

# Women's Empowerment and Youth Education

*Sefrou, Morocco*

May 25- August 3, 2019



Through the Fellowships for Global Citizenship program, the CPGC is offering two internship placements for three students in Sefrou, Morocco.

## **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 CPGC is pleased to offer up to three Fellows for Global Citizenship the opportunity to work with NGOs in Morocco in summer 2019. For decades, Susan Schaefer Davis has worked to foster women's craft cooperatives and assist the artisans in bringing 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 center, a craft cooperative, and a youth center.

## **2019 PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

The students will spend 1-2 weeks at the [Center for Cross Cultural Learning](#) (CCCL) in Rabat, where they will have Darija (Moroccan Arabic) language lessons and Moroccan cultural lessons on topics including "Ramadan Orientation," "Linguistic Situation in Morocco," and "Civil Society and Service Learning in Morocco." While in Rabat, students will be assigned a homestay in close proximity to CCCL. From Rabat, Fellows will travel to their site in Sefrou for the rest of the summer, where they will live in the home of Amina Yabis, President and Founder of Cherry Buttons Cooperative, and Treasurer of Golden Buttons' Women's Empowerment Center. The first week and a half of the program will take place during the holy month of Ramadan, which ends on June 4, 2019.

## **Women's Empowerment: The Women's Empowerment Center and Cherry Buttons Artist Cooperative (2 Fellows)**

The Golden Buttons Women's Empowerment Center (formally called The Center for the Qualification and Formation of Women) and the Cherry Buttons Cooperative are both located in Sefrou. The Women's Center is a trade school exclusively serving women from Sefrou and the surrounding region who have experienced difficulty in their community (eg. stigmatized for being a single mother or divorced, the elderly, or formerly imprisoned). The Center provides classes and certification in computer literacy, cooking, languages, sewing, art, and other skills, serving approximately 300 women per year. While students do pay a small fee for classes, no woman is turned away for lack of funds.

At the Women's Empowerment Center, Fellows will teach English or French classes (beginners

and intermediate levels) and computer literacy classes approximately 12 hours/week (4 days teaching language and 2 days teaching computers). Fellows 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. Fellows will be responsible for designing learning goals, lesson plans, and exams, and assessing the progress of their students. Fellows may also be responsible for promoting the class and ensuring that it's on the schedule.

The Cherry Buttons Women's Cooperative manufactures traditional *djellaba* buttons, stringing them together to create beautiful necklaces and other jewelry. Fellows will work on given assignments at the Co-op on an as needed basis.

Members of the cooperative would also benefit from Fellows assisting them 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](#))

### **Youth Education (1 Fellow)**

The Sefrou Center for the Social Education for Youth, open since 2013, provides a low cost opportunity for young people, who would otherwise not have the financial resources for private lessons, to study language, music, sports, and art. Summer 2019 marks the CPGC's first year partnering with the youth center to offer an opportunity for one French-speaking Fellow to work with boys and girls (ages 15 and older) teaching language (French or English), and playing sports, music, theater, and/or art, depending on the skills of the Fellow. This Fellow will live at the home of Amina Yabis along with the Women's Empowerment Fellows.

The Fellows' free time will be spent in a deep cultural immersion with their host family, learning Darija, and/or conducting the optional research project described below. 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 Centers, please contact Stephanie Zukerman [szukerma@haverford.edu](mailto:szukerma@haverford.edu), or Dr. Susan Schaefer Davis [sdavis@uslink.net](mailto:sdavis@uslink.net).

### **Optional Research Project:**

CPGC Fellows 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.

**Behavior while in Morocco:** During Ramadan, Fellows will be expected to adjust to a slower working schedule and private eating habits. They would be welcome to join the fast, as some Fellows have in past years. Given the relatively rural setting of these communities, Fellows 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, an unofficial transcript, and a recommendation form completed by a faculty member, and will take part in an interview with the decision committee. Apply through [CPGC's website](#).

**Qualifications:** Students are required to have Intermediate or higher written and spoken French, and/or 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 Fellowships for Global Citizenship Program:** CPGC's Fellowships for Global Citizenship: This internship is part of a larger framework that goes beyond just a summer grant. Fellows join a comprehensive program through which they receive full financial and personal development support to prepare for acting ethically and sensitively in unfamiliar environments; participate in summer internships at social change organizations around the world; and continue their journey through a re-entry course upon returning to campus in the fall. More specific information about these crucial elements of the Fellowship program can be found on the CPGC website. **Interested applicants must meet with the Manager of International Programs, Stephanie Zukerman.**

Prior to departure, Fellows will be expected to meet with their cohort, 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 *Women Artisans of Morocco*), and connect with the scholars who have brokered these connections.

**Stipend:** During this ten-week program, the CPGC will cover Fellows' expenses for food, flights and ground transportation, lodging, language instruction, visas, and vaccinations. The CPGC will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students who have the stipulation in their financial aid packages for 2019-20.

**Deadline:** The deadline to apply for this Fellowship is Sunday, February 3, 2019 via the "Morocco Partnerships" application on the CPGC's website. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview in mid to late February.