

Africa Internship

Role & Responsibilities

The Africa Internship with the Ethical Fashion Forum is vital to the growth of the EFF's network of suppliers and fashion designers and businesses in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 5% of GDP through shrinking trade income, or some \$28.4 billion annually, a figure that exceeded total aid flows and debt relief to the region in 2003. (2006 UN Human Development Report)

Poverty is a daily battle for millions of people in Sub Saharan Africa, with 45% of the population living on less than \$1 a day. Trade in fashion products provides key opportunities for communities in Africa. Fashion is labour intensive, requires limited capital input, and with good design, traditional skills bring a high premium. In Kenya, statistics show that every job in the garment sector in Kenya generates 5 other jobs. In Lesotho, thanks to the apparel industry (representing 94% of merchandise exports) GDP per capita increased from \$558 in 2001 to \$3000 in 2004.

The Ethical Fashion Forum runs a series of projects that have proven that fashion initiatives in Africa can change lives. This three month placement offers first hand experience with the development of EFF's network in Africa. It is based at the EFF's head offices in London's most vibrant fashion district near Brick Lane. The role includes partnership building, network building and liaison with African designers and brands, research on a country by country basis, project development and fundraising.

1. Partnership building

The EFF takes a partnership approach to project management and delivery and seeks to develop strong links with partner organisations and network with support or represent the fashion sector in Africa. Project proposals are then developed jointly, ensuring that project design meets on the ground needs, opportunities and challenges. This role includes researching potential partners, collating information, connecting and introducing African organisations to the work of EFF and to the network.

2. Identifying African fashion brands and suppliers through online research, and liaison with partners

This involves building the EFF's listings and profiles of suppliers and brands as a resource for fashion designers and buyers seeking to source from Africa.

3. Ethical Fashion Network: Inviting fashion brands and suppliers to join the network, starting and hosting Africa groups on the network, promoting African fashion production and supply through network and newsletter

4. Sourcing database: Collecting detailed information on suppliers in Africa for a sourcing database

5. Country reports: Collecting and collating detailed information on the fashion sector, make up, challenges and opportunities in a range of countries in Africa

6. Funding research and funding applications

Carrying out research into funding available for initiatives in and with Africa and developing funding applications with the support of the team.

Outputs

1. Experience:

First hand experience of:

- Liaising with and developing relationships with fashion brands, suppliers, and organisations based in and/ or working with Africa
- Using social media effectively to build networks and promote best practice
- Research and report writing
- Project development
- Fundraising

2. Knowledge, Skills and personal qualities:

- **A good level of knowledge and understanding** about Ethical Fashion, in particular the make up of the fashion sector in different parts of Africa, opportunities and challenges facing fashion businesses and suppliers in Africa.
- **The ability to liaise with partners and develop partner relationships to mutual benefit towards common goals.**
- **Research skills:** Knowledge and ability in a range of research and interview techniques
- **Report writing and project development relevant to initiatives in Africa**
- **Fundraising:** An understanding of the fundraising environment and how to approach fundraising for initiatives in Africa
- **People and communication skills:** Confidence, communication skills encompassing written and face to face delivery

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

- **A good level of knowledge, or demonstrable interest** in ethical fashion and the issues that surround it
- **A good ability to understand and connect with different groups and cultures**
- **Writing skills:** getting points across in a manner that appeals to specific target audiences
- **Interpersonal skills: Confidence and communication skills encompassing written and face to face delivery.**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Working hours:

The standard working hours at EFF are 9.30am to 6pm

The EFF team likes to work on a flexible basis regarding office hours and occasional working from home if this is more productive. This can be discussed with supervisor.

Time period and days per week:

EFF requires a commitment of a minimum of 3 days per week from interns, for a minimum of 3 months.

This is to ensure that the placement is useful for both parties.

A full time internship is the most productive, however we understand that interns may need to do paid work elsewhere 2 days per week to support themselves.

Payment and expenses:

Internships at EFF are unpaid, however travel and lunch costs can be covered. Interns to agree expenses plan in the first week to ensure that needs are met.

Email management:

Email set up will be explained by your supervisor.

The EFF has an email data system to ensure that mails are backed up in project files, which will be explained to you by your supervisor.