing in Morocco.

Students are encouraged to use the time of Ramadan to build connections and momentum for the late June and July classes and otherwise prepare for a more work-intensive internship duties, which will start after the Eid festivities at the end of Ramadan.

### **Hillary Rodham Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment Al Akhawayn University , Ifrane (AUI)**

#### **1 intern**

For a student interested in conducting research on the role of women in Morocco within the frameworks of an academic institution, Dr. Schaefer Davis' connections to academics based at the Clinton Center will allow students access to the research institution's resources. A self-directed student with strong French or Arabic language skills may be able to participate in a research study that focuses on women's NGOs in Morocco (pending the reapproval of project funding). The workplace itself is English-speaking, and students with website or video-making experience would be particularly useful as the Clinton Center expands its Women's Empowerment Network Project: [http://wenmorocco.org/en/about\\_us.html](http://wenmorocco.org/en/about_us.html)

Interns will live on campus, which is a self-contained private campus located half a mile from the highland resort town of Ifrane. Stunning and beautiful, this area does feel somewhat removed from the hustle and bustle of other Moroccan towns in the area – and is very comfortable in the hot summer months. Students may work relatively independently the first few weeks at AUI and will be paired with a Moroccan undergraduate intern once the students return to campus for the university's summer session. Students will need to be self-directed and advocate for themselves to access AUI's library and other resources.

<http://www.aui.ma/en/hcc/about-hcc.html>

### **Cherry Buttons Cooperative and Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center**

#### **Sefrou**

#### **2 interns**

The Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center and the Cherry Buttons Cooperative are both located in Sefrou. Selected interns will be able to find lodging in a homestay arranged by Cherry Buttons Cooperative President Amina Yabis.

Under the direction of Amina Yabis since 1998, the Cherry Buttons Cooperative manufactures traditional *djellaba* buttons, stringing them together to create beautiful necklaces and other jewelry. Members of the cooperative would benefit from interns assisting members in

- Product design
- Website design, including online sales and marketing
- Translating artisans' stories and methodologies into French and English

For more information about the cooperative's work, please visit this website:

<http://cherrybuttoncoop.wordpress.com/about/>

Members of the Women's Empowerment Center would benefit from

- Training to begin small businesses including learning how to access micro-credit. (One potential research project could be to create a resource of several micro-credit agencies that local women could use, and describe them and provide links.)
- Business literacy programs for women and girls
- Computer literacy classes
- English classes (beginner's and intermediate levels)

Students must be willing to be direct and clear about expectations surrounding attendance at classes to both their students and the staff at the Women's Empowerment Association. Students may be responsible for promoting the class and ensuring that it's on the schedule.

For more information about the work of the Women's Empowerment Center, please contact Dr. Schaefer Davis [sdavis@uslink.net](mailto:sdavis@uslink.net).

### **NUTS AND BOLTS**

### *Application*

The deadline for this internship is February 5, 2017 via the “Morocco Partnerships” application on the CPGC’s online application platform: <http://cpgc-apply.haverford.edu/>. Before submitting an application, the CPGC suggests that all applicants set a meeting with CPGC International Programs Coordinator, Elias Mohr: [emohr@haverford.edu](mailto:emohr@haverford.edu).

### *Funding*

During this nine-week program, the CPGC will cover interns’ programmatic and budgeted expenses to minimize the amount students pay out of pocket for food, housing, language instruction, international and intercity travel, visas and vaccinations. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2017-18.

### *Qualifications*

Language: Preference will be given to students with Advanced Intermediate or higher written and spoken **French**, and/or students with Advanced Intermediate or higher **Arabic**. Please note that *darija*, or Moroccan Arabic, is different from Levantine Arabic or Modern Standard Arabic (which is taught in the Bi-Co). Some communities may speak Berber as their primary language, so facility with both languages would be valued by our partners in Morocco. Students will be expected to work on *darija* throughout the summer, as it will be invaluable in the workplace as well as in research.

### *Pre-Departure Expectations*

In addition to the mandatory CPGC pre-departure weekend retreat (April 7-9, 2017) and travel health meeting, selected interns will be *required* to attend weekly mandatory pre-departure meetings. In the course of these meetings, students will be expected to work on *darija* through online learning tools, read 20<sup>th</sup> century anthropologists’ views of working in Morocco (Rabinow’s *Notes on Fieldwork in Morocco*, and excerpts from Susan Schaefer Davis’ *Patience and Power*), and connect with the scholars who have brokered these connections.

### *Behavior while in Morocco*

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan will take place May 27<sup>th</sup>-June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Interns will have about a month of work at their internship sites before the holy month, and will close their work at the end of July. During Ramadan, students will be expected to adjust to a slower working schedule and private eating habits. They would be welcome to join the fast. Given the relatively rural setting of these communities, students are expected to dress modestly (i.e. long pants and covering shoulders for men and women; women may find long skirts are cooler).

### *Return Expectations*

Considering the content of this internship program and concentration on applied human rights work in post-conflict settings, students are encouraged to enroll in the CPGC-designed course ICPRH301 “Human Rights, Development, and International Activism” or propose their own post-return course.