**Internships, Child Protection (Two positions)**

**UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, Florence Italy**

**Overview**:

 The Child Protection Internship will support the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti (OoR) in its ongoing joint work-plan with Oxford University to complete a qualitative evaluation of an adolescent parenting programme in Eastern Cape, South Africa.

**Contract Type:** Internship (unpaid)

**Duty Station:** Florence, Italy

**Application Deadline:** 6 November 2015

**Duration:** Early December for up to 6 months

**Purpose of the Position:**

UNICEF’s Office of Research- Innocenti is looking for a part-time or full time intern for six months. The position is in the Child Protection team.

The prime objective of the OoR is to improve international understanding of issues relating to children’s rights and to help facilitate full implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child across the world. Although significant advances have been made in children accessing their entitlements, the same cannot be said of adolescents. The OoR is therefore committed to finding evidence on how UNICEF can work with policy makers and programme implementers to improve outcomes for adolescents. One of the projects that the Child Protection team is committed to is building practice-based evidence on the effectiveness of a family and parent support programme in a lower income context.

**Background:**

The OoR is working in partnership with the University of Oxford (Social Policy Implementation) to undertake research on family and parent support. Outputs from this collaboration include 5 research papers (working papers), 5 journal articles, qualitative assessment toolkit and accompanying research briefs that explore the questions:

1. How is raising adolescents understood and practiced within Southern and Eastern Africa?
2. What social, economic and community-level factors can facilitate positive parenting in highly vulnerable families?
3. What are the social and structural factors affecting parenting behaviours and the effectiveness of the Sinovuyo Teen Parenting Programme in Eastern Cape, South Africa?

The latter question is further broken down into the following questions:

* How do participants and their families experience a parenting support programme, in the wider contexts of their lives, including relationships and dynamics in the family, parenting aspirations and issues of poverty, migration and gender?
* How do participants (and others in the community) perceive and respond to the parenting programme as compared to other forms of support or services? Where does the intervention fit in relation to other sources of support to parents (key continuities and difference in relation to informal mechanisms and any formal sources)? What are the age, generation and gender dimensions of service access and use?
* How have local childcare workers experienced their role in the design and implementation of a parenting programme in vulnerable rural communities in the Eastern Cape, South Africa and what is the perceived impact on their lives?
* What are the implications of policy and programming-level issues for going to scale with a parenting support programme for families with adolescents in South Africa?

What are the perceptions of local government, local and national NGOs and community leaders about their involvement in the scale-up of a parenting support programme for families with adolescents in South Africa?

What are the desired levels of capacities and investments in structures, staff, and facilities and where do the gaps and barriers to investments lie?

What are key recommendations for policy and practice to embed the parenting programme into provincial structures and integrated service provision?

Evidence generated will be shared through publications as well as internally in UNICEF among colleagues working on child protection and social protection, to show how parenting support contribute to better adolescent outcomes, and to showcase the benefits of different types of support offered to parents and caregivers. The results of the studies will also be used to facilitate UNICEF understanding of the factors that influence effectiveness of parenting interventions and evaluation methodologies.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of this intern position is to assist the Child Protection team in finding relevant literature and good samples of tool kits to contribute to the abovementioned outputs of research being undertaken on the family and parent support programme.

**Main Responsibilities and Tasks:**

* Become familiar with the overall mission and research areas of the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti,
* Become conversant with the Programme Co-operation Agreement that UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti has with Oxford University to build a rigorous evidence based for parenting adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa,
* Acquire first-hand knowledge of qualitative research framework being applied in the Eastern Cape with the Sinovuyo teen parent programme,
* Literature search on mutually identified topics towards a) the participants experience of the parent support programme in the wider contexts of their lives and compared to other services they receive, and b) family and parent support policy working paper and academic journal article,
* Assist with data storage, backup, cleaning and analysis.

**Minimum Requirements and Competencies**

* Ability to communicate (written and verbal) clearly in English;
* Enrolled in a degree programme in an undergraduate (must have completed at least two years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution towards the completion of an undergraduate degree) or graduate school; Competent academic performance as demonstrated by recent university or institution records;
* Demonstrated ability to source, select and annotate relevant literature;
* Experience in qualitative research methods – experience with EndNote and Atlas Ti are a plus;
* Willingness to work independently on specific tasks while being part of a collaborative team;
* Committed to development, research, and children’s rights.

**Duration of Hours**

Working hours: 09h00 to 17h30 (flexible based on agreement);

Part- time 2-3 days per week and Full-time 5 days per week on-site and partially off-site

**Duration of assignment**: Preferably 6 months

**How to Apply**

P11, cover letter and sample of literature search completed to be sent to florencerecruitment@unicef.org with the title “UNICEF Internship Application - Child Protection”

The application deadline is 6 November, 2015. Applicants will be asked to participate in a telephone interview.

**Please note:** The internship is unpaid. Travel costs, accommodation and living expenses to be covered by the intern or sponsoring entity. UNICEF accepts no responsibility for medical insurance or costs arising from accidents/ illness during the internship period.

**Disclaimer**

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organization.