

Summer Internship Syllabus

Please note that the requirements in this syllabus are the minimums required in the grant award from the US Department of Education's Business and International Education program. This document should be tailored to meet requirements established by the FIU department for interns wishing to receive credit for the 6 week research internship in either the Dominican Republic or Panama.

Export Markets for Alternative Energy: Preparing Small Business Enterprises for a Global Green Energy Future

Summer 2010 Student Research Internships in Dominican Republic and Panama

Program Requirements

Objectives:

The current economic decline demonstrates how interconnected the world has become, as the negative impacts of the financial crisis in the United States have rippled across countries near and far. The Congressional stimulus package acknowledged that this downturn provides an opportunity for new growth via "green" industries, particularly in the renewable energy sector, with the hopes of creating new jobs while helping the environment. The Florida Network for Global Studies (FNGS) and its collaborating institutions at the University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, and Florida International University are poised to help small businesses throughout the state of Florida take advantage of this "win-win" scenario, with an educational program that builds the capacity of small businesses to export alternative energy goods and services throughout the world. At the same time, academic programs that will strengthen the global expertise of faculty and students within the Florida State University system on this important sector.

The project objectives are:

1. To strengthen the business and engineering curricula with courses related to the expanded world-wide use of alternative energy
2. To strengthen University outreach to small businesses that provide alternative energy products and services
3. To host conferences that assist Florida small business enterprises engaged in the development of alternative energy products and services for global markets
4. To develop internships, study abroad, and other opportunities for students to acquire global export business experience in the alternative energy sector

To pursue this fourth objective, student research interns will be selected from each of the Florida Network for Global Studies participating institutions. They will spend 6 weeks in either the Dominican Republic or Panama from May 17 through June 25, 2010. While in-country, the research interns will meet with local commercial service offices of the United States Embassies in Santo Domingo and Panama City, local chambers of commerce and rotary clubs, U.S. chambers of commerce offices in country, local businesses, and other institutions and entities that have knowledge about or are engaged in practices related to the development of alternative energy as an import or domestically produced good or service. While conducting the research, interns will be living with families.

For purposes of completing the research requirement tied to the BIE grant, Dr. Rebecca Harris (rharris@cas.usf.edu or 813-974-6906) will supervise interns in Panama and Dr. Mark Amen (amen@cas.usf.edu or 813-974-6912) will supervise interns in the Dominican Republic. Both supervisors are at USF's Patel Center for Global Solutions. Each supervisor will have conversations with each intern prior to the pre-trip orientation. During these conversations specific research topics related to alternative energy will be finalized.

Each intern will be expected to produce a report, submitted electronically to their supervisor no later than July 16, 2009. The report will be approximately 25-30 pages in length and provide a summary of research findings concerning the prospective and actual use of alternative sources of energy either imported or produced domestically.

Requirements

A. Readings

Research interns traveling to the Dominican Republic should read the following:

- Stephen Gregory, *The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in the Dominican Republic*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007.

Interns traveling to Panama should read the following:

- Robert C. Harding, *The History of Panama*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006

Or

- Michael Conniff, *Panama and the United States*, Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2001 (2nd ed.)

All interns should read the following:

Research interns in both the Dominican Republic and Panama should read the following background document: Improving Lives: World Bank Group Progress on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fiscal Year 2006, December 2006

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTENERGY/Resources/336805-1157034157861/Improving_Lives_Low_Res.pdf

- World Bank – WB - website: <http://www.worldbank.org>
- Inter-American Development Bank – IADB – website: <http://www.iadb.org>

Research interns in the both the Dominican Republic and Panama should review the Websites of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank for background information on the country where they will be conducting research. For instance the World Bank has a **country brief** document and a document on **doing business** in the country. The IADB has **country strategy** documents for each country.

The WB also has specific documents on loans, press releases, and blogs. These documents make specific reference to activities related to alternative energy. Recent examples of this are the WB November 16, 2009 press release announcing funding support for Wave energy research in the Dominican Republic

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DOMINICAREPUBLICINSPANISHEXT/Resources/DMDominicanRepublic_winner2009.pdf and World Bank Loan Projects - Dominican Republic - Programmatic Power Sector Reform (September 22, 2009) http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/10/16/00333038_20091016001329/Rendered/PDF/ICR12600P0827110disclosed0101141091.pdf

- To be supplied: Documents on Small Business Practices in the Dominican Republic and Panama will be provided by the Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida

B. Participate in pre-trip on-line debriefing to be schedule during the week of May 10-14, 2010

C. Participate in a post-trip on-line debriefing to be schedule during the week of June 28-July 2, 2010

D. Submission of Final Report July 16, 2010