

Bridges to Development: Internship Opportunity

Location: Seattle area, Washington (USA); Geneva (Switzerland)

or working remotely in a time zone closely aligned to a Bridges' location

Application due by Monday 4 November 2024

(Interviews and decisions anticipated by early December 2024)

Timing

The internship will begin in January for a minimum of 6 months, with a possibility to extend through summer 2025. Interns are expected to commit on average at least 50% (20 hours per week), yet 80% or full-time arrangements are preferred. We are open to flexible arrangements to accommodate academic schedules and time zones.

Background

[Bridges to Development](http://www.bridgestodevelopment.org) (Bridges) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working to advance opportunities for global and local communities to overcome health and development barriers. Founded in 2018, Bridges is a small team of less than 10 staff and long-term consultants, with offices located in the Seattle area, USA and Geneva, Switzerland. Bridges is looking for one or two interns, to learn through an engaging experience, and make quality contributions to our work. As part of our organizational values, we strive to invest in the next generation of development professionals and believe our internships are an important part of that commitment. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about Bridges and access our [annual reports](#).

Internship Focus

Bridges has a diverse portfolio of ongoing projects in health and development with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and international organizations. We are looking for interns who will fully engage as part of the Bridges team to support the execution of our current projects. While the nature of the work will depend on each project, typical intern roles include project management with Bridges and international partners, research and analysis, preparation for and documentation of project meetings, and contributions to milestone deliverables. The intern will also learn about the internal operations of an international non-governmental organization and support our fund-raising activities. Interns often build upon their time with Bridges for their Master's thesis, and, in some cases have co-authored peer-reviewed publications. The following projects represent the types of focus of internship activities:

1) Working collaboratively on an EU-funded, public-private consortium to plan for implementation of a new two-in-one medicine for intestinal worms.

The [STOP2030](#) consortium is in the late stages of developing the first new treatment for parasitic, intestinal worms in decades. In areas of poor sanitation, worm eggs are excreted in faeces and ingested by another person, particularly impacting children's growth and educational achievement. WHO estimates 1.5 billion people are infected. In the last few years, a novel formulation to treat soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections has been evaluated in clinical trials in three countries ([STOP I AND II](#)). After successful results, STOP2030 aims to complete its clinical evaluation and assess its feasibility and acceptability, in order to prepare its future

implementation. Bridges' is a core member of the consortium and leads work around policy development and access planning with WHO, countries and partners.

Examples of possible contributions:

- a. Contribute to assessments of the medicine's potential roles in Asia, Americas, and Asia-Pacific.
- b. Research alternative financing models tailored to the needs of low- and middle-income countries as the NTD community shifts from the current model of drug donation programs.

2) *Research into financing opportunities and supporting proposal development efforts for Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) and other program areas*

[Female Genital Schistosomiasis](#) is the most neglected sexual and reproductive health issue in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that as many as 56 million women and girls may be affected.

Bridges' recent work in this area has been around the development and delivery of FGS-related training to health professionals, building professional networks to connect those working in FGS, as well as global advocacy around this neglected disease through the [FGS Integration Group \(FIG\)](#).

In addition to looking into funding opportunities for FGS, support the wider Bridges team in researching opportunities for new projects and grants that are the right fit for our organization. Work with the team on the development of proposals.

Examples of potential contributions:

- a. Research funding opportunities that will allow Bridges' to further advance progress against this neglected disease and assist with associated proposal development.
- b. Support the creation of communication materials for FIG and FGS catered to different contexts and funders.

3) *Supporting analysis and forecasting for tests / diagnostics needed to support decision making in onchocerciasis elimination programs*

Filarial disease control programs in Africa such as Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis depend on co-endemicity knowledge, including Loa loa, to guide interventions. New tools are being developed to address barriers and accelerate progress towards elimination and eradication goals. Our project focuses on estimating the need/demand of oncho and loa surveillance tools and collecting the information to support program planning with the new technology. The key issue is to define demand vs need and what this means for supply.

Examples of potential contributions:

- a. Support analysis of excel databases to project number of countries and individuals in need of tests
- b. Supporting generation of scenarios for test needs over 3-5 year period of time

Additional details:

Student must have a laptop and reliable internet connectivity. A limited stipend of approximately 400 - 650 USD per month (pro-rated based on time commitment) will be available towards living

costs. The intern would be solely responsible for any necessary work permits, health insurance, taxes, social or other charges necessary for their location.

Required skills:

- Current enrollment in a Master's level graduate degree program (recent graduates may be considered), plus a demonstrated interest in global health or development
- Demonstrated strong research, analytic, data-management and communications skills
- Fluent in English; Fluent in French highly desirable; Spanish and Portuguese skills an asset
- Flexibility, adaptability, ability to work independently
- Service orientation, curiosity and commitment to learning
- Skills with MS Word, PowerPoint and Excel (other analytical tools desirable)
- Prior travel/living experience in a developing country setting highly desirable

Application process – deadline by Monday 4th November 2024

Please send a cover letter and CV in an email with **Bridges Internship** in the subject line to apply@bridgestodevelopment.org Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews through Zoom.