

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITYPROJECT

Internship Opportunity: Supporting Human Rights Defenders Affected by International Development Projects

[International Accountability Project](#) (IAP) is seeking exceptionally motivated, organized graduate students, graduates or early career human right advocates for the opportunity to gain experience in the fields of international human rights and development.

Description

Interns will work closely with IAP's Defenders Initiative team to support early warning and preventive action for human rights defenders at risk due to international development finance projects. The Defenders Initiative brings together a global collective of human rights defenders and corporate accountability organizations to forecast and prevent rights abuses from harmful development investments before they occur. Built with defender expertise, the Defender Initiative strengthens the capacity of communities and civil society to act early — before projects cause irreparable harm — protect them and support their resilience to continue shaping their own futures.

Interns will contribute directly to the Initiative's core workflow: reviewing development projects flagged in the [Early Warning System](#) (EWS), assessing their urgency and relevance to defender risks, and supporting the production of Defender Alerts — documents designed to mobilize timely, targeted preventative action in response to identified risks. This is hands-on, research-intensive work that sits at the intersection of development finance, environmental and social impact, and human rights protection.

Further information on IAP's work is available at: <https://www.accountabilityproject.org>

Qualifications and Responsibilities

IAP interns should have the following qualifications:

- Strong interest in human rights, environmental and social justice, and/or international development
- Outstanding written communication skills in English
- Strong research skills, including the ability to synthesize information from multiple sources quickly and accurately
- Attention to detail and commitment to following established formats and standards
- Ability to work independently, manage tasks, and flag questions proactively

- Comfort working in a fully remote, international team environment
- Familiarity with Google Workspace applications
- Sense of humor and flexibility
- Previous non-profit, legal, or journalism experience preferred
- Additional languages — particularly Spanish, Portuguese, French, or Bahasa Indonesia — are a plus

IAP interns will work closely with the Defenders Initiative team on the following tasks:

- Review the Early Warning System projects using an established assessment framework;
- Identify and research companies involving human rights defenders;
- Draft and edit Defender Alerts following IAP's documentation standards;
- Contribute to the Defenders database by entering and verifying case information;
- Cross-reference climate and energy project analyses with IAP's climate justice research and campaign materials.
- Conduct background research on communities and territories affected, sectors, and geographies;
- Provide other research and administrative support as needed, such as organizing online events, taking meeting notes.

Internship opportunities are available on a rolling basis for a minimum term of 12 weeks. Interns work at least 15 hours per week to qualify for the monthly stipend. The position is fully remote and open to applicants globally. Applicants with lived or professional experience in regions affected by development finance projects are particularly encouraged to apply. A monthly stipend is available. IAP is happy to work with accepted interns to seek course credit for their work.

How to Apply

To apply, please send a resume and a cover letter indicating your suitability for the internship and availability (start/end dates), one short writing sample (less than 10 pages) in English and contact information for three references to iap@accountabilityproject.org with a cc to rosario@accountabilityproject.org, and "Defenders Intern" in the subject line. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis.

IAP is an international human and environmental rights organization that works with communities, civil society, and social movements to change how development is done. IAP fights for community-led expertise and experience to be at the center of how development is designed, funded, and implemented. For more information: <https://accountabilityproject.org/strategic-plan/>