

Graduate Student Package



an initiative by
GFDI FUNGLODE



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InterDom Internships and Research in the Dominican Republic

Since it was established in 2005 by Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), InterDom Internships in the Dominican Republic has become the leading internship and academic study program in the Dominican Republic.

InterDom is a competitive internship and academic study program that promotes professional, academic and cultural exchange between students, universities, scholars, professionals, businesses and non-governmental organizations on a national and international scale. The Program provides spaces for personal and professional growth, research and international and multicultural exchange, while at the same time contributing to the development of the nation's economy and the advancement of academic research.

InterDom has many programs to fit students' professional and academic interests. Graduate and gap-year students may tailor their program with any combination of internship, research, graduate courses at the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) and cultural excursions and activities. InterDom provides graduate and gap-year students with personalized opportunities for professional and/or academic advancement through our Professional Semester and FUNGLODE Fellows Programs. During our summer program, students have the opportunity to combine their internships and/or research with courses and seminars specializing in Culture, Spanish as a Foreign Language, and topics relevant to the region.

At InterDom, we are committed to research and personal and professional development and we will assist students with their own personal academic research by coordinating sessions for them throughout the year with an assigned advisor who will provide them with both professional and academic support. We also help to arrange interviews with experts in your field of study and provide access to the Juan Bosch Library—the largest and most comprehensive collection of research and literature in the Caribbean.

Through the InterDom program, students have the opportunity to network with important Dominican professional and political figures. InterDom's summer seminars as well as daily activities, conferences and workshops at FUNGLODE create spaces for students and interns to meet important Dominican and international community leaders, businesspeople and political figures. Via excursions and social and cultural activities, participants have the opportunity to interact with key societal actors, get a taste of local culture and experience the country's natural beauty and cultural wealth.

Why Choose the Dominican Republic?



Its location in the heart of the Caribbean makes the Dominican Republic a strategic economic and cultural bridge between North and South Americas, and new technologies and businesses are constantly being developed to fit its unique needs and circumstances. More than 150 international and grassroots nonprofit organizations operate with great influence within the country, along with an ever-increasing entrepreneurial spirit amongst the population, making it an excellent location for graduate students to conduct research and perform internships that will make an impact.

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, which creates interesting opportunities for students to study cultural dynamics and geopolitical issues.

In addition to boasting vibrant public, private and non-profit sectors, the Dominican Republic is rich in both ecological and cultural offerings. Located on the eastern half of the island of Hispaniola, the country's geography is vast, consisting of four major mountain ranges, plains, valleys, tropical forests, desert-like environments and pristine coastlines. The country is home to eight national parks (Parque del Este, Los Haitises, Isla Cabritos, Jaragua, José del Carmen Ramírez, Armando Bermúdez), ideal destinations for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

The nation's capital, Santo Domingo, is both cosmopolitan and brimming with old-world charm. The city offers a plethora of recreational possibilities, from museums, monuments and parks, to shopping districts, restaurants, lounges and dance clubs. Moreover, its meticulously preserved Zona Colonial was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990.

Some Organizations Affiliated with InterRDom



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Program Options

InterDom offers these program options:

Professional Program for Graduate and Gap-Year Students

This program option is for graduate and gap year students who are interested in gaining professional experience through an internship in a Dominican organization. This program does not require students to take any courses at the university nor to develop research, and includes only a full or almost-full time internship position(s) in a Dominican organization. It also allows the intern to work in more than one organization and/or conduct personal research.

Internships with InterDom

InterDom coordinates internships and research opportunities with private, public and non-governmental institutions in the areas of: Art, Audiovisual Arts, Business, Communications and Journalism, Education, Engineering, Environmental Management, Human Resources, Hospitality and Tourism, Information and Communications Technology, Law and International Relations, Marketing, Medicine and Health, and Sustainable Development. InterDom is unique in that it works extensively with students and employers to develop internships that coincide with both the professional and academic interests of the students, and the professional needs of the host organization or corporation. Categories are fluid, and a student of any subject area can be placed within an appropriate organization. Interns may work in more than one organization anywhere from 18-30 hours per week and combine an internship with research in a similar field.

By law, all internships in the Dominican Republic are unpaid, but many of the organizations with which InterDom work offer students extra incentives such as medical insurance, a meal stipend or transportation to and from work.

InterDom works with over 300 institutions in the Dominican Republic to create internship opportunities suitable for international interns. Descriptions of new internships are regularly posted on the Program's website (www.interdominternships.org).

Upon receiving your application, InterDom staff will evaluate in detail your interests and capabilities, and match them with the needs of organizations that correspond with your academic and professional aspirations. As part of the internship assignment process, InterDom will also arrange e-mail and telephone communication between yourself and potential employers to ensure optimal placement.

A month prior to starting your internship, you will receive a proposal containing details about your internship and host institution (name of project and/or department, general details of project, name of supervisor and his or her contact information, website address, start and end dates, the role of the organization/business as it relates to national development). You will also receive a pre-departure guide, which will include information concerning cultural orientation and housing, how to pack and what to expect upon arrival in the Dominican Republic.

During the first week of your InterDom session, staff members will organize a meeting to formally introduce you to your internship or research supervisor. During this meeting, program representatives will work with you and your employer to further define what your role will be in the assigned program or project. At this time, you and your employer will also sign a Learning Contract, which will delineate your responsibility and the responsibility of the host institutions and the InterDom Program in order to guarantee that the internship and/or research is beneficial for both yourself and the employer.

In order to ensure that collaboration is positive and productive, InterDom assesses the participation of both interns and organizations periodically throughout the duration of the internship. Student attendance and motivation, and active support from host institutions are evaluated. Constant involvement on the part of InterDom assures that all parties are aware of one another's expectations, and allows for more rewarding experiences.

Both of these programs, which do not include registration for any university course, begin the first weeks of January, September and June.

| Program for Graduate and Gap Year Students | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Duration (in weeks) | 10 | 12 | 22 | 32 |
| Dates | June - August | January - April May - August September - December | September - March January - June | September - May January - August |
| Courses Included** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Academic Credits | 4-8 | 4-8 | 4-8 | 6-10 |
| Spanish Requirement | Intermediate-Advanced | Intermediate-Advanced | Intermediate - Advanced | Intermediate-Advanced |
| Fee with Housing | 2,470.00 | 2,850.00 | 4,300.00 | 5,650.00 |
| Fee without Housing | 1,320.00 | 1,470.00 | 1,770.00 | 1,970.00 |
| Application Deadline | May 1 | November 1 April 1 July 1 | July 1 November 1 | July 1 November 1 |

Research Program: Fellows

The Fellows program is for M.A. students and Ph.D. candidates interested in conducting high-level research in the Dominican Republic on global issues of national concern. The final output of the semester-long period of research will be a report of approximately 15 pages including empirical data. Fellows will realize research in coordination with InterDom staff and other FUNGLODE and GFDD representatives, appointed advisors and their university professors, and exemplary work will have the opportunity to be presented before the United Nations community on behalf of FUNGLODE and GFDD.

Research opportunities are currently available in the following areas:

- Public Health and Development
- Transport
- Waste Management (Solid and Hazardous)
- Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Mining
- Chemicals
- Financing for Development
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Mountains
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Tourism
- Water

GFDD/FUNGLODE Fellows

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Duration (in weeks) | 10 | 12 |
| Dates | June – August | June - August September - November January - April |
| Courses Included** | 0 | 0 |
| Academic Credits | 4-8 | 4-8 |
| Spanish Requirement | Intermediate-Advanced | Intermediate-Advanced |
| Fee with Housing | 2,470.00 | 2,850.00 |
| Fee without Housing | 1,320.00 | 1,470.00 |
| Application Deadline | May 1 | April 1 July 1 October 1 |

The cost of program covers:

Application and placement
Week of orientation
Arrival and departure transfers to/from airport
Private apartment housing
Guidance, follow-up and supervision during the stay.
Excursions and cultural visits
Access to FUNGLODE's research library and all activities
Medical Insurance (*)
Personalized academic study program at UNIBE and/or FUNGLODE, in accordance with the field of study/interests

The student is responsible for:

Meals
Airfare
Daily transportation from the housing to the internship sites (*)
Other personal expenses.

All of the fees are up-to-date as of May 1, 2010, and are subject to change due to variance in exchange rate and other economic fluctuations, but will never change more than 10%. Application fees are not refundable and are due upon the student's acceptance into the program. All students are required to pay a portion of the total cost at least 20 days before travelling by check or money order payable to Global Foundation for Democracy and Development. Please mail your payment to:

780 Third Avenue, 19th Floor. New York, NY 10017

(*) Some organizations offer transportation, meals or medical insurance as a benefit to the students. If offered, it will be discounted from the fees. Students who are not offered local medical insurance through their employers and who are not enrolled at UNIBE will not have local medical insurance.

(**) All courses taken at UNIBE are transferable to the student's home institution. Credit is offered in accordance with the student's home university's criteria and must be advised at least 60 days before the start of the program.

InterDom Academic Offerings

Through the InterDom Program, participants have the opportunity to take academic courses in Spanish at the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE). Graduate-level courses are offered in the following disciplines: Business Administration, Marketing Communications, Education, Engineering, Human Resources, Constitutional Law, Medicine and Psychology.

All courses with other Dominican student at UNIBE are offered in 8-week blocks, each class involving 6-10 hours of class time per week. The classes take place at night, and are frequently rescheduled according to the professor. The course offering changes every semester, and is available from an InterDom staff member upon request.

Each semester, InterDom offers a specialized Spanish as a Foreign Language course for students who would like extra language reinforcement while in the program, and during the 10-week summer session and summer semester it offers a unique course tailored to InterDom students on Dominican History and Culture.

For graduate and gap year students enrollment in a course is optional, and does affect the cost of the program.

Studying at UNIBE

Established in 1982 in the heart of the nation's capital, Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) has grown to become the most prestigious university in the Dominican Republic. A mid-sized university with a student body of approximately 3,000, UNIBE boasts the most competitive Dental and Psychology programs in the country. Built on one of Rafael Trujillo's estates, the campus features Romanesque architecture, as well as modern facilities, which include a gymnasium, video conference rooms, a state-of-the-art library and modern laboratories. With its competitive academic programs and attractive student amenities, UNIBE yields the highest rate of international student enrollment in the Dominican Republic, priding itself on its international appeal. Visit UNIBE's website at <http://www.unibe.edu.do> for more information about the campus.



Contemporary Caribbean Culture

The course explores the history and culture of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Students examine themes related to colonialism and popular culture and discuss the real and fictitious elements that characterize modern ideas of what constitutes Caribbean culture. Class participants analyze primary source readings and develop command of theories and paradigms used to deconstruct discourse, text and other materials. Instruction focuses on the micro history of the Caribbean; commercial strategies based on concepts of race, identity and gender; and Caribbean mythology, explored through the analysis of songs, short stories and poetry. Class topics are examined within the following theoretical frameworks: deconstructionism, Foucault, textual studies, gender studies, feminism, ethnic theory, studies of race, negritude, Caribbeanist discourse, semiotics and linguistics. **Available only during the summer session.**

Spanish as a Foreign Language

Course instruction is designed to increase competency in the areas of reading, writing, and listening comprehension and oral expression. By the end of the course, students gain the capacity to comprehend spoken Spanish to a greater extent, carry-out conversations on a variety of subjects, and construct simple and complex orations in the present, past and future tenses.

Lessons emphasize real life situations and revolve around activities such as debates, role playing, reading and writing assignments, and game-based teaching strategies, which allow students to apply their acquired knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structure.

HOT Caribbean Seminars

InterDom's HOT Caribbean Seminar series are a feature of its summer academic offering, and deals with a recent topic of great importance on both the Caribbean and international scales. These topics are usually very specific and are not found in the regular course offering of most universities.

These series are given in conjunction with Iberoamerican University (UNIBE) and one other international organization with specialization in the topic, and it is open to Dominican and Haitian national students as well as international students and community leaders. The seminars are usually eight hours in length and are divided into two to four sessions over the course of a month. They are given at FUNGLODE's office headquarters in Santo Domingo.

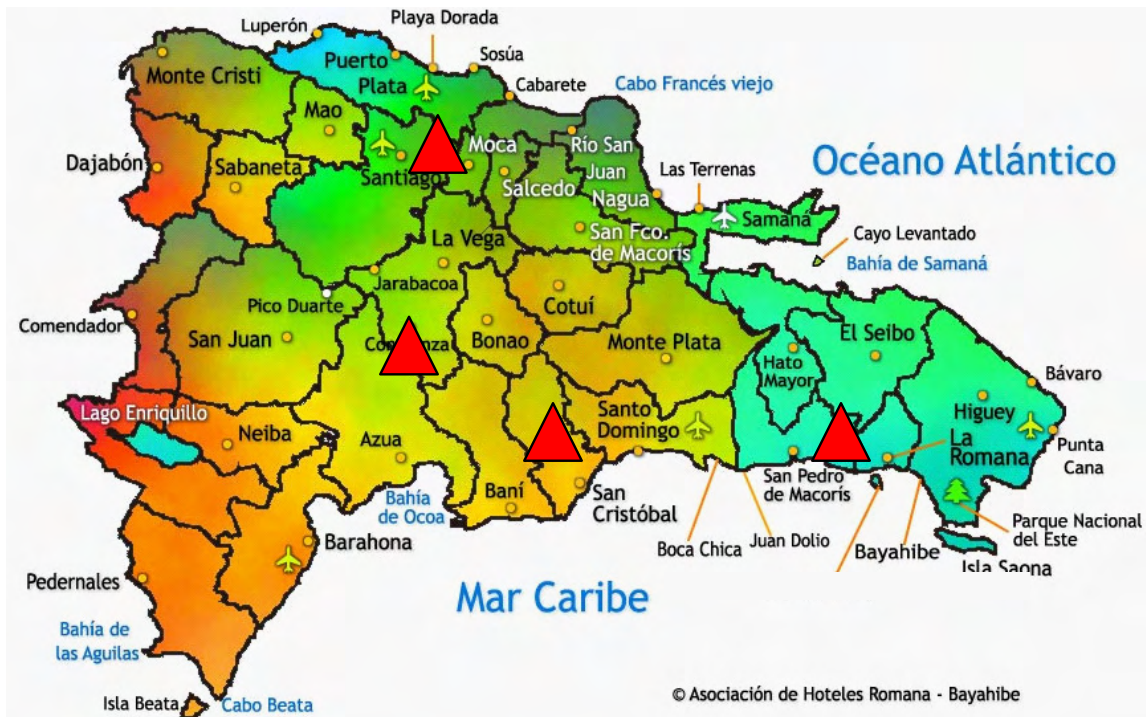
InterDom's HOT Caribbean Seminars give students the opportunity to debate current "hot" topics with community leaders and experts in the field.

Student Life

Optional Cultural Activities

InterDom organizes optional get-togethers and excursions on a regular basis in various locations through the country to expose program participants to a wider scope of the culture and ecology of the Dominican Republic.

These gatherings may also provide a prime opportunity for you to get to meet and know the other interns and Dominican students. For some of the excursions and get-togethers, program participants may invite friends or acquaintances without paying additional fees. Often FUNGLODE staff members and professionals from an InterDom partner organization accompany interns on the outings, providing an interesting local perspective and an unconventional networking opportunity.



Excursions Are Available to:

- Altos de Chavón and Cueva de las Maravillas
- Ebano Verde scientific reserve
- Rancho Campeche ecological ranch
- Mirabal Sisters Museum and Centro León

Activities at Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE)

InterDom participants also have the opportunity to attend most of the conferences and seminars that take place at FUNGLODE. Events featuring prominent national and international speakers are held frequently, and center on a variety of themes such as: democracy, sustainable development, foreign affairs, education, information and communications technology, environmental preservation and management and culture.

These events are often free of charge and open to the public, and InterDom encourages interns to attend any and all of the events that interest them.

Student Residences

InterDom offers modern and comfortable student residences with wireless Internet, strategically located minutes away from historic and cultural zones and within walking distance to public transportation. The housing is apartment-style, with students sharing common areas, and is administered and maintained by FUNGLODE staff. There is 24-hour security in the building, and it is located just across the street from the headquarters of FUNGLODE.



Access to the Juan Bosch Library

InterDom participants also have complete access to FUNGLODE's Juan Bosch Library (formerly known as the Center for Documentation and Knowledge Management), one of the most important centers for research in the entire Caribbean. The library offers a wide array of publications in print, electronic and digital formats on topics such as: political theory, political institutions, public administration, local government, municipal government, colonies and colonization, migration and immigration, international law, international relations, statistics, economics, transportation and communications, commerce, finance, sociology, social history, social assistance, criminology, socialism, communism and anarchism.

About GFDD and FUNGLODE

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) is a non-profit, organization dedicated to promoting collaboration between organizations in the United States and the Dominican Republic with an aim to study, research, enhance public understanding, design public policies, devise strategies, offer capacity building, and foster exchange in the areas crucial for the social, economic and democratic development of the Dominican Republic, Caribbean and Latin America.



GFDD accomplishes its goals through research projects, training programs, academic exchange programs, publications, seminars and conferences, as well as joint US-DR task force efforts and development programs. It encourages intellectual and professional development of Dominican professionals, in the country and abroad, while working to offer viable action plans and solutions to domestic problems for the benefit of Dominicans residing in the Dominican Republic, the United States and Latin America.

GFDD is the US sister organization of Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), based in the Dominican Republic. FUNGLODE was created by Dr. Leonel Fernández in the year 2000, at the end of his first presidential mandate. Upon resuming his duties as President of the Dominican Republic in August 2004, Dr. Fernandez became the Honorary President of the institution.

FUNGLODE and GFDD were created as a result of President Fernandez's desire to contribute to the social, economic, and democratic development of his home country and the Region, particularly by promoting international collaboration and exchange in order to advance the level of public debate, inform public opinion, train more qualified human resources, and achieve sounder public policies.

To learn more about GFDD and FUNGLODE, you can visit their websites at: <http://www.global-foundationdd.org> and <http://www.funglode.org>

Apply to InterRDom

We suggest that applicants possess a minimum GPA of 2.9, have completed 60% of their academicWe suggest that applicants possess a minimum GPA of 2.9 and have an intermediate level of written and spoken Spanish language capacity.

You can apply to InterRDom by filling out the application form on the InterRDom website at (<http://www.interdominternships.org/register.asp>).

In order to be accepted into the program, InterRDom requires the following documents:

- InterRDom Enrollment Form
- Resume
- Cover letter explaining student's area of interest and the financial means available to them to travel
- Official transcript
- Letter of Recommendation from a professor
- Academic writing sample (for Fellows Program applicants only)

Please note that after acceptance the following documents will be required, and deadlines are strict so we advise students to begin collecting them as soon as possible:

- 1 2x2 photograph in JPG format
- UNIBE Enrollment Form (for students who wish to take classes)
- 1 copy of your passport
- 4 2x2 photographs
- Certificate of Good Conduct from your country of origin
- Certificate of Good Health from your country of origin

Contact Us

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