



Whole-Person Systems Research Intern (Paid) – Quantitative + Qualitative (SmartRlyfe)

Organization: SmartRlyfe (by CtrlAltX Studios LLC)

Job Type: Temporary, Part-Time Internship (W-2)

Pay: \$17/hour (hourly, non-exempt)

Hours: 10 hours/week (80 hours total)

Duration: 8 weeks

Location: Remote (U.S. preferred)

Start Date: Flexible (coordinated with candidate)

Remote Work Stipend: \$50/month (see details below)

About SmartRlyfe

SmartRlyfe is a research-driven initiative exploring how people experience and manage life across multiple dimensions of self, including:

- Practical life (time, finances, work)
- Emotional and psychological experience
- Social and relational identity
- Spiritual, reflective, and meaning-making practices

Our research examines how existing tools fragment these dimensions—and how future systems might support the whole person **without reducing human life to productivity metrics** or behavioral optimization. This internship is **research-only and learning-first**.

Internship Purpose

This role is for students and early-career researchers interested in:

- Human-centered systems
- Mixed-methods research (quantitative + qualitative)
- Ethical and consent-aware AI
- The intersection of technology, identity, and meaning

You'll explore how people navigate their "many selves"—professional, personal, emotional, spiritual—and how digital systems often privilege what is easy to measure over what is meaningful.

Research Approach

This internship explicitly combines:

Qualitative Research

- Thematic analysis
- Narrative synthesis
- Pattern identification
- Cultural and contextual interpretation

Quantitative Research (Aggregated / Non-personal)

- Feature counts and frequency analysis

- Trend mapping across platforms
- Comparative matrices and scoring models
- Aggregated signal analysis (**not individual user data**)

You'll learn when numbers clarify insight and when qualitative context is essential—and how to hold both without flattening human experience.

Research Tracks (Choose One Primary Track)

1) Life Systems & Tool Fragmentation (Mixed-Methods)

Quantitative

- Map feature sets across major tools
- Count overlaps, gaps, redundancies
- Track which domains (emotional/financial/spiritual) are present or excluded

Qualitative

- Analyze language, framing, assumptions
- Identify where tools privilege productivity over reflection
- Surface tensions between metrics and meaning

Outputs: Feature maps, gap analysis, insight memo(s)

2) Meaning, Reflection & Spiritual Practice (Non-Religious, Cross-Cultural)

Quantitative

- Analyze prevalence of reflective/spiritual features across platforms
- Categorize supported practices (journaling, ritual, meditation, intention-setting)

Qualitative

- Examine how people describe meaning-making in public writing
- Identify what feels respected, tokenized, or ignored
- Explore where technology fails to hold nuance

This track is inclusive and exploratory, not doctrinal.

Outputs: Taxonomy of practices, comparative matrix, cultural insight brief

3) Ethics, Consent & Trust in Whole-Person AI

Quantitative

- Compare privacy controls, consent flows, permissions across platforms
- Score transparency features (opt-ins, explanations, auditability)

Qualitative

- Analyze trust language and user concerns
- Identify emotional and spiritual boundaries users articulate
- Surface fears around AI interpretation of sensitive domains

Outputs: Trust/risk map, transparency scoring model, ethics memo

4) Identity & “Many Selves” Frameworks

Quantitative

- Classify how platforms segment or merge identity domains
- Track how often systems assume a single, stable identity

Qualitative

- Review academic and cultural frameworks on multiplicity of self
- Explore implications for design, consent, and AI interpretation
- Identify risks of flattening or over-integrating identity

Outputs: “Many Selves” conceptual model, implications brief, risk flags

What You Will Do

- Conduct structured desk research
 - Work with both quantitative summaries and qualitative synthesis
 - Create matrices, charts, and conceptual frameworks
 - Produce insight memos that balance data with meaning
 - Participate in weekly, reflection-focused check-ins
 - Complete a final synthesis memo or presentation
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What You Will NOT Do

To maintain ethical and legal clarity, interns will not:

- Build or design product features
 - Write production code or AI prompts
 - Conduct user interviews or collect personal data
 - Perform operational or administrative work
 - Make business or product decisions
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Schedule Expectations

- **10 hours/week for 8 weeks**, tracked via timekeeping (hourly role).
 - Schedule is flexible, but you must be able to:
 - attend a **weekly 30-minute check-in** scheduled in **Eastern Time**, and
 - maintain **1–2 hours/week of overlap with Eastern Time** for async coordination and feedback loops.
 - Hours are capped at **10/week** unless pre-approved in writing.
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Pay & Employment Classification

- This is a **non-exempt, hourly, temporary W-2** internship paid at \$17/hour.
- Payroll is processed with applicable taxes withheld.

Remote Work Stipend

Eligible interns receive a **\$50/month** remote-work stipend (internet/phone/utilities used for work).

- For an 8-week internship, this is expected to equal **up to \$100 total** (prorated if needed).
 - Stipend handling follows applicable payroll/expense policies.
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Remote Work Location & Compliance

- Remote within the U.S.; intern must reside and work in the U.S. and be authorized to work.
- Pay will meet or exceed the applicable minimum wage for the intern's work location. If a local minimum wage exceeds \$17/hour, compensation will be adjusted upward to comply.

Research Ethics, Safety, and Sensitive Domains

SmartRLyfe research can involve emotionally and spiritually sensitive life domains. Interns must be comfortable engaging these areas with maturity and respect—without sensationalism.

- **No personal data collection:** This role does not collect personal user data or conduct interviews.
- **Respectful framing:** Research focuses on systems, language, consent norms, boundaries, and design implications—not judgment of beliefs or identity.
- **Minimal data principle:** Only use publicly available materials and approved sources; avoid capturing or sharing unnecessary identifiers.
- **Data handling:** Store work only in approved tools (e.g., Google Drive/Docs, Notion). Do not store project materials in personal accounts or share externally.

Qualifications

Required

- Strong writing and synthesis skills (clear, structured, evidence-based)
- Comfort with ambiguity and early-stage research questions
- Curiosity, rigor, and respect for complexity
- Ability to produce clean artifacts on a weekly cadence

Nice to Have

- UX research, product strategy, psychology, sociology, anthropology
- Philosophy, spirituality, religious studies (broadly defined)
- Data-informed qualitative research, systems thinking

Deliverables (Portfolio-Ready Research Artifacts)

Examples include:

- Quantitative feature-mapping matrices
- Comparative scoring frameworks
- Qualitative insight briefs (2–4 pages)
- “Many Selves” conceptual models
- Ethics and trust risk maps

Deliverables may be used in personal portfolios (excluding any confidential internal notes).

Academic Credit

If the intern is seeking academic credit, the opportunity may be eligible pending approval by the student's college/university.

Confidentiality & Work Product

This internship may involve early-stage concepts and research materials. Interns will sign standard **confidentiality terms** and a **work-product/IP assignment** agreement covering materials created during the internship, consistent with typical startup practice.

How to Apply

Please submit:

- Resume & cover letter
- Optional (recommended): a short note indicating your preferred track and any relevant research experience (mixed methods, synthesis, systems mapping)