



EURORDIS Public Affairs Internship (1 vacancy/ Brussels-based)

1. Public Affairs Intern

September 2019 - February 2020 (6 months) – *with possible extension until May 2020*

EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe is looking to recruit an intern from September 2019 – February 2020 to work within the Public Affairs team in the Brussels office. The internship could be potentially extended to May 2020.

EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe is a unique, non-profit alliance of over 800 rare disease patient organisations from more than 70 countries that work together to improve the lives of the 30 million people living with a rare disease in Europe. Our vision is to enable **better lives and cures for people living with a rare disease**.

EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe also holds consultative status with the United Nations and has established a number of initiatives and partnerships aiming to expand its advocacy efforts to the global level and represent the estimated 300 million people living with a rare disease worldwide. These include the [NGO Committee for Rare Diseases](#), a civil society forum created to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration and actions within the UN system, and [Rare Diseases International](#), a global alliance of rare disease patient organisations.

The Public Affairs team is looking for a candidate who is a real team player, flexible to working in an international environment, organised, highly detail-oriented and motivated to work for an NGO and support both its European and international advocacy efforts.

This is an excellent opportunity to work for a highly regarded health NGO in a truly international environment. Prior knowledge of rare diseases is not required.

Job Purpose:

The intern will provide support to EURORDIS' advocacy team in implementing the advocacy strand of the EURORDIS strategy 2015-2020 (see [Activity Report and Work Plan 2018](#) for details).

The intern will support both European and international advocacy activities of EURORDIS, which may include EURORDIS' action within the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases and Rare Disease international.

Responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to:

- Research and analyse topics that are relevant for the rare disease community;
- Monitor relevant policy development in relevant fields (e.g. health, research, SDGs, disability, NCDs);
- Provide staff with support in research, analysis and preparation of background materials of various topics, organisations, and key players in the field;
- Help with the development of advocacy documents and tools;
- Map and reach out to key stakeholders, including EU Institutions and other Brussels-based organisations; UN Secretariat, UN Bodies (WHO, UNDP, UNICEF) and diplomatic missions;
- Assist with the organisation of events and meetings, specifically supporting the preparation of the Rare Disease Day policy activities taking place in February 2020;
- Prepare updates for the website and other media-related materials.

Required skills:

- Graduate/undergraduate degree in Political Science, International Relations, EU Studies, Law, or a related field;
- Genuine enthusiasm for public affairs and advocacy;
- Motivation to work for an NGO (experience working for an NGO desirable but not required);
- Interest in and experience with EU affairs;
- Fluency in English: The working language of EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe is English. A very good level of written and spoken English is required for interns;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, reflecting an appreciation that each audience requires its own approach;
- Strong analytical skills and attention to details;
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office (including Word and Excel);
- Highly organised, detail-orientated and able to prioritise/ cope under pressure;
- Ability to work independently.

Desired skills and experience:

- Familiarity with EU mechanisms and instruments, including legislative procedures;
- Knowledge of international intergovernmental organisations and familiarity with international thematic issues, including UN human rights mechanisms, the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Experience using all social media channels and writing content for social media.

Outcome:

What knowledge will the intern have gained?

- The intern will have a good understanding of the structure and working methods of a civil society organisation. The intern will be familiar with mechanisms and policies that have an impact on the lives of people living with a rare disease. The intern will have gained a basic understanding of patient advocacy and of how to interact with key EU stakeholders, UN entities and other NGOs. The intern will have gained basic skills in networking and event organisation.

Hours: 35 hours a week

Compensation: the internship and the remuneration will be regulated in the framework of a Belgian contract, namely a '*Convention d'immersion professionnelle*' (CIP).

To apply: Please send your CV and cover letter in English to brussels.intern@eurordis.org by July 19.