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**THUNDERBIRD & GRAMEEN NGO UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENT  
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS IN BANGLADESH: May – July, 2011**

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**EXCITING AND REWARDING INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS  
IN BANGLADESH, SOUTH ASIA, & OTHER GRAMEEN GLOBAL LOCATIONS.**

The Grameen Trust is a sister organization of the famed Grameen Bank, a microfinance institution that provides collateral free loans to the poorest members of Bangladeshi society. The founder of Grameen, Professor Mohammed Yunus, won the Nobel Prize in 2006 for demonstrating that microloans could be used to lift people out of poverty. The Grameen Trust was established with the goal of replicating the Grameen Bank's microfinance activities in Bangladesh and their global business locations.

The Grameen Trust also supports Grameen Bank programs. The Grameen Trust publishes materials about Grameen Bank programs that are replicated globally. The Grameen Trust organizes and operates global programs and enterprises to support and promote poverty reduction; increase employment, income and management skills of the disadvantaged; health and sanitation services for the benefit of the poor and it offers training assistance to national and international organizations in support of Grameen Bank replication initiatives.

A group of undergraduate and graduate students from American universities reported on their internship experiences during the Summer of 2010.

The main project for this graduate student group was an audit of the Grameen Trust's replication of the struggling members program. Several years ago, the Grameen Bank established the struggling members program to target the truly poorest of the poor: beggars. Grameen Bank began offering interest free loans to beggars to help them start their own economic activities. The goal was to encourage beggars to pursue income-generating activities while continuing to beg--for example selling rice or simple goods. Over time, the beggars would be able to move from begging to real jobs.

The summer 2009 undergraduate & graduate student interns in Bangladesh visited several of The Grameen Trusts` partners in Bangladesh that were attempting to replicate the Grameen microfinance programs. The graduate students interviewed all the struggling, impoverished individuals from three different partners. The undergraduate and graduate student interns offered several significant recommendations on how to redesign the lending products to improve the cash flow for the struggling, impoverished individuals.

The undergraduate and graduate student interns also pursued a variety of other projects with the Grameen Trust. They were as follows:

1. Briefed by the Director of the Grameen Trust on the current financial crisis and its implications for microfinance institutions around the world.
2. Improved the readability of operations and accounting manuals used to replicate the Grameen model by partner organizations.
3. Performed a financial audit of the Grameen Bank.
4. Partnered with student interns from Grameen Shakti and prepared a feasibility study of producing solar panels domestically in Bangladesh.

Several of the undergraduate and graduate student interns also engaged in additional projects outside of Grameen. A couple of the undergraduate and graduate student interns with the Grameen NGO Undergraduate and Graduate Student Internship Program engaged in work with poor street children, attempting to identify ways to help the poor youth escape a life of begging and have the opportunity to attend local schools.

The Grameen NGO Undergraduate and Graduate Student Internship Program experience was rewarding professionally and personally. The Grameen NGO Undergraduate and Graduate Student Internship Program helped the graduate student interns to better understand poverty, development and microfinance outside of the classroom.

#### **CONTACT FOR THE APPLICATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:**

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