

# MindFreedom International (MFI)

## Internships 2022-2023



MindFreedom International (MFI) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Eugene, Oregon, with more than three decades' worth of championing human rights in mental health. MFI holds Consultative Roster status with the United Nations. While MFI is fairly small, it is also rare in the mental health advocacy community: Funding is completely independent from the mental health industry, big corporations, and the government; its support comes almost entirely from its community members and grants.

Interns will work remotely with nonprofit MindFreedom International and their staff, the local grassroots affiliate MindFreedom Oregon, as well as AcIU! Institute, a local consulting group founded by former director of MFI, David W. Oaks. Under supervision of Oaks and AcIU's Program Coordinator, Kiana Nadonza, interns will gain experience with grassroots organizing, outreach initiatives, program management, as well as get to contribute to MFI and AcIU's larger mission of advocating for human rights in mental healthcare. David has been a disability community organizer for more than 45 years. His focus has been psychiatric survivors, but since a major accident in 2012, he has been a leading quadriplegic activist.

The ideal candidate to intern with MFI is self-driven, motivated, and works well in teams. Most importantly, we are looking for individuals with a desire to advocate and work with mental health consumers, psychiatric survivors and folks with physical disabilities who are striving towards empowerment and humane alternatives. Interested candidates should possess interests in community organizing/activism with marginalized & disempowered communities.

### **Qualifications and Responsibilities:**

- Must be an enrolled student at the University of Oregon in good academic standing;
- Must be able to pass a standard background check;
- Access to technology and skills needed to work remotely, specifically: computer, webcam, steady/stable internet connection, as well as some familiarity with Microsoft Office, Google Drive, spreadsheets, and Zoom;

- Ability to commit to at least one full academic term (ten weeks) for a minimum of *at least* three hours per week;
- Experience with social media; helpful but not required: familiarity with website and content creation, e.g., WordPress.
- Students in Elizabeth Wheeler, PhD's ENG 240 class may qualify for academic credits, please inquire.

### Activities:

- Team collaboration with MFI and Aciu! Institute, including their interns and volunteers;
- Hands-on work with MFI's outreach initiatives, e.g., working with Oaks to build a Support Coalition of Affiliates, Sponsors, and Campaign Action Teams (CAT) such as MFI's Prisoner Program;
- Development of fresh ideas and new solutions to social issues relevant to Aciu! Institute's mission statement, as well as the ability to create activist-oriented content for MFI & Aciu! Institute's websites and social media;
- Assist and support the organizing efforts by local MFI Affiliate, MindFreedom Oregon, through means such as monthly Zoom meetings;
- Peer education regarding MFI's Shield Campaign, which supports human rights of folx in mental healthcare;
- Assistance with searching and applying for grants and other modes of funding;
- Regular tracking of internship hours and periodic check-ins with your internship cohort, facilitated by Aciu! Institute's Program Coordinator, Kiana Nadonza;
- Finally, all interns will experience and learn about a part of the mental health system that is often ignored but is increasingly influential: **A social change movement started in the early 1970's to deeply change mental health care for more humane and empowering options, such as Peer Support Specialists and Soteria Respites.**

Compensation is through University credit only, for qualified UO students. Though our internships are currently unpaid, we hope to continue developing our internship program to consider offering modest stipends. Further, there may be professional opportunities to continue working with groups in this field. Upon completion, interns will also receive a letter of recommendation that details their work experience, amount of hours contributed, and their accomplishments while working with MFI and Aciu! Institute.

For more information, please contact Kiana Nadonza [kiananadonza@gmail.com](mailto:kiananadonza@gmail.com) & David W. Oaks from Aciu! Institute, [www.aciu.info](http://www.aciu.info), at [revolution@aciu.info](mailto:revolution@aciu.info) or 541-914-1469. MindFreedom International, [www.mindfreedom.org](http://www.mindfreedom.org), can be contacted at [office@mindfreedom.org](mailto:office@mindfreedom.org) or 541-345-9106.