

## Young Scholars & Gesu School Philadelphia, PA

**1** Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size, etc.

This internship provides a unique opportunity for immersion in the operation of inner city non-profit schools. It includes time at an inner city Philadelphia charter school—essentially an autonomous independent school with state funding that serves over 200 inner city youth in grades 6-8. It also includes a 5-week stint of teaching at a faith-based but non-denominational inner city school that receives private funding, as well as working the development (i.e., fund raising) office of that school.

The charter school is Young Scholars Charter School. Located in North Philadelphia, it offers a rigorous and innovative course of study that prepares middle school students to succeed at selective high schools. As a charter school, Young Scholars can neither charge tuition nor be selective in its admissions process and so families from across the city seek our school out because of its good reputation. Over 70% of our students come from low-income families who depend on Young Scholars to help their children catch up and/or get ahead. The mission is to: “prepare middle school students to attend and succeed academically at the best high schools and colleges; and to provide our students with the life skills required to be productive members of their communities.”

The faith-based, non-denominational school is the Gesu School. It is an independent Catholic School (pre-K to 8th grade) in the Jesuit and IHM traditions. Both of these religious orders believe in providing academic, spiritual and social development so that each young person understands and gives full expression to his or her God-given talents and gifts. This mission is carried on within some of the most difficult economic and family circumstances imaginable in the North Philadelphia neighborhoods that are Gesu’s primary service area. Here is a snapshot of what Gesu School stands for and what makes it unique:

- Emphasis on academic excellence, character formation, religious faith and leadership motivation.
- Academic preparation and personal attention—classroom fundamentals.
- Training for successful high school enrollment, leading to lifelong education, productive careers and leadership roles in society.
- Emphasis on diversity-related educational and cultural experiences to broaden horizons and provide adaptive skills for success.

Both schools are members of *Schools That Can*, a national network of highly performing schools and both have significant track records of success.

**2** Describe **in detail** the work or project an intern will do, **please be as specific as possible**.

This internship involves a variety of activities—teaching, after school and summer school program participation, tutoring, administrative duties and fund raising. The intern will get the most out of this opportunity if they enjoy working with kids and/or think teaching or school leadership may be a career interest. Because of the wide exposure of activities, the intern will have the opportunity to pitch in and help with all the various aspects of running a non-profit school.

Interestingly, one of the interns from two years ago is currently a teacher at Young Scholars through the Teach For America program.

**3** Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern

As stated above, a willingness to pitch in on a variety of projects is probably the most important quality. Beyond that, leadership, creativity and an ability to manage a project are the most important characteristics.

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There are required dates for this internship. Internship must start on \_\_\_\_\_ and end on \_\_\_\_\_.

Start and end dates for the internship are somewhat flexible, although the internship works best if commenced by Memorial Day. It must continue through the end of the Gesu School summer program which for 2006 will be July 28, but may run past that date.

The expected working schedule for this internship:

Begin 8:30-9 a.m. End 3-4 p.m.

Lunch break: Length 45-60 minutes, during school lunch periods at Young Scholars; after classes at Gesu