

Verité Research Internships

Winter-Spring 2024

About Verité: Verité is an Amherst-based non-profit and award-winning pioneer in the social auditing, training, research, and consulting field. The organization has over 25 years of experience working with Fortune 500 corporations and their local suppliers through our global network of NGO partners. Verité works in over 70 countries to empower companies, factories, NGOs, governments, and workers to create sustainable workplace practices in the factories and communities where our consumer goods are made and the raw materials that go into them are sourced. For more information, please visit <https://www.verite.org>.

Internship: Verité interns do interesting and substantive work and are exposed to the vast world of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and human rights. They contribute to a variety of research projects addressing forced labor, human trafficking, and human rights abuses worldwide. Interns perform tasks such as conducting desk research, updating various databases that Verité maintains, completing various administrative tasks, drafting reports, and proofreading texts. Research interns read and analyze reports published by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and become familiar with the work of these entities as well as the work of many different stakeholders. Interns support our work with brands and our large-scale federally funded research projects across supply chains, sectors, and commodities. Interns may assist on a number of Verité projects and are not limited to only the projects detailed below.

Start date: Negotiable; January

End date: Negotiable; end of academic semester

Hours: Interns are expected to work 8-10 hours per week during the academic semester for at least 12 weeks (for a minimum of approximately 100 hours). Exact start and end dates and hours are negotiable as long as those criteria are met.

Logistics: All internships are currently remote. If interns are local to Western Massachusetts, working in the office is an option that can be discussed.

Verité offers interns a modest stipend in the amount of \$650 for the duration of the session. If your school also provides either funding or academic credits for intern work, Verité is happy to assist with the required paperwork.

We plan different events for interns to interact with senior and other staff and provide opportunities for mentoring and networking. We also provide references upon successful completion of the internship.

Skills, abilities, and competencies:

- Ability to find, evaluate, analyze, and summarize a wide range of complex source materials
- Ability to meet deadlines, prioritize assigned tasks, and work independently and proactively, all with an attention to detail
- Excellent writing, grammar, and editing skills
- Ability to take initiative and work independently

- Previous knowledge of (or interest in/willingness to learn quickly) issues related to countries and regions of focus, relevant regulatory frameworks, human trafficking, and/or corporate responsibility efforts
- Familiarity with organizing and manipulating data in Excel. Familiarity with programs like Infogram and Airtable is a plus
- Demonstrates sensitivity, professional competency, and/or personal experience thinking and working effectively across boundaries and engaging with the diverse marginalized populations impacted by Verité's mission*
**These include, but are not limited to: gender, race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy status, nationality, class, political opinion, union affiliation, or social or ethnic origin.*

Verité is committed to a diverse work force and is an Equal Opportunity Employer that does not discriminate against any employee, intern, or applicant for employment or internship on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, class, religion, veteran status, ability, and any other federal, state, or locally protected classes.

How to Apply:

Please include the following attachments with your application: **cover letter, resume, and an academic writing sample of 3-5 pages. If you are particularly interested in one or more of the specific projects outlined below, please address it in your cover letter.** It is preferable that writing samples pertain to international studies and demonstrate research and analysis skills. Multilingual applicants may be asked to provide a writing sample in additional languages; see project descriptions below for further direction.

Please apply [at this link](#). Any questions can be directed to the Internship Coordinator at verite@verite.org.

Projects

Sub-Saharan Africa Microsite: This [site](#) consists of reports on 22 major African export commodities, and on all 49 sub-Saharan African countries that provide information about industry and national characteristics relevant to trafficking risk. The site also provides guidance on understanding trafficking risk and additional resources for companies and others interested in establishing compliance systems and other programming to prevent and address trafficking risk within global supply chains. This intern will be responsible for maintaining and updating the statistical and narrative content in the Africa microsite. Intern tasks may include:

- Pulling in new numbers from publicly available published datasets and manipulating them to generate updated charts in Infogram (proficiency with Excel, Infogram, and/or WordPress or other website content management systems a plus but not required)
- Conducting desk research to update written content to match the new charts and to update narrative information about key commodities and countries
- Updating the content of the Africa microsite

Evidence to Action: Efforts against Forced Labor in Argentina and Madagascar Garment Sectors: Verité is an implementing partner for a project to increase knowledge and mobilize stakeholders regarding forced labor in the garment sectors in Argentina and Madagascar. The project will provide significant new information on forced labor within the garment and associated textile sectors in each country; will build the capacity of national research institutions, government, and civil society organizations to research, prevent, identify, and combat forced labor; will provide tools for the investigation of forced labor; and will catalyze a broad group of stakeholders to act on the research findings, making the link from data to policy. Intern activities for this work may include:

- Conducting desk research and analysis of publicly available information
- Assisting with adapting existing materials and content to raise awareness and build capacity among garment workshop owners, workers, and civil society
- Assisting with the incorporation of stakeholder feedback into tools to address forced labor developed for the Argentina and Madagascar garment sectors
- Work in French and/or Spanish; superior French and/or Spanish fluency required. **Please submit a French and/or Spanish writing sample.**

Responsible Sourcing Tool: In 2016, Verité launched the [Responsible Sourcing Tool \(RST\)](#), a free interactive web platform designed to help visualize, understand, and eliminate human trafficking in global supply chains. The tool was initially developed as a resource for federal contractors to utilize in meeting U.S. anti-trafficking compliance measures, and it has since expanded to provide companies, advocates, investors, and consumers with a comprehensive assessment of country- and industry-based risks of human trafficking and a suite of resources to address those risks. The website currently contains extensive research on 11 key sectors and 43 commodities at risk for trafficking or trafficking-related activities, ten comprehensive risk management tools, various case studies, and links to guidance from other expert organizations. RST intern tasks may include:

- Conducting desk research and media scans on specific commodities and sectors
- Drafting and updating reports
- Engaging in data-related work (trade and export data, organizing data in platforms, quality assurance)

- Supporting the development of new sector-specific tools and general resources for the site

Mexico Agricultural Research: Verité is working with key stakeholders in [Mexico's sugarcane sector](#). This program looks to strengthen due diligence processes and management systems to effectively reduce labor risks for workers in the extended supply chain. It includes awareness raising, capacity building, tool development, and stakeholder engagement.

Intern activities for this work may include:

- Supporting development of due diligence protocols and procedures
- Supporting tool development for cutters, *cabos*, and producers in the sugarcane industry
- Supporting training content development, either in terms of content or design
- Conducting general desk research
- Analyzing data and interpreting trends and risks and creating risk dashboards based on available data
- Work in Spanish; superior Spanish fluency is required. **Please submit a Spanish writing sample.**

STREAMS Project: The Supply Chains Tracing Engagement and Methodologies ([STREAMS](#)) Project is an exciting new initiative to enhance the downstream traceability of goods made by child and forced labor in global supply chains. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the STREAMS Project is focused on developing an analytic framework to map and categorize supply chains and methods for tracing and validating supply chain connections, conducting pilots of supply chain tracing and validation methodologies in India's garment sector, and creating accessible tools to enable diverse actors across sectors and supply chain tiers to adopt innovative tracing approaches. STREAMS intern tasks may include:

- Conducting desk research on topics related to traceability and labor rights due diligence
- Supporting the development of graphics and visuals to communicate complex ideas in actionable ways
- Supporting the design of accessible tools, toolkits, and capacity building materials, including proofreading and reviewing content
- Summarizing news articles and reports relevant to the STREAMS project and broader field of traceability
- Supporting social media and other external communication efforts

CUMULUS Forced Labor Screen: The CUMULUS project is a forced labor risk screening tool that enables companies to unravel complex labor supply chains and identify risks of human trafficking and forced labor within them. Verité continues to conduct original research to expand the scope of CUMULUS into additional industries and geographic areas. Interns will assist in gathering desk research in a number of languages using a wide variety of sources including academic, corporate, business, NGO, media, and government reports. Additional CUMULUS intern tasks may include:

- Contributing to desk research on labor migration, recruitment systems, and emerging legislation in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Southeast Asia, and European Union regions
- Organizing research findings using reporting templates and assisting analysts in data entry
- Providing translation assistance for documents, correspondences, and other resources. Those with language skills in Mandarin, Thai, Malay, or Arabic, closely followed by Italian or Spanish, are encouraged to apply.