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About West Africa Centre for Counter – Extremism (WACCE) Internship Program 2026 – (January – March)

WACCE is an independent regional organization focused on security and counter-terrorism research and capacity building in West Africa. WACCE's works are intended at uncovering the underpinnings of radicalization and violent extremism to serve as effective contribution to State and Regional counter terrorism policy and strategy. Our vision is to serve as the most credible and leading security research organization on West Africa. In the last 9 years, WACCE has worked to stop 23 radicalized individuals from travelling to join terrorist groups.

Our PVE program has empowered 9,600 youth and local community representatives to serve as peace ambassadors to build resilience against conflicts and violent extremism in West Africa. WACCE welcomes partners, volunteers, and interns who are passionate about addressing security challenges in the region.

Research Associate (Intern) - Role Description

This is a full-time on-site role for a Research Associate (Intern) at WACCE in Accra, Ghana beginning from January to March 2026. WACCE welcomes passionate, innovative and talented interns who crave learning new skills and aren't afraid of tackling the unknown. The Research Associate will be involved in conducting research on various security issues including violent extremism, democracy and governance, gender, youth, technology and AI whilst supporting training programs, and contributing to advocacy efforts. The role will also involve working closely with local communities and assisting in the development of strategic policies and strategies.

Qualifications and Person Specifications

- Research skills, including data collection and analysis.
- Strong analytical and critical thinking abilities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work well in a team and independently.
- Knowledge of security studies or related fields.
- Experience in conducting fieldwork or interviews.
- Proficiency in relevant software tools (e.g., Microsoft Office, Powerpoint, SPSS).
- Fluency in English; knowledge of local languages is a plus.
- Helping to provide content (summary profile) and updates on 15 West African countries.
- Support WACCE research team by gathering, carrying out surveys, reviewing and writing research reports.
- Represent, develop and maintain professional relationships with stakeholders and other organizations in the Third Sector.
- Intern may be involved in attending Ghanaian local events/functions that may be deemed valuable to intern's local experience. Role may involve travel outside of Accra.
- Perform administrative duties as a daily part of engagement.
- The above duties are only indicative and may include other duties as and when they arise.

Working Hours and Internship Duration

As an intern, you are expected to work in Accra, with the supervision of an assigned WACCE staff and will be required to work a minimum of 40 hours a week. This internship is for a minimum period of 12 weeks and is renewable upon mutual agreement by both parties.

Logistics

WACCE will provide logistical support required to function in your role. Where travel outside of Accra is involved, WACCE will cover cost of transportation, accommodation and meals. WACCE commits to providing all the support needed to ensure a convenient, exciting and successful internship experience.

Outcomes

This internship prepares young professionals for successful careers in international security, development, foreign

affairs, academics in both public and private sectors. It opens the door for individuals looking to enrich their experience to be able to work with international organizations, NGOs, Civil Society and national governments. Upon completion, interns are awarded certificates and recommendation letters upon request.

How to Apply

To apply, please send in your CV, Cover letter and a writing sample of between 3 – 5 pages on any subject to info@waccegh.org and copy mmmuqthar@gmail.com by November 20, 2025 at 23:59 hrs GMT.