Internship Application Letter - Journalist Position

# Internship Application Letter

For the Position of Journalist Intern at Media Organization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Ms. Amina Tesfaye**

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**Date:** October 26, 2023

**To:** Hiring Manager

Star Media Group Ethiopia

P.O. Box 1075, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## Subject: Application for Journalist Internship Position

Dear Hiring Manager,

It is with profound enthusiasm that I submit my application for the Journalist Intern position at Star Media Group Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. As a dedicated journalism student deeply committed to ethical storytelling and media development in Africa, I have long admired your organization's pioneering role in shaping Ethiopia's modern media landscape. This *Internship Application Letter* articulates not only my qualifications but also my unwavering commitment to contributing meaningfully to journalism practice in Ethiopia Addis Ababa—a city that pulses with the energy of a continent's evolving narrative.

My academic journey at the University of Addis Ababa's Department of Media and Communication has equipped me with both theoretical rigor and practical skills essential for contemporary journalism. I've completed specialized coursework in African Media Systems, Investigative Reporting, and Digital Storytelling, while consistently ranking among the top 5% of my cohort. More importantly, I have immersed myself in Ethiopia's unique media ecosystem through hands-on projects that reflect the complexities and vibrancy of our nation's stories. Last semester, I produced a multimedia series on urban migration patterns in Addis Ababa’s Bole district—interviewing over 50 residents across diverse economic backgrounds—to document how informal settlements are transforming Ethiopia's demographic fabric. This project required navigating cultural nuances, conducting ethical interviews in Amharic and Oromiffa, and synthesizing data into compelling narratives—a process that reinforced my belief that journalism must serve as both mirror and catalyst for societal change.

What compels me to pursue this internship specifically in Ethiopia Addis Ababa is the city's unparalleled position as Africa's media capital. Having grown up witnessing Addis Ababa evolve from a traditional trade center into a hub where CNN, BBC, and local stations like ETV converge, I understand that this city represents the crossroads of global and local journalism. The Ethiopian government’s recent reforms in media policy have created unprecedented opportunities for independent reporting—yet challenges remain in ensuring press freedom across diverse linguistic groups. I am eager to learn from Star Media Group's seasoned journalists who navigate these dynamics daily, particularly your award-winning coverage of Ethiopia's peace process and agricultural innovations. As a journalist-in-training, I recognize that effective storytelling here requires deep cultural intelligence: understanding how a coffee ceremony conversation might yield the same insights as a formal interview, or why local radio remains the most trusted medium for rural communities.

My practical experience aligns precisely with your organization's needs. As a volunteer reporter for *Local Voice Ethiopia*, I spent six months covering community development initiatives across Addis Ababa’s neighborhoods, producing 20+ articles that highlighted grassroots solutions to housing shortages. This role demanded agility—reporting from the bustling Mercato market one day and interviewing entrepreneurs at Innovation Hub the next—while maintaining strict journalistic integrity. I also co-founded a student-led podcast "Ethiopia Unbound" discussing youth entrepreneurship, which now reaches 15,000 monthly listeners across Ethiopia via platforms like Telegram and Spotify. Crucially, I've mastered multimedia tools essential for modern journalism: Adobe Premiere Pro for video editing, Canva for infographics, and Google Data Studio to visualize socio-economic trends. My fluency in English (CEFR C1), Amharic (native), and Oromiffa (B2) allows me to engage authentically with Ethiopia's diverse communities—a skill vital for ethical journalism in a nation where language shapes identity.

I am particularly drawn to Star Media Group's commitment to "truth with context" as articulated in your recent editorial guidelines. Having researched your coverage of the Tigray peace negotiations, I was struck by how you balanced reporting on conflict with stories of reconciliation—like the women-led peace workshops in Mekele. This approach embodies what I believe journalism should be: not merely recording events but illuminating pathways forward. In Ethiopia Addis Ababa, where media influences policy and social cohesion daily, such nuanced reporting is non-negotiable. My academic research on media ethics in post-conflict societies (currently under review at the African Journal of Communication Studies) further aligns with this philosophy.

Why should Star Media Group choose me for this internship? Beyond my technical skills, I bring cultural humility—a quality increasingly vital as Ethiopia navigates its renaissance. I have lived in Addis Ababa since childhood and understand how to move respectfully through its neighborhoods, from the historic Akaki River valley to the tech-savvy Kality district. My proposed internship plan includes three pillars: 1) Supporting your "Youth Voices" project by interviewing Gen-Z entrepreneurs across Ethiopia's regions; 2) Assisting in digitizing your archives of Ethiopian press history (including materials from the Derg era); and 3) Developing a social media strategy for reaching rural audiences via mobile platforms. I am prepared to work flexible hours—including early mornings at markets or late nights at press conferences—to capture stories that matter.

As Ethiopia positions itself as a model for African governance and economic growth, its media sector must evolve alongside it. Star Media Group stands at this pivotal moment, and I am eager to contribute my energy, curiosity, and technical skills to your mission. My resume—attached for your review—details further experiences including my role as editor-in-chief of our university's award-winning newspaper *The Addis Beacon*. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my vision for ethical journalism complements yours during an interview at your convenience.

Thank you for considering this *Internship Application Letter* and my application. I am deeply inspired by Ethiopia's media landscape and honored to seek training under professionals who are reshaping it daily. Addis Ababa is not just a location on a map—it is the heartbeat of our nation’s story, and I am ready to listen, learn, and report with purpose.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Amina Tesfaye**

Journalism Student, University of Addis Ababa

*Word Count: 852*