2014 AidData Summer Fellows Application

Are you a Development Innovator? Become an AidData Summer Fellow.

USAID Administrator Dr. Raj Shah has argued that, "open data has the potential to not only improve transparency and coordination, but also dramatically accelerate progress in [international] development." In partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN), the AidData Center for Development Policy is advancing the open data movement by creating geospatial data and tools that enable development stakeholders to more effectively target, coordinate and evaluate foreign aid. Students are an integral part of this movement. As AidData Summer Fellows, they work in developing countries to promote data literacy and capacity among local organizations (e.g. universities, think tanks, advocacy groups, NGOs, and USAID Missions) to use subnational aid information to promote effective service delivery in their communities. This year, we are looking to place Summer Fellows in Nepal, Uganda, Senegal and Timor-Leste with the possibility of placement in other countries as compelling opportunities arise.

Selected Summer Fellows will spend one week at the AidData Center for Development Policy in Williamsburg, VA for an intensive training boot camp in late May. They will then travel to their assigned post where they will embed with their host organization for two to three months. Once in country, they will work closely with their host organization to build capacity to leverage AidData's geospatial data and tools and to identify opportunities to incorporate those tools into the organization's work.

Past Summer Fellows have worked with USAID Timor-Leste to assess how geospatial analysis can be used in their Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, trained stakeholders in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in Uganda to geocode nutrition projects and integrate this methodology into the Office of the Prime Minister's Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger mapping initiative, and worked with students and faculty at Kathmandu University to incorporate geospatial analysis into their Masters of Development Studies curriculum.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working and/or conducting research in developing countries
- Work and/ or internship experience in the areas of international development, open data, open governance, geospatial analysis, or other related fields
- Coursework related to international development, GIS, international relations, or other related subjects
- Ability to use GIS software for geospatial data visualization and/or analysis
- Demonstrated capacity for training/ instruction
- Foreign language proficiency (depending on the country of assignment)
- Demonstrated ability to successfully work independently and in teams

Eligibility and Funding:

The AidData Summer Fellows program is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. An early priority application window will be open to those students at HESN- affiliated campuses, whose applications will be considered first to fill open fellowship positions. After reviewing HESN applications and placing all eligible candidates, the AidData Center will draw from non-HESN applicants to fill the remaining fellowship placements. This is an unfunded fellowship; funding will not be available from the AidData Center for selected AidData Summer Fellows. Selected Summer Fellows are encouraged to seek funding from their home universities or apply for external funding. Fellows will be expected to cover travel to Williamsburg, VA for intensive bootcamp (lodging will be provided) as well as travel to their post and living costs at their fellowship placement. AidData Center and host organization staff will help Summer Fellows identify safe housing in-country.

Application Materials:

To apply for the AidData Summer Fellows program, send a short (1-2 page) resume (including your primary reference at your HESN development lab) and a cover letter to Alena Stern (astern@aiddata.org) by **February 7, 2014** for the priority HESN application window, or **February 21, 2014** for the open window**.**

Key Dates:

- **February 7, 2014:** Priority early application deadline for HESN-affiliated students to submit applications for 2014 AidData Summer Fellows. In order to apply, submit **resume (including development lab reference) and cover letter** to Alena Stern (astern@aiddata.org). Applications will be reviewed and individuals will be selected for interviews on a rolling basis. If applicable, references will be contacted at this time. Selected candidates must schedule a 30 minute phone/ Skype interview with AidData staff by **Wednesday, February 12th**. All individuals selected through this window will be notified by **Monday, February 17th**. If HESN applicants would like to receive a decision by a particular date, they can indicate that in their application *provided that the date is at least one week after the application is submitted.*

- **February 21, 2014:** Deadline for all applications for 2014 AidData Summer Fellows. In order to apply, submit **resume (including development lab reference) and cover letter** to Alena Stern (astern@aiddata.org). Applicants from HESN-affiliated campuses may submit applications up to this date. However, applications received after February 7th, 2014 will not be given priority consideration. Applications will be reviewed and individuals will be selected for interviews on a rolling basis. If applicable, references will be contacted at this time. Selected candidates must schedule a 30 minute phone/ Skype interview with AidData staff by **Wednesday, February 26th**. All individuals selected through this window will be notified by **Friday, February 28th**.

- **February 28, 2014:** 2014 class of AidData Summer Fellows finalized. All selected individuals must commit to participation in the program. Selected fellows at this time have the opportunity to preference placements.

- **March 14, 2014:** Summer Fellow placements finalized. All fellows are notified of their placements at this time. To the extent possible, AidData will try to adhere to fellow preferences when making placements.

- **May 19-23, 2014:** Summer Fellows Boot Camp in Williamsburg, VA. During this boot camp, Summer Fellows receive intensive training in teaching geocoding and GIS, living and working abroad, and strategic communications.

- **May 26, 2014- August 8, 2014:** Summer fellowship period. If a fellow is not able to work during these dates, please notify Alena as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the AidData Summer Fellows Program or application process, please contact Alena Stern, USAID Program Manager (astern@aiddata.org)