

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring



Language and Culture Centre

P.O. Box 2420

Kununurra WA 6743

Special Internship at Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) is an Aboriginal organisation seeking to preserve and revitalise the Miriwoong language of the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In addition to our regular internship program involving stays of around 10 weeks we are currently looking for a linguist volunteer to assist us with a special task over a longer period of time. The successful candidate would spend 12 months at MDWg to get deeper insight of our work and help us with a number of diverse tasks. One objective would be to further enhance existing skills in our Indigenous language workers and strengthen their capacity to work independently. The intern's responsibility would include working with our staff to prepare Miriwoong language resources such as printed and digital resources, assist with the curriculum development for Miriwoong, support the preparation of school classes and help organise the production of radio programs. In particular, this role would involve supporting language workers in completing a Certificate III in Aboriginal Language Work which our team began earlier this year. Another aspect of the Special Intern's role will be to develop a series of language videos for the Miriwoong language. All tasks will be in teamwork with our Miriwoong language workers and other interns as well as in collaboration with the senior linguist. There will also be the opportunity to engage in other activities such as language documentation and language revitalisation.

In brief - What we expect from applicants:

- A commitment to stay for a minimum of 6 months (Australian residents); ideally 12 months¹
- A background of tertiary studies in linguistics or language learning and the ability to acquire basic knowledge of an Australian Aboriginal language
- A demonstrated desire to support the revitalisation of an endangered language
- An open mind and strong respect for a culturally diverse environment and the ability to communicate and work harmoniously as part of a team
- A formal application including the following: cover letter stating the preferred starting date and suggested length of stay; CV showing any previous experience you may have had in the field of linguistics, fieldwork or work with Indigenous people; anything that would help us get to know you better
- Willingness to be partly self-funded.

¹ International applicants please note that Australian visa conditions for a working holiday visa allow a maximum stay of 6 months per host organisation. Applicants who are able to commit for 12 months will be preferred subject to equal qualification and experience.

What we can offer:

- A unique multicultural work environment and the opportunity to contribute to a successful language revitalisation program
- Being part of an ambitious team composed of linguists and language workers and the possibility to present at our *Mirima Linguistic Forum*
- A hands-on learning experience in the field of language documentation and revitalisation
- Participation in excursions and getting to know all of MDWg's activities
- An air-conditioned work place with computer access
- A financial subsidy towards living expenses of AUD \$500 per week; logistic assistance in finding accommodation. Please note that this is not a salary but an allowance.
- A one-off travel subsidy of up to AUD \$1,000 for transferring to Kununurra for a 12-month stay (please note that this allowance does not apply to departure costs).
- You will live in one of the most fascinating regions of Australia, a major tourist destination for travellers from around the world. The East Kimberley offers National Parks, rivers, lakes and untouched wilderness with countless outdoor adventure possibilities.

Challenges you might expect:

- Climate: during a year's stay you would experience the full range of the Kimberley climate including extreme temperatures, tropical storms and possible road closures. And - yes: we are REMOTE (Darwin is the closest major city, about 850 km from Kununurra).
- Community: be prepared for the fact that many members of the Indigenous community live under very challenging socio-economic conditions which may sometimes impact on work activities.
- Living costs: due to our remoteness living expenses are higher than the national average. Expect to spend a good part of your subsidy on housing. For more details about potential costs please contact us.

A selection process will apply. The suggested starting time for this internship is as soon as possible (ideally July/August 2016).

We reserve the right to close the application process at our discretion, subject to the number of applications received.

We recommend that you send us a brief expression of interest before applying formally.

Contact:

Knut J. Olawsky, Senior Linguist/Manager

E-mail: info@mirima.org.au