

ALPHA Education - Unit 731 Research Centre Joint Internship (Harbin, China) Summer

You may also apply using our online form at : www.alphaeducation.org/internship

Overview

In association with the Unit 731 Museum and Research Centre in Harbin, China, ALPHA Education is now welcoming applications to its annual Summer Overseas Internship. **The closing date for applications is on May 30, 2020.** The successful applicants will work on a research project in coordination with ALPHA Education, but researchers may also conduct their independent study onsite, while receiving access to primary sources at Harbin. The internship duration is 3 weeks in July 2020 (exact dates TBD). While successful applicants are expected to shoulder their travel expenses, successful applicants will receive 500 \$ Cd in living expenses for the duration of their internship. *This year, some travel bursaries may also be available for qualified applicants.*

This internship provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about this lesser known aspect of World War II history – specifically, the profound scale of human suffering and loss brought about by one of the worst medical atrocities ever perpetrated in the history of science.

Who are qualified to apply?

ALPHA Education welcomes applicants with a strong work ethic, openness to and respect for different cultures and cultural contexts, as well as a keen interest in conducting historical research and analysis, particularly archival research and historical reclamation. We welcome both undergraduate and graduate level Canadian and International students from all relevant fields.

Ideally, applicants will have some or all of the following:

- Interest in and experience in analysing primary source documents,
- Some general background knowledge on Unit 731 or academic or personal, from historical, legal, ethical perspective(s),
- A keen interest in historical reclamation and archival research
- Note: Fluency in Mandarin is an asset and strongly recommended for the Unit 731 internship. Non-Mandarin speakers are still encouraged to apply. We will ensure that when 2 or more successful applicants are accepted, at least 1 intern fluent in Mandarin will be available to help with translation.

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About the site: Unit 731

The Unit 731 Museum and Research Centre at Harbin (North eastern China) sits on a site that was code named "Unit 731" by the Japanese Military. Unit 731 was a secret facility where involuntary human medical experimentation was conducted prior to and during World War II. At the site, civilians and prisoners of war were used as subjects in the conduct of biological and chemical weapons testing, as well as in extreme weather trials. In spite of uncovering evidence about these atrocities, none of the perpetrators were brought to justice after World War II.

Archival documents and state communications (particularly recently declassified material) in the United States as well as in the United Kingdom reveal that the leading Allied powers expressed a great interest in accessing the results of these experiments, having suspected their potential for industrial and commercial profit. Because of this, scholars have long suspected that secret deals were brokered between the United States and Japan. As the primary location for research into this era, the Harbin Unit 731 Research Centre has a wealth of archival documents from this time – some of them only recently declassified and made available to researchers. Interns who participate will be doing ground-breaking work, which will help advance efforts at historical reclamation, shining the light of knowledge onto a very dark chapter of human history.

The museum, which opened in 2016 has since been visited by over a million visitors.

Read more about Unit 731:

- Harris, Sheldon H. *Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare 1932-45 and the American Cover-up*. New York: Routledge, 2002.
- Nie, Jing-Bao, et. al., *Japan's Wartime Medical Atrocities, Comparative inquiries in science, history, and ethics*, USA & Canada: Routledge, 2010.
- Tatlow, Didi Kirsten, *A New Look at Japan's Wartime Atrocities and a U.S. Cover-Up*, New York Times (China) October 22, 2015, <<https://cn.nytimes.com/china/20151022/c22sino-japan/en-us/>>

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Deliverables

- Full Attendance / Participation in pre-departure orientation and project planning sessions in preparation for the overseas internship
- Fulfilment of the internship assignments at the Unit 731 Harbin Museum and Research centre (To discussed with the Internship Supervisor at Harbin. Interns may be tapped to assist in translation and transcription at Harbin, work with primary sources, as well as assist in various aspects of research and museum work)
- Completion of a research/resource development assignment for ALPHA Education that can either be an individual or group project under the Digital Archives Project (DAP), such as instructional materials, a short educational video (not more than 8 minutes), as well as content for ALPHA's upcoming podcast series.
- A 2-4 page internship reflection paper at the end of the internship that summarises the internship experience.

Successful applicants will receive

- 500\$ Cd living expenses
- Introductory orientation to the city and museum, along with relevant cultural activities.
- A guided visit of the museum.
- Supervision and guidance from knowledgeable hosts and experts who can guide research and inquiry, at the Museum/Research Centre, and at ALPHA Education
- Constructive feedback on research and presentation assignments.



APPLICATION PACKET

Overseas Internship

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APPLICATION FORM

Please type or block print.

Full name of applicant: _____
(Given name, Surname/ Same as travel documents)
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____
Gender: _____

(A parent or legal guardian must sign if entrant is below 18 years of age. Otherwise, applicant must sign at the end of the form)

Full name of entrant's parent/guardian: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____

Applicant's Parent's Signature

Date Signed

University: _____
Degree/Program & Year Level: _____
GPA: _____
Languages Spoken: _____

Please submit this completed application form along with a copy of your CV/resume as a single PDF document by email to info@alphaeducation.org
Subject heading: U731 Internship Application (Your Name)



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Please type or block print.

Please list any previous internships including a brief description of the internship (use additional sheet if necessary)

Awards and/or scholarships

Relevant or Related Course Work

Have you taken history courses covering the topic of World War II history, Asia Pacific History, Culture or Politics before? If yes, please describe them briefly.



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Please type or block print.

Please rate your language facility (Circle the best description):

English (Speaking)

(Excellent, Fair, Minimal)

English Reading, Writing

(Excellent, Fair, Minimal)

Mandarin (if applicable) (Speaking)

(Excellent, Fair, Minimal)

Mandarin Reading, Writing

(Excellent, Fair, Minimal)

Other : _____ Speaking, Reading, Writing (Excellent, Fair, Minimal)

Please list any other relevant skills that you think make you a good fit for this internship

Extra-curricular interests/hobbies

