



African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

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Internship Description: 4th June 2014- 1st August 2014

During my internship period MINDS was preparing for the MINDS Annual Youth Dialogue in Kigali, Rwanda, which took place on the 21-22 July. My role in the conference preparation was mainly dealing with the participants. I was responsible for recruiting candidates from every country on the continent, selecting the 100 participants, collecting required information, flight bookings, VISA preparation as well as information dissemination. Because MINDS is a small team of 5, my role extended to other sectors, such as assisting with the program development, selecting panellists, social media amongst other things. The highlight of the program was the opportunity to travel to Rwanda and to see the program through after many weeks of preparation. It was a great honour to interact with H.E Paul Kagame's team in preparation for his session and to engage with youth from across the continent.

Because MINDS was hosting an event for the youth, I was able to engage in dialogue regarding how the program can be best shaped for the young people attending the conference. I had a great influence on the programming in terms of the program design as well as research material content. Leading up to the youth dialogue my team work skills were greatly challenged and expanded. There was quite a lot of pressure in terms of project delivery and I had to become a better 'multi-tasker', a better team communicator and a better French speaker in order to better support the participants as well as my colleagues. The greatest lessons, however, were learnt outside of my directly work related tasks. They were learnt instead through interactions with my colleagues and other professionals I encountered. I received a lot of professional development and career advice. I was taught not to undervalue my skills, to differentiate my personal being from my professional being, to respect professional hierarchy, to be flexible and inquisitive and to amongst other things make happiness a priority.

This internship exposed me to the inner workings of a small and new organization that is still developing its focus areas. It provided a space in which I could be inquisitive and impactful. I did



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not particularly leave with a clearer idea of my future endeavours in a professional context but I was able to interact with mentors who will play a large role in how my career develops. One thing I did take away, is the importance of recognising, appreciating and prioritising the intellectual and physical outcomes of any career.