

International Internship Program – Concept Note

Empowering global youth, advancing gender justice

1. Program Overview

The Hope Foundation for African Women (HFAW) is a community-led nonprofit based in Kenya working to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV), end female genital mutilation (FGM), promote economic equity, and champion reproductive health rights. Our grassroots approach empowers women and girls in rural regions—especially in Nyamira and Kajiado counties—through community-driven leadership, Paulo Freire's Popular Education model, and sustainable development solutions.

To deepen global engagement and support program sustainability, HFAW is launching an International Internship Program for students and early-career professionals. This hands-on, immersive experience blends public health, gender advocacy, community development, and cross-cultural exchange—while contributing directly to grassroots impact.

2. Program Goals

- Equip global youth with field experience in gender equity, public health, and rural development.
- Generate sustainable revenue for community-based programming.
- Promote intercultural learning and global solidarity.
- Forge long-term partnerships with global universities and institutions.

3. Program Structure

Duration: 3 months (with flexible start dates)

Locations: Kajiado & Nyamira Counties, Kenya

Focus Areas: GBV prevention, SRHR, FGM advocacy, HIV awareness, environmental sustainability, economic empowerment for women

Core Activities

- Work with HFAW's field teams on outreach, mobilization & service delivery.
- Engage in research, school visits, and advocacy forums.
- Participate in bi-weekly reflection and mentorship sessions.
- Support training sessions for women and youth.
- Design creative interventions aligned with community needs.

Immersion Experiences

- Maasai Mara Safari (2 days): Wildlife, culture, and nature conservation.
- Nyamira Cultural Trip (3 days): Engage with HFAW HQ, heritage sites & grassroots projects.
- Optional: Coastal experience in Mombasa or Diani (on request).

4. Financial Model

The program follows a transparent, fee-based structure designed to cover full immersion logistics while supporting HFAW’s mission.

Item	Cost (USD)	Notes
Application Fee	\$50	Non-refundable
Program Fee	\$2,320	Covers accommodation, transport, meals, mentorship,
Maasai Mara Safari	\$510	2-day guided cultural safari
Nyamira Cultural Trip	\$480	3-day immersive community visit
Total Program Fee	\$3,360	Airfare, visa, and insurance not included

5. Legal & Logistical Support

- Visa Support: HFAW provides invitation letters for Class I Internship Visa.
- Insurance: Interns are required to obtain valid travel and medical insurance.
- Safety & Compliance: All programming follows Kenyan labor, health, and tourism regulations. Interns will undergo orientation covering cultural expectations and emergency protocols.

6. Recruitment & Application

Target Participants

- University students & recent grads in Public Health, Gender Studies, Development, African Studies, Sociology, and related fields.
- Ideal candidates are curious, adaptable, and socially driven.

Marketing Channels

- University study abroad offices.
- Global internship platforms & NGOs.
- HFAW’s website and social media.
- Alumni testimonials & newsletters.

Application Process

- Apply through HFAW’s website.
- Receive visa support, orientation materials, and pre-departure training.
- Join the HFAW Global Alumni Network—a lifelong community for impact and advocacy.

7. Benefits for All

Interns

- Real-world field experience in community development.
- One-on-one mentorship & academic enrichment.
- Cultural immersion and global awareness.
- Career-building deliverables (field reports, projects, research).

HFAW

- Sustainable program income.
- Enhanced global advocacy & visibility.
- Strategic university partnerships.
- Fresh ideas and innovative contributions from interns.

Communities

- Greater project reach & service delivery.
- Exposure to global knowledge & solidarity.
- Cross-cultural learning & storytelling.

8. Conclusion

This internship is more than a learning opportunity—it is a mission-driven, revenue-generating initiative that advances HFAW’s core objectives: ending GBV, promoting SRHR, and securing economic justice. It brings together international students and local wisdom to co-create sustainable development and leadership opportunities in African communities.

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