



African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

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Internship Description: 2nd June 2014- 31st July 2014

Global Development Advisors is an international development consulting firm, with offices in 11 locations around the world. I was based in the Dakar office, and my role as a summer analyst included desk research, field interviews and synthesis of data. I was staffed on a project with OSIWA (Open Society Initiative for West Africa) that focused on illicit financial flows in ECOWAS countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. I was a part of a small team that managed our project from start to finish, and I took on several responsibilities that covered a significant part of it. My research, analyses and presentation of the findings directly contributed to our final report. My ability to communicate and write in both French and English was also very helpful to my team.

The soft skills I was able to use and develop included critical thinking, client relations, communication. I was also lucky to have the opportunity to develop some more technical skills through the internship. These included PowerPoint, Excel and generally being able to present findings in a compelling, concise and aesthetic way. I was also lucky to be working with amazing people who made the environment one in which I always felt encouraged to take initiative and never hesitate to ask about anything. If I had any questions about what was expected of me, or could foresee an area that I could contribute to, I was able to talk openly to my project manager. Additionally I was able to take part in the social events that occurred both in and outside of work, which helped me get to know my co workers better. My only drawback about the internship was the time. If I could do it again, I would spend an even longer time at Dalberg to further deepen relationships and learn even more.

This internship was particularly great for me because it combined my interests in consulting and in international development. My internship was also a lot more instructive and interesting than I had expected. It has increased my interest in this field, and gave me confidence that I have the tools that I need to contribute positively to my work environment. At the same time I also realised that I do have a lot to learn and there are many ways I can continue to grow as a



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professional. I am eager to explore these further and I am grateful to Dalberg for further sturring this passion.