

Women's Economic Empowerment

Sefrou, Morocco

May 26- August 4, 2018



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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 CPGC interns to work with an NGO in Morocco in summer 2018. 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 resulting in this invitation for CPGC-sponsored students to work with a women's empowerment network and a craft cooperative.

2018 PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The students will land in Casablanca and travel to Fez by train. They will then acclimate to Fez for a few days during an intensive Darija (Moroccan Arabic) language immersion. From Fez, the group will travel to their site in Sefrou for the rest of the summer. The first two and a half weeks of the program will take place during the holy month of Ramadan, May 15-June 14, 2018. Work schedules at host organizations may be shortened during this time.

Optional Research Project:

CPGC interns have the option to conduct an independent research project around a research question of their choosing, over the course of their stay. Students will be able 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.

Cherry Buttons Cooperative and Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center, Sefrou

(2-3 interns)

The Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center and the Cherry Buttons Cooperative are both located in Sefrou. Selected interns will be lodging in the home of Amina Yabis, President of Cherry Buttons Cooperative and Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center 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 their [website](#))

Members of the Women's Empowerment Center would benefit from:

- Training to begin small businesses including learning how to access micro-credit. (One potential 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 or French 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.

In 2017, interns spent 2 days/week working at the Cooperative and 3 days/week working at the Women's Empowerment Center. Your remaining time will be spent learning Darija, and/or the optional research project described above. Students choosing to concentrate on language learning will be expected to work on Darija throughout the summer as it will be invaluable in the workplace. Those choosing a research project are also advised to continue their learning of Darija as it will benefit their research. For more information about the work of the Coop and the Center, please contact Dr. Schaefer Davis sdavis@uslink.net.

Behavior while in Morocco: 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, as some interns have in past years. 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).

NUTS AND BOLTS

Eligibility and Application Information: This internship is open to Haverford and Bryn Mawr students. Applicants must submit an application form, a cover letter, an unofficial transcript, and a recommendation form completed by a faculty member. Apply through [CPGC's website](#).

Qualifications: 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).

CPGC's Internship Program: All CPGC internships are part of a larger framework that goes beyond just a grant. Internships include pre-departure programming and post-internship requirements. More specific information about these crucial elements of programming can be found on the CPGC website. **Interested applicants must meet with the Manager of International Programs, Stephanie Zukerman.**

Prior to departure, interns will be expected to work on Darija through online learning tools, read 20th 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.

Stipend: During this ten-week program, the CPGC will cover interns' expenses for food, flights and ground transportation, lodging, language instruction, visas and vaccinations. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2018-19.

Deadline: The deadline for this internship is Sunday, February 4, 2018 via the "Morocco Partnerships" application on the CPGC's online application platform. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview in mid to late February.