

United Nations Intern Application Form - Entry #2776

Your First Name

Shoval

Your Last Name

Gilead

Your Email

sg4474@tc.columbia.edu

Your Phone Number (with country code)

+16463095382

Please indicate your current educational institution and year of graduate study (e.g. 1st year, 2nd year, postdoc, etc)

1st year Graduate student; Teacher College, Columbia University.

Please describe your field of study

I am studying clinical psychology. My research focus is on Global Mental Health and Trauma and Resilience.

Please describe your interest in serving as an ICP UN Intern. Please include any experience with global issues as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or international experience. You may write your answer here or upload a separate word or PDF document.

I uploaded a PDF file below.

Alternate - upload Statement of Interest Here

 [Statement-of-interest-final.docx](#)

Upload the Your CV

 [Shoval-Gilead-Jan-2025.docx](#)

Name and Email of Faculty Member who will provide a letter of recommendation for this activity

Dear International Council of Psychologists,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the internship at the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). As a Master's student in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, I am deeply committed to leveraging psychology to address global challenges, particularly in promoting mental health, reconciliation, and well-being in conflict-stricken and underserved communities. This internship aligns perfectly with my aspirations to contribute to psychology's role in advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

My primary interest lies in international psychology, which has been my life's calling. Growing up in the Palestine-Israel region, I was immersed in a context of conflict that instilled in me a lifelong drive to understand and facilitate processes of peace as well as psychological healing and well-being, which I see as both a human right and a crucial part of peacebuilding. This personal calling has guided my academic, professional, personal, and activist pursuits. My work in peace and solidarity movements has centered on creating spaces for dialogue and connection between individuals from historically divided communities. These experiences taught me the transformative power of shared understanding and collective action in mitigating psychological distress and fostering hope. Through these movements, I organized communal events where Palestinian and Jewish families came together to share meals, engage in storytelling, and break down barriers of prejudice and segregation—work that underscores the importance of integrating mental health frameworks into peacebuilding efforts.

Academically, I study clinical psychology at Columbia University, and my research has focused on culturally sensitive interventions and the intersection of transformative mental health treatments and social justice. I have gained significant experience in psychology research, including work in social psychology at Stanford University at the Dweck-Walton lab, where I contributed to projects addressing systemic inequalities, and in psychedelic-assisted therapy for veterans at Johns Hopkins University and Ohio State University. These roles deepened my understanding of innovative therapies and their potential for transformative healing. I have also worked on qualitative and quantitative research exploring trauma and resilience, which aligns with ICP's commitment to evidence-based approaches. My time studying at the University for Peace, founded by the UN, further solidified my commitment to education, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. Additionally, I am currently beginning to work at the Global Mental Health lab under the guidance of Dr. Helen Verdeli and the Loss, Trauma, and Emotion lab under the guidance of Dr. George Bonanno at Columbia University, allowing me to deepen my expertise.

I have lived in four U.S. states (California, Ohio, New York, and Hawaii) and three countries (Israel, the U.S., and Colombia), including immersive experiences with Indigenous and sustainability-focused communities. These experiences have strengthened my cultural competence, adaptability, and dedication to fostering global connections. Being deeply embedded in different cultural contexts provided me with invaluable insights in shaping my approach to psychology and global mental health. Fluent in Hebrew, English, and Spanish (and

currently learning Arabic), I bring strong communication skills and the ability to engage meaningfully with diverse populations.

The ICP's focus on promoting psychology's impact within the United Nations framework resonates deeply with my passion for using psychological research and practice to address global challenges. I am particularly drawn to the opportunity to engage in NGO committees and the Psychology Coalition at the UN, where psychology informs critical discussions on mental health, resilience, and justice. With my background in culturally sensitive interventions, peacebuilding efforts, and innovative therapies, I hope to contribute by bringing a nuanced understanding of mental health in conflict-affected regions and a commitment to evidence-based solutions that uphold human rights. This internship represents an ideal alignment of my skills, values, and aspirations to advance global well-being and sustainable development on a global scale through psychology. The ICP internship offers a unique opportunity to further my commitment to global mental health by working alongside purpose-driven psychologists dedicated to advancing human rights and well-being.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to bring my dedication, skills, and perspectives to the ICP team. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to your vital work and am happy to provide additional information or materials upon request.

Sincerely,
Shoval

Shoval Gilead
M.A. Student | Clinical Psychology
Teachers College | Columbia University | NYC
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sg4474@tc.columbia.edu



January 27, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

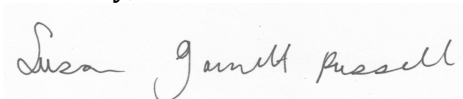
I write to provide my strong support for Shoval Gilead's application for an internship with the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). Ms. Gilead is currently a first-year MA student in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University and brings relevant professional and academic experience working on issues related to mental health and conflict resolution.

Ms. Gilead was a student in a 10-day study abroad course on "Education, Conflict, and Peacebuilding," that I lead at the University for Peace in Costa Rica in January 2025. Admission to the course was highly selective: only 15 students were selected to join the course out of more than 100 applicants. I selected Ms. Gilead given her strong academic research background in the fields of clinical psychology and mental health, as well as her passion and dedication to peacebuilding. As someone growing up amidst the conflict in Israel-Palestine, Ms. Gilead is personally committed to bringing reconciliation and peace to the region through her work in mental health. She was an excellent student in the course and fully participated in the class discussions, submitted excellent written reflection papers, and developed an important final project on the importance of storytelling in communities affected by conflict.

In addition, Ms. Gilead has a wealth of experience working as a research assistant for different psychology labs at Stanford University, Johns Hopkins, and Ohio State University. She is currently working for the Global Mental Health and Loss, Trauma, and Emotion Labs at Teachers College.

In view of the Ms. Gilead's strong academic and professional background, I highly recommend her for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any additional information. I may be reached by phone at (212) 531-5205 or by e-mail (sgrussell@tc.columbia.edu).

Sincerely,



S. Garnett Russell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director
International and Comparative Education Program (ICEd)
Teachers College, Columbia University

Shoval Gilead

NYC | sg4474@tc.columbia.edu , shovalgilead@gmail.com | +1 646 309 5382 | [LinkedIn](#)

Personal Summary: A highly collaborative people-person, motivated and purpose-driven, creative, independent, and a fast learner. Experienced in diverse areas, cultures, and roles such as: psychology research, HR, leadership roles, and training. Passionate about transformative approaches to therapy, group therapy, and peacebuilding initiatives.

Languages: **English** (Native/Bilingual), **Hebrew** (Native/Bilingual), **Spanish** (Fully fluent), **Arabic** (Conversational, learning continuously)

Education:

Columbia University: Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology (Expected: 05/2026); Completed a study abroad course in Education, Conflict, and Peace studies at the University of Peace through a collaboration with Columbia University.

Ohio State University: Bachelor's Degree in Psychology 12/2023 GPA: 3.65 (91%); Honors Student

Work History

Research Assistant

*Center for Psychedelic Research and Education, Ohio State University, Johns Hopkins University | 09/2022 – ongoing.
Mentored under the guidance of Dr. Alan K. Davis and Dr. Meghan DellaCrosse*

- Conducted **qualitative data analysis** in NVivo for vast datasets (clinical trials and naturalistic research)
- Conducted in-depth **literature review** for publication
- **Co-wrote a manuscript** for publication (almost finished)
- Assisted psilocybin-assisted therapy **clinical trials** for veterans with PTSD
- Assisted with **participant recruitment** for clinical studies

Peace Activist

Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel | 01/2023 – 08/2024

- **Led community nights and listening circles** for Palestinians and Israelis in Jaffa
- **Served as a peacekeeper in demonstrations:** facilitated conversations regarding peace processes in the community during peaceful demonstrations

HR & Talent Acquisition

Hi Auto, Tel Aviv, Israel | 01/2021 – 03/2022

- **Conducted end to end recruitment and sourcing:** reviewed resumes, conducted interviews and onboarding processes
- **Created social media posts** and handled brand management
- Worked with international and domestic placement companies (in Europe, the United States, and Israel)
- Contributed to more than 200% growth in talent (mostly senior and leadership positions)

Research Assistant

Stanford University: the Dweck-Walton Lab, Palo Alto, CA | 10/2018 - 05/2019

- Assisted with **data collection** (surveys, data collection from schools)
- Assisted with **quantitative data analysis** (using RStudio)
- Collaborated with researchers (DOI: 10.1177/09567976211013801)

"Mashakit Tash": Social Worker in the army

IDF, Beer Sheva, Israel | 01/2016 - 01/2018

- **Taught and trained incoming drill instructors**, conducted recruitment, and managed a team of 5 leaders each instructing a crew of incoming commanders
- **Served as a teacher** in the basic training base as the commander of the new soldier social workers
- **Built curriculums, wrote class materials, taught** big and small classes (12-150 students), and cared for new soldiers in their basic training
- **Worked closely with families** and soldiers who needed assistance

Skills

- Exceptional interpersonal and relationship-building skills
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Research skills: data analysis, literature review, writing for publication, general assisting, participant recruitment
- HR, recruitment, and interviewing
- Peacebuilding facilitation
- Teaching and public speaking
- Building curriculums and developing training programs
- Management and Leadership
- Organizational development
- Social media posting and content creation
- Tech savvy: NVivo, RStudio, Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), ATS (Greenhouse), Notion, LinkedIn, EndNote, Slack, and Monday
- Music production and editing (Logic Pro X)
- Video editing (Final Cut Pro X)