 

**1. Company/Organization Name, Address, Contact:**

**Name: Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)**

**Contact and Address:**

John Waters MD, DSc, MSc, MA (Oxon)

Monitoring & Evaluation and Research, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition - Dominican Republic Office

Calle Julio Verne #8, Gazcue, 10205

Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional

Dominican Republic

Office telephone: 1 809 7926638

Mobile telephone: 1 809 8894660

**2. Title of Internship/Practicum:** Public health practice, research, and advocacy for improved human rights in the Caribbean

**3. Internship Slots Available: 1**

Spring / **Summer** / Fall semester

Preferred length of stay: 6-8 weeks

**Preferred dates of stay: June 1 – July 31, 2023**

**4. Location:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic(DR)

**5. Paid or Unpaid Internship:** Unpaid. Intern is responsible for own travel and accommodation costs. CVC can

assist with organizing affordable options.

**6. Desired Education Level/Degree Concentration:** Upper level undergraduate or graduate

**7. Brief description of the organization/agency mission, goals, and activities:**

**Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)** is a coalition of community leaders and non-governmental agencies that are advocates and service providers, working with and on behalf of Caribbean populations who are especially vulnerable to HIV infection or often forgotten in access to treatment and healthcare programmes.These groups include men who have sex with men, persons of trans experience, sex workers, people who use drugs, orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV, migrant populations, persons in prison and ex-prisoners, and youth in especially difficult circumstances.

These groups are subjected to high levels of stigma and discrimination. They also lack the social and legal protection afforded other members of society and are socially excluded because their behaviour may be deemed delinquent, deviant or criminal.

Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion place affected persons at significant disadvantage in their struggle against HIV and AIDS and in realizing their right to health. Gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, youth, poverty and language differences exacerbate the vulnerabilities.

In some countries, HIV prevalence is as high as 27% among sex workers and 32% among men who have sex with men. Young people between 15 and 24 years old account for the highest number of new HIV infections. Data on HIV prevalence in persons of trans experience is limited in the Caribbean, but elevated where available, at 17% or more in the DR (based on data from three studies with limited samples of persons of trans experience) and perhaps as high as 52% in Jamaica.

**8. of Scope of Work/Responsibilities Intern:**

The principal goal for this Internship/Practicum is to expose interns to the realities of conducting public health practice and studies in resource-constrained settings with highly-stigmatized populations. CVC is working to remove barriers of stigma and discrimination and to reduce the prevalence of HIV among the key populations, and takes action to ensure increased access to services, to promote a human rights framework for policy and programmes at national and regional levels and to build the capacity of the most vulnerable populations for effective self-advocacy. The selected intern will support these efforts in the Dominican Republic. The specific focus will be adapted to the skills and interest of the selected intern; however, in general, the intern will assist and support the development of culturally appropriate low literacy training materials and tools for use with the target population, and to assist with training and sensitization of the target population to support advocacy for effective service delivery models for improved access and care.

**9. Desired Qualifications:**

It is imperative that students have a high level of maturity.Spanish proficiency highly preferred.

**10. MOU with UAB in place?**

Yes

**11. Will approval from ethical board be required? If so, how will this be done and what is the anticipated time frame to obtain ethical board approval?** Only if collecting data from human participants.

**12. Accomodation and transportation** Intern is responsible for own travel and accommodation costs. CVC can

assist with organizing affordable options. Short-term furnished rentals can be from $350-$550 per person per month. Domestic transport can be expensive (budget approximately $300/month). Uber available. Most places are walkable. Transport will be provided for fieldwork within and outside Santo Domingo. Per diem (covers accommodation, meals, incidentals) will be provided for work-related travel outside Santo Domingo.

**13. Any anticipated challenges?** None.

**14. Medical Rating and COVID-19 Precautions\***

As of January 5, 2023, International SOS assigned a medium medical risk to the Dominican Republic. International SOS assigns a medium medical risk rating to locations where high or international standard medical care is available from selected providers. Reliable emergency services and dental care is usually available. There is some risk of food or water-borne diseases. Vector-borne infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever may be present.

\*This internship is planned as an in-person, international experience in the Dominican Republic; however, due to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, the internship might need to be completed remotely. The determination will be done as soon as possible. The Sparkman Center travel scholarship of $3,000 per student will be issued only if the internship is conducted in-person in the Dominican Republic.

**15. Other Safety Precautions**

As of January 5, 2023, International SOS assigned a medium security risk to the Dominican Republic. Students should follow standard precautions applicable in urban settings. Electronic devices and backpacks should not be left in cars even if locked. Road traffic accidents on highways is high. There are no additional risks due to COVID – 19. Grocery stores and other essential services continue unhindered.