Background

The Program for Expertise, Evidence and Law is an interdisciplinary research network based in the Faculty of Law. The Program is currently particularly concerned with the role of the forensic sciences within the criminal justice system. Staff at UNSW who are affiliated with the Program coordinate research and public events, and liaise regularly with members of the relevant professions. This internship would be attached to The Evidence Project. This project is exploring ways to offer advice to the legal profession, in particular, defence lawyers, on how to effectively understand and challenge incriminating expert evidence from the forensic sciences. The Evidence Project will provide students the opportunity to work with academic staff and legal practitioners to provide evidence- and policy-based critique of expert reports, ideally, in active criminal cases. The program will provide formal and informal training, as well as supervised practical experience, in writing, conducting literature reviews, application of psychological principles to expert reports, application of legal principles to expert reports (i.e., codes of conduct), professional communication, and critical evaluation.

Internship

For S2 2014 intake, interns would be working alongside senior students from psychology evaluating reports.

Interns will be based in the Forensic Psychology Lab (Level 10 Mathews Building) and would attend classes in the School of Psychology. They would be expected to participate in multidisciplinary ‘master classes’ and workshops during the semester providing relevant legal and psychological background information. These classes will be run in a workshop format over a period of 1-2 days. Other activities in addition to evaluating reports would include court observation, shadowing professionals, presenting report recommendations to course colleagues and stakeholders, group reviews, archival research, opportunities for conference attendance and admission to Australian Academy of Forensic Science events.

Pre-requisite:

Completion of Court Process Evidence & Proof or equivalent.

For more information please contact Mehera San Roque (m.sanroque@unsw.edu.au)