

Research Assistant, Peace Action

Vacancy Announcement

August 2021

1 Overview

Conflict Dynamics International (www.cdint.org) seeks to engage an exceptional and highly-motivated Research Assistant to work on its peacebuilding research and communications as part of our Peace Action Team. The Research Assistant will be a member of a small, dynamic team that develops and disseminates high-quality applied research on governance and political processes. The Research Assistant may create, publish, and manage Conflict Dynamics' [Peace Pulse](#) digest; conduct policy-oriented research related to peacebuilding and political accommodation; draft case studies and other products; and contribute to peace-related social media and online communications. The Research Assistant will play an important role in guaranteeing excellence in Conflict Dynamics' research and peace communications.

The position is for an initial period of 3 months or one semester in Fall 2021, with the possibility of extension, should it be mutually agreeable. The level of effort is 12-20 hours per week, and the work will be completed in exchange for class credit or applicant-secured external funding.

2 Background

Conflict Dynamics International is an independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 2004. Its **mission** is *to prevent and resolve violent conflict between and within states, and to alleviate human suffering resulting from conflicts and other crises around the world*. In fulfilling this mission, Conflict Dynamics develops and implements innovative strategies for conflict prevention and resolution, and for humanitarian policy relevant to conflict.

Conflict Dynamics' Peace Action work supports local and national actors to develop their own options for effective political dialogue processes and governance arrangements that accommodate a wide range of diverse interests. Conflict Dynamics provides facilitation and technical support on a variety of issues, including: constitutional design; mediation support; electoral system engineering; public participation in political processes; integration of traditional leadership in governance structures; decentralization; confidence-building measures in peace processes; etc.

Conflict Dynamics' Peace Action program area currently has country programs on Somalia/Somaliland and Sudan, while previous country programs included South Sudan and Syria. In addition, the team conducts work in thematic areas such as gender and political accommodation.

3 Scope of work

The role of the Research Assistant is to create, publish, and manage Conflict Dynamics' Peace Pulse; conduct policy-oriented research related to peacebuilding and political accommodation; draft case studies and other products; and/or contribute to peace-related social media and online communications.

The duties and responsibilities of the Research Assistant may include:

Applied research

1. Conduct policy-oriented research in the areas of peacemaking, peacebuilding, political accommodation, governance, political processes, etc. to meet the demands of context-specific and thematic teams.
2. Draft or contribute to a variety of products, including but not limited to case studies, discussion notes, and concept notes.

Research methodology

1. Contribute to the documentation and dissemination of Conflict Dynamics' Political Accommodation Methodology.

Peace Pulse production

Create, publish, and manage Conflict Dynamics' [Peace Pulse](#), a digest of recent debates and publications related to peacebuilding, governance, and our country contexts: Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. Specifically, this will include:

1. In coordination with Conflict Dynamics colleagues, identify a theme for each edition.
2. Identify and compile relevant analysis pieces, journal articles, and books to include.
3. Draft introductory narrative, describing the theme and how it relates to Conflict Dynamics' work.
4. Using Constant Contact, build, format, and schedule the final version.
5. Monitor and share internally data on opens and click rates.

Social media and online communications

1. Draft, edit, and amplify Peace Pulse content – and as relevant other aspects of Conflict Dynamics' work – across social media platforms (current: Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn) and Conflict Dynamics' website.
2. Coordinate with Conflict Dynamics' Development Team to draft and/or review content for organization-wide social media and email/online communications.

The Research Assistant will also conduct other tasks as agreed with Conflict Dynamics.

4 Experience, skills and qualifications

The following are indicative skills, experience and qualifications for the Research Assistant role:

- Graduate degree (Master's or equivalent) in progress in international conflict resolution, international relations, political science, law, or related social science field.
- Professional or academic experience working on issues related to peacebuilding, governance, political systems, fragile states, political transition, or other related fields.
- Familiarity with situations of conflict or political transition, preferably relating to East Africa and/or the Middle East.
- Excellent writing and communication skills (English), with experience drafting for a variety of audiences.
- High quality analytical, research, and organizational skills.
- Creativity and ability to work both independently and as a member of a diverse team.
- Experience with major social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), web content management, and/or communications is a plus.

5 Qualities

Some of the qualities Conflict Dynamics seeks in the Research Assistant include:

- Rigorous, systematic thinking.
- Diligence and consistency, with an eye for detail.
- Commitment to Conflict Dynamics' mission and ethos.
- Commitment to research ethics and integrity.
- Ability to juggle diverse tasks across themes and contexts.
- Ability to draw lessons and translate them across projects.
- Ability to draft and edit to tight deadlines.
- Ability to communicate complex ideas succinctly and without jargon.
- Ability to give and receive constructive criticism.

6 Duration and level of effort

The position is for a period of 3 months or one semester, with the possibility of extension should it be mutually agreeable. The Research Assistant should be available for a minimum of 12 hours per week.

7 Location

The Research Assistant will work remotely and can be based anywhere so long as they can overlap with US East Coast hours for part of the time. Depending on the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and if based in the Boston area, the Research Assistant may be asked to work part of their hours from Conflict Dynamics' Cambridge office, on a mutually-agreed basis.

8 Reporting and management

The Research Assistant will work directly with Conflict Dynamics' Chief Operating Officer, and other staff as necessary.

9 Compensation/credit

The Research Assistant will receive course credit for their work. If this is not possible, we will encourage and support the Research Assistant to apply for external sources of funding for the role (e.g. an internship fund from their school). Conflict Dynamics will work with the Research Assistant to ensure that their school's requirements for receiving course credit are fulfilled.

10 Application procedure

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume/CV, and recent writing sample by email to internship@cdint.org by 6 September 2021. Applicants should save the letter, CV, and writing sample in the following format: **'FirstnameLastnameLetter'** – **'FirstnameLastnameCV'** – **'FirstnameLastnameSample'**. The cover email should reference "Research Assistant Vacancy." Only current students in a degree program should apply.

Please note that applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a short writing exercise, with the second round consisting of a virtual interview. Final candidate(s) will be required to provide the names of three references.

**** NOTE: ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED ****

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