

## AFROMEDIANET

Afromedianet is a network of leading journalists and independent experts specialising in human rights, development issues and humanitarian affairs in Africa. The organisation aims at fostering exchange of information and sharing of experience among its professional members. Members are internationally based, including regular visitors to Africa, foreign press operatives, correspondents and editors living and working in Africa from whom the network sources up to date first-hand information. They have routinely and widely written on their areas of expertise in a number of respected African, British, American, Canadian and European newspapers and journals, gaining their international reputation as fair-minded but dogged reporters, subtle and intelligent interpreters of development in sub-Saharan Africa.

## MISSION

An expert opinion is urgently needed to cover the gap resulting from prime time TV, newspaper front pages and plethora websites. Therefore, Afromedianet puts its members' knowledge and expertise to practical use to ensure that African issues are well-researched, investigated and impartially assessed, for the overall decision-making process to succeed. Afromedianet firmly believes that journalists specialising in African issues should possess a deep knowledge and expert opinion on human rights, development issues and related humanitarian affairs.

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

African countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care, education, and creation of economic opportunities. Developed countries have offered to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

In addition, all want to bring together civil society organisations, experts and decision-makers to build bridges between continents through dialogue, common approach and joint decisions. There are:

- The African Union, African Commission and its specialised programmes (CIDO & NEPAD)
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- The new Africa-EU strategic partnership (Lisbon-2007)

*Seyssel (French pre-Alps), next to Geneva, Annecy, Aix-les-Bains and Lyon.*



*A dual town located between the regions of Savoy, Haute Savoy and Ain, on the banks of the Rhone*

## WHY IN SEYSSSEL

The international Secretariat of Afromedianet is based in Seyssel, France next to Geneva (Switzerland), *the most active centre for multilateral diplomacy in the world*, with more than 30 international organisations, 250 non governmental organisations (NGOs) and 160 foreign state representatives. With 8000 conferences per year and more than 25000 world delegates in the Palais des Nations including a number from African countries, Geneva also hosts approximately 40,000, international civil servants and diplomats, not including some more than 2,400 employees of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Afromedianet's strategic location allows the organisation to follow African issues on the international agenda, to maintain strong links and to bridge Africa with donor countries and agencies, the private sector, professional networks, international institutions including the United Nations, its specialised institutions and programmes, intergovernmental organisations, international NGOs, embassies and diplomatic representations as well as many other African partners. In addition, Switzerland is part of Schengen territory, which facilitates circulation across the borders.



## TRAINING ATTACHMENT IN CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT



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## Training Attachment Programme

In partnership with Universities, educational bodies and sponsoring institutions, the training in co-operation and development is a three, six to twelve months vocational education and training programme, for students and recent graduates who want to gain experience in international affairs.

The programme's broad goal is to contribute to the development of a new generation of leaders and decision-makers dedicated to utilising their voices and experiences to further the international aid community's central role in Africa. The programme provides trainees the possibility to gain insight into Africa, to develop competencies (knowledge/skills) specific to a career, and to acquire first-hand experience in co-operation and development while working with Afromedianet. The trainees are respectively in charge of gathering information, designing projects and research papers, preparing funds raising proposals as well as developing, co-ordinating and maintaining an information database and a Website.

### Local traditions

The local tourism office offers visits in the region, art exhibitions, hiking, skiing, canoeing, local food markets or flea markets on Sunday as well as many other water and mountain's activities. Trainees interact daily with the locals, learn the French life style as well as traditions of foods, wines and Cheeses.

### International culture

As an international mobility programme, the range of countries of origin within the Secretariat enriches the trainees' understanding of different cultures. The multicultural and international working environment enables trainees to share ideas and modes of best practices among the training participants.

### French language

Trainees stay in the rural town of Seyssel, France with a host family, in a shared apartment or in a studio room. To improve both their general and their specific French language skills, language tutoring can be arranged on a one to one or group basis.

## Candidate profile

Typical applicant is required to possess qualifications and drive for development and to view the training attachment as an opportunity to gain experience and sensitivity to humanitarian affairs.

### Qualifications

- Completed a degree in Mass Communications studies, International Relations, Development Studies, Social Sciences or related area, or currently enrolled in a Masters or an equivalent Programme
- Fluent in English, with strong research and writing skills
- Possesses a strong interest in international affairs
- Under 35 years, Minimum age:18

### Application

Applicants must complete an application form, enclosing a CV and references.

### Year Planning

Sessions starting on	Application Deadline
1 <sup>st</sup> January	October 31
1 <sup>st</sup> March	December 31
1 <sup>st</sup> July	March 31
1 <sup>st</sup> September	May 31

### Selection process

Afromedianet attaches great importance to a multicultural working environment and applies the principle of one trainee, one nationality in each session. The selection process also takes into account cultural backgrounds, ethnic minorities, countries of origin as well as gender balance.

Trainees are selected according to their fields of education, experience and career plan. Afromedianet offers different training attachment positions:

- Partnership and fundraising activities
- Information and Communication
- Research and publications
- Administration and Office co-ordination
- Information System

## Conditions

**Venue:** Afromedianet, International Secretariat,  
4 Montée du Pont, 01420 Seyssel France

**Duration:** 3, 6 to 12 months.

**Finance:** Training attachments are **unpaid**. Candidates should provide proof of grant or sponsoring to cover their full expenses.

### Outputs

#### Career-specific skills

- Acquire and augment practical vocation skills in the fields of writing, research, analysis and communication.
- Practical skills in dealing with media as an essential point for international visibility.
- Building partnership and creating networks between Africa and their countries of origin.
- Inter- cultural communication skills such as unwritten norms, codes of conduct and practices in international affairs, as well as a greater understanding of the daily running of human rights, development issues and humanitarian affairs.

### Results

The trainees are evaluated on the main tasks accomplished as well as on his/her leadership, performance and specific skills. At the end of the training programme, Afromedianet will provide the intern with a certificate of training participation as well as a formal letter of recommendation.

Having gained experience at Afromedianet, the trainees will be able to work with International NGOs, governmental institutions, multinational companies as well as international organisations dealing with Africa or other developing countries.

### PARTNERSHIP

Afromedianet is keen to build partnerships and training agreements with sponsor organisations from different countries, to host candidates under quality commitment training Placements. The organisation welcomes foreign students who are already doing exchange programmes in European universities and can also host them during their internship period.