



MOBILIZING
FOR
GLOBAL
DIGITAL
FREEDOM

Open Call for Internship Applications Spring 2011 (Jan-Apr)

Deadline: 11:59pm EST Tuesday, January 4thth, 2011

Access aims to build a world where everyone has the right to actively participate and share in an open internet, tearing down the censorship firewall that prevents hundreds of millions from accessing it today. Our strategy is threefold: 1) using cutting edge technology to directly help activists in oppressive regimes, 2) providing thought leadership on the new frontier of digital rights, and 3) building a mass global citizens' movement which can advocate in support of these aims.

Founded in the wake of the 2009 Iranian post-election crackdown, Access provided critical technical support that helped keep the internet open for the Iranian democracy movement. As millions challenged the election results, an online network of digital activists began a series of interventions to keep Facebook, Twitter, independent blogs, and mail clients accessible and unmonitored. As government officials shut down or severely narrowed means of communication, they were repeatedly prized open again by our global network of highly-skilled and dedicated activists, thus allowing Iranians to communicate their hopes for democracy and ideas about legitimate political participation with the world. This network of activists has since coalesced into Access.

Description:

The Access Policy Institute conducts high-quality, independent research, and based on that research, provides innovative, timely, and practical policy recommendations to governments and corporations that advance three broad goals:

- 1) Strengthening democracy, human rights, and political freedom around the world
- 2) Providing real time support to political activists in closed and semi-closed societies
- 3) Securing a more open, safe, prosperous, and cooperative international system by improving easy and affordable access to a functional and secure internet

Through its Digital Relief Team, Access has access to political activists in some of the world's most volatile regions. In an effort to ensure that their voices are truly heard, the Access Policy Institute seeks to raise awareness about the challenges faced by those "behind the firewall," and educate individuals, corporations, NGOs, and governments about what they can do to ameliorate them.

Scope of work:

Policy Interns will work with the Policy Analyst, the Campaign Director, and the Executive Director to produce policy briefs in response to threats to digital freedom as they develop. Policy interns will also be involved in writing more general policy briefs and position papers on emerging threats to the internet and digital rights. Policy interns will further participate in a variety of activities including updating documents on topics of current pertinence, editing reports, compiling data, preparing advocacy materials for internal and external use, blogging, and other web-based projects. Additionally, policy interns will have some campaign related duties.

Particularly talented and committed Policy Interns may be extended an invitation to join the Access Policy Institute Fellowship Program where they will further have the opportunity to conduct substantive research in an area of their choice that falls under the purview of Access' organizational scope.

Qualifications:

Successful applicants will be bright, highly motivated scholars with strong academic records and an interest and aptitude for public policy, political communication, digital freedom, and human rights. Policy interns will be actively involved in crafting Access's policy message and as such, must be self-starters with proven research and analytical skills, strong writing and editing abilities, the capacity to multitask in a fast-paced environment, and a passion for technology, democracy, and human rights issues. A technical background and fluency in a foreign language is a plus, but not required of this position.

While it is preferable that interns be located in the New York area for the semester long duration of the Program, since most of Access's work is conducted virtually, applicants will be considered from locations worldwide. The start and end dates of this internship are negotiable.

Time Commitment:

January through April, 2011

15-20 hours per week (more if desirable; negotiable depending on specific circumstances of candidate)

Application Requirements:

To apply, please write to joseph@accessnow.org with "Policy Internship – [Your Name]" as the subject line and submit the following, saved as one PDF or .doc document:

- Cover letter expressing your interest in the position and why you are the best candidate for it
- Resume
- Writing sample of no more than 1,000 words
- 2 references (only one may be academic)

NOTE: Applications with an abundance of spelling and grammar errors will not be considered. Please take time to submit the strongest application possible.

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