

World Development Movement - www.wdm.org.uk

Notes from a visit – May 2006. Jeff Riley

Application tips from World Development Movement

- We get about 50 applicants for voluntary positions as campaigns assistants. What makes a difference?
- Can you commit to the times we ask for?
- Does your letter say enough about you? Does it demonstrate you have put in some thought and effort?
- Evidence of previous significant *administration* experience.
- WDM is a *campaigning* organisation. Evidence of some voluntary campaigning experience would be important. Not necessarily with WDM
- Know about WDM – the fact that it is not a charity for example (though it does have a charitable section – WDM trust)
- Knowledge of the issues and of WDM's campaigns. Most applicants are strong in this issues area and do not pay enough attention to the other criteria.
- When there are lots of equally well qualified candidates then minor errors and presentation becomes more important. Even as something as simple as having an improperly aligned margin can be enough to help the recruiter make a decision.

Making the most of voluntary positions

- The best way to make the most of your experience is to extend it. Previous volunteers have gone on to jobs in Amnesty, One World Trust, Campaign Against Arms Trade but often this has taken up to nine months rather than the three months of the internship. Given that WDM demand three days a week this doesn't leave much time to earn some money.
- Don't make yourself unpopular by pushing too hard for higher level work. Most jobs following on from internship positions are entry level jobs that will value your competence in basic research and administration and in event organisation, for example. Interns in WDM will, in any case, get to do higher level work towards the end of their internship.

WDM Internships

The positions last three days a week for three months and are usually advertised twice a year around September and April but please check the web site. The work straddles campaign and policy areas and includes

- Administration – monitoring newspapers, responding to letters, checking emails.
- Research – not academic research but lower level research. Say, for example, to find out about specific companies and research that will demonstrate the impact of IMF policies. Research usually done via web and through in-house materials.