CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Applicants must be enrolled in a university as full-time graduate students
- Submission of CV as well as Statement of Purpose letter
- Three letters of recommendation

AWARD CONDITIONS

- The Summer Scholars fellowship provides a stipend to cover all travel and living expenses.
- The award recipients are expected to participate in a UNA-NY program related to their fellowship experience, during the fall of 2015.
- The recipients are expected to keep a blog of their summer experience and, at the end of their involvement, submit a letter documenting the results of the research project.

HOUSING AND BUDGET

Costs associated with participation in the program will be assumed by UNA-NY, which will provide the required financial assistance to the student for the duration of the internship. The grant will cover round-trip airfare to and from the selected country, as well as housing and food. Housing will be available in small hotels or apartments selected by the host UN office or NGO office.

The award recipients are responsible for ensuring that all passports and necessary visas are in order, as well as providing necessary immunization and vaccination certificates. Proof of medical and evacuation insurance must also be submitted prior to departure.

APPLICATIONS

For more information on the Lesotho Summer Scholars fellowship, as well as submission requirements and applicant qualifications, please see the following pages.
This Summer Scholars Program is one of two yearly fellowships awarded by The United Nations Association of New York (UNA-NY). This three-month summer fellowship, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is focused on Social and Behavioral Change Communication, as part of the UNFPA Adolescents Program in Lesotho (East and Central African Region).

UNFPA works in more than 150 countries and territories that are home to the vast majority of the world’s people. Its mission: to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

This program is situated in the UNFPA Lesotho Country Office during the summer of 2015, with a focus on youth and adolescents.

BACKGROUND

The population of Lesotho is estimated at 1,876,633 (51% women, and 49% men). Lesotho is largely rural with 77% of the population in rural areas, while 23% reside in urban areas. The profile is relatively young, with 58% under 19 years.

Priority issues: UNFPA supported programs address a high HIV prevalence, as well as high maternal mortality and morbidity, particularly among young people.

SUPERVISION

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Representative and the direct supervision of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention Officer, the intern will contribute to and be involved in effective management of UNFPA support and interventions in the area of HIV prevention, as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services for youth and young adolescents. S/he will establish and maintain collaborative relationships with youth associations and youth-led (organizations and) institutions. There should be a focus on strengthening the program’s operational effectiveness, including an emphasis at the community level of efficiently addressing youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights issues.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will provide technical support for initiatives aimed at strengthening adoption of healthy behaviors in primarily adolescent girls and boys—particularly for the prevention of HIV, as well as gender based violence.

S/he will support partnerships in the efficient implementation of UNFPA interventions and annual work plan, which targets young people and identifies innovative approaches in addressing their developmental needs and human rights.

The intern will also contribute to UNFPA advocacy resources by compiling and analyzing relevant information on potential donors; preparing substantive briefs and proposals in line with donor requirements; prepare relevant background materials and briefs for use in discussions and public events.

In close collaboration with youth, s/he will provide technical support in developing behavioral change communication materials, and promote knowledge-sharing by synthesizing and documenting findings around lessons.
learned, best practice strategies, and success stories.

The intern will support community mechanisms for sustaining an environment conducive to the well-being of young people, which aim to prevent threats or risks of violence, as well as reduce early marriages and pregnancies, among adolescents.

Among other duties, the intern will also: help establish mechanisms to systematically assess the achieved results of behavioral change communication programs; assist in monitoring delivery of project activities—including budgets, expenditures and assets being provided by UNFPA to implementing partners; survey and periodically report on program activities; support information exchange on communications and media-related issues with UNFPA Country offices and partner organizations.

The intern may, as appropriate, accompany the Representative or the SRH and HIV Prevention Officer on monitoring visits.

LOCATION

The internship program is based in the UNFPA Country Office in Maseru, Lesotho.

COMMITMENT

Full-time, with a duration of at least 12 weeks during the summer of 2015.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Applicants must be enrolled in a university as full time graduate students, with a demonstrated interest in communications, public health, population studies or social sciences. Highly relevant is experience or interest in programs targeting adolescents and young people.

Applicants should have excellent research, writing and editing skills, as well as a fluency in English and excellent ability to write clearly and concisely (especially with respect to results-based reporting). Any professional experience, including editorial work in producing articles for print/web-based media is an asset, as is proficiency in using computers.

Applicants will have strong interpersonal communication skills, and a willingness and ability to work in a team. They will demonstrate initiative, sound judgment and an ability to work harmoniously with staff members of different national, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The intern will not receive a salary or wage. Rather, the travel costs from New York to/from Lesotho, as well as living expenses during the internship, will be assumed by the United Nations Association of New York. In addition, applicants must have medical and evacuation insurance for the duration of the internship, as well as all necessary visas, vaccines, immunizations, the proof of which will need to be submitted before the internship begins.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

If interested, please send the following: a CV or resumé, as well as a personal letter of interest, along with recommendations (see below) — to the attention of Deborah Spindelman at: des2162@sipa.columbia.edu.

- **Personal Statement / Letter of Interest**
  This is designed to give UNA-NY selection committee a picture of you, your individual talents, concerns and commitments. It is your opportunity to tell us about the trajectory you have followed and your plans for the future, how your background has influenced your development, and how that relates to working for an international organization or the UN. It may include personal history, family background, intellectual development, college experience, your professional goals and aspirations, previous foreign experience if any, and your reasons for seeking this summer internship.

  This should be one-page in length, single-spaced and not to exceed 500 words, using a one-inch margin, and 12-point Times New Roman font style.

- **Recommendations**
  You must submit three reference letters of recommendation as part of the application. At least one of the letters should be from a faculty member, though the others may come from an off-campus source who knows you and can speak of your abilities, or discuss your intellectual and professional preparation, and your ability to represent UNA-NY abroad. The letter should not simply be a character reference, and no peer recommendations are permitted; it should address the nominee’s personal qualities and academic abilities, as well as the suitability of working abroad. You should discuss with the reference writer your own Personal Statement before requesting the letter.

LINKS

UNA-NY  www.unanyc.org

UNFPA  www.unfpa.org