



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

SUMMER VENTURES

Reports from IPED Students' Summer Internships

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FORDHAM | IPED

Fordham University's Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development trains graduate students in the advanced interdisciplinary analysis of global economic relations and international development issues. Graduates frequently pursue professional careers in global finance, international economic policy, global environmental policy, and in international relief and development.

Summer Ventures is a student-run newsletter of the Fordham IPED program. It shares the experiences of IPED students who had undergone internships with organizations from the private sector, government, and non-profit.

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Grace Avila promotes youth development in Myanmar



Grace (right) touring Coca-Cola factory with exchange program alumni

Mingalabar! Last summer, I had my internship with the US State Department at the US Embassy in Rangoon, Myanmar.

Building on my prior experience in Southeast Asia as a Peace Corps Volunteer, I supported the Public Affairs section on education programming, youth development initiatives, and cultural exchange programs. The focus of my work was on strengthening people-to-people connections between the US and Myanmar to open up new pathways for international cooperation and collaboration.

As a Public Service Fellow in the IPED program, I felt that this was a great opportunity to learn about US diplomacy and foreign policy, while strengthening my writing skills and building great friendships with local people. The highlight of my summer was facilitating a grant-writing workshop with local civil society organizations that are leading campaigns against gender-based violence. It was inspiring to work with so many passionate community organizers and to hear their plans for the future of the country.

The experience has affirmed my interest in working in the public sector and provided me with great insight into the changing political and economic dynamics in Myanmar. I hope to return to Myanmar after graduation to continue working on economic development policy, natural resource management, and civil society capacity-building.

For fellow students who are interested in interning for the State Department domestically or overseas, I would encourage you to sign-up for the State Department internship posting alerts. A big thank you to the IPED program for their support and encouragement throughout this experience!

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Zachary Thompson & Elizabeth Parr support gender equity at UN Women



Zach Thompson (left) and Elizabeth Parr (right) at the UN Women Headquarters in New York City

Over the summer, Zachary Thompson (Zach) and Elizabeth Parr (Liz) had the opportunity to intern at the United Nations (UN) Women's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in New York City. UN Women is the newest UN entity and is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. In order to reach these goals, the IEO evaluates UN Women's work in order to enhance accountability, inform decision-making, and contribute to learning across all of UN Women and the UN as a whole.

Zach primarily supported the development and implementation of the IEO's systems and databases, helping ensure that organizations and evaluators have access to resources and practices necessary to conduct effective gender-responsive evaluation. Zach also worked on product development and dissemination, creating or supporting deliverables like magazines, infographics, and webpages to help promote the IEO's findings and work across the UN and to other organizations.

Zach shares that a number of IPED courses provided him with background

and knowledge that helped him complete the duties of his internship. "The Project Design and Project Assessment courses taught me a significant amount about the UN's language, structure, and processes which allowed me to quickly integrate myself into the organization and its work. Additionally, I did not have a background in political science before the IPED program, so courses like *Politics of Global Economic Relations* helped my understanding of modern globalization and where and how the UN fits," he adds.

On the other hand, Liz primarily assisted on an evaluation of the UN coordination mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The goal of the evaluation was to provide impartial, independent overviews of key areas of UN Women's work with a view of promoting accountability, learning, and performance improvement.

Liz noted that her role included aggregating and analyzing data collected to conduct the evaluation, as well as creating dissemination materials. She also developed a training on integrating human rights and gender equality into future evaluations.

"I am really happy I took the *Project Assessment* course in the Philippines. It offered an academic model of monitoring and evaluation that helped me better understand the tools used for the evaluation I worked on at UN Women. Additionally, *Foreign Aid and Development* emphasized the importance of choosing the right indicators for the index we built, as well as how to analyze data from multilateral organizations such as the UN. I also used the policy memo we wrote in this course as a writing sample for other career-building opportunities," Liz shares.

When asked about professional development, Liz shares "there are definitely opportunities for consulting positions at UN Women after graduation. However, I think the most helpful career development available was the mentorship I received from those I worked closely with. There are also networking opportunities among other UN Women units within the UN system and beyond. UN Women is a specialized agency and they partner with other private and public entities that champion gender equality for knowledge sharing and project collaboration. There is a lot to learn from these colleagues as well."

Schima Labitsch manages global risks at Boston Consulting

This summer, I interned with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for eight weeks, based in their Austrian office in Vienna. BCG is an American global management consulting firm advising in the private, public and non-profit sectors.

For my internship, I was assigned to a project in the realm of social impact where I assisted a global NGO in evaluating their exposure to different kinds of risk and devised measures on how such risks can be mitigated in advance and in the moment they occur.

Traditionally, NGOs have little to no risk management in place and often lack the appropriate structures to do so. This project demanded creative approaches to risk management, requiring a holistic understanding of NGO and corporate needs in risk management, as well as non-profit relevant macroeconomic trends and financial analysis.

As an intern, I worked closely with the client in Munich Monday through Thursday before coming back to my home office in Vienna on Friday. My project team consisted of four team members and my intern duties were almost identical with



Schima Labitsch presenting project results on risks analysis and mitigation

some of the consultants' portfolios, namely analyzing the project at hand (both qualitatively and quantitatively), conducting research, devising appropriate risk models and maintaining day-to-day client communication.

The internship experience allowed me to gain insights into the world of consultancy, work and research on some particularly novel questions in the realm of NGO and risk management, as well as extend my skills in quantitative analysis and business communication. Throughout my time at BCG, I had assigned mentors who guided me through the internship process, and enjoyed various team events such as a

training with a former table tennis World Champion.

Overall, this internship experience complements my previously acquired knowledge in IPED courses of Financial Analysis and Global Financial Markets that were most valuable for my work. On a more administrative note, I am particularly grateful to a former Fordham Career Services employee who went out of her way to support and prepare me for the strenuous application and interview process ahead of my placement. My internship concluded with an offer for full employment.

Andrew Munn supports Mother Tongue Education in Bolivia

Over the summer, I spent three months in Bolivia as a student and as an intern. For the first six weeks, I studied the Quechua language through the IPED program's Language Immersion Study Award, and for the remainder of my time, I served as an intern for the Rutu Foundation. The Rutu Foundation is a non-governmental organization based in Amsterdam, Netherlands that works to support Mother Tongue Education (MTE) for minority language-speaking students all over the world.

For the first half of the summer, I took Quechua classes for 20 hours a week at the Centro Misionero Maryknoll en América Latina (CMMAL) in the city of Cochabamba, building on one semester of Quechua that I had audited through New York University. Quechua is the most



Andrew (center) with University of Bolivia (UNIBOL) professors working on a Rutu Foundation assignment

widely spoken Native American language, with roughly 10 to 11 million speakers, most of whom live in Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. As a minority language in Boliv-

ia, it is a fairly difficult language to practice with other people or find reading materials in — especially in a bigger city, like Cochabamba. However, opportunities can

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Andrew's one-on-one Quechua class at the Centro Misionero Maryknoll en América Latina (CMMAL) in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Andrew Munn, Bolivia

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be found, and I was also lucky enough to live with a host mother and host grandmother who spoke Quechua.

After finishing my classes at CMMAL, I began my internship for the Ruta Foundation. I conducted interviews with principals, professors, teachers, and students at two MTE schools and one MTE university in Bolivia, piloting a template for gathering information on MTE schools all over the world. At the end of my internship, I wrote a report for the Ruta Foundation on each of the schools, documenting the amount of time spent teaching students in the minority language, versus time spent teaching in Spanish; determining what materials are available for stu-

dents in the minority language, as well as in Spanish; and how much students' skills are developed in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the minority language, versus their developments in Spanish.

After I finish the IPED program in December 2016, I hope to use my degree and experiences in Bolivia toward a career in MTE in Latin America.

IPED Summer Internships

During the three-semester IPED program, all students are encouraged to seek internships or language immersion study programs during the summer between their second and third semesters. To aid with expenses for these trips, several different competitive scholarships are awarded.

IPED Student Assignments Summer 2016

Armand Aquino, St. Gallen Wings of Excellence (Switzerland), French Language Study (France), South Africa Study Tour

Silva Armani, UN Office of the Secretary General (New York)

Grace Avila, Embassy Rangoon, US State Department, (Myanmar), South Africa Study Tour

Ryan Barthel, Mandarin Chinese Language Study (Taiwan), South Africa Study Tour

Alfonsina Diaz Sanchez, Fordham Department of Economics (New York), South Africa Study Tour

Tyler Falish, Council on Foreign Relations (Ethiopia), South Africa Study Tour

Yi Guo, Bentley Associates L.P. (New York)

Hillary Khan, Fordham IPED Department (New York), South Africa Study Tour

Schima Labitsch, St. Gallen Wings of Excellence (Switzerland), Boston Consulting Group (Austria), South Africa Study Tour

David Masagbor, Arabic Language Study (Egypt)

Kathryn McCann, French Language Study (France), UNDP Equator Initiative

Andrew Munn, Ruta Foundation and Quechua Language Study (Bolivia)

Thiviyia Navaratnam, Women's World Banking

Elizabeth Parr, UN Women (New York), South Africa Study Tour

Adam Pearlman, University Neighborhood Housing Program (New York)

Daina Ruback, Oxfam and Value for Women (Mexico), TechnoServe and Emory University, (Nicaragua, El Salvador and USA)

Zach Thompson, UN Women (New York), South Africa Study Tour

Christian Torre, Kroll Associates - Investigations and Disputes (New York), South Africa Study Tour

Gary Tuorto, Morgan Stanley (New York)

Andrew Wilhelm, South Africa Study Tour

Jaclyn Lourdes Yap, French Language Study (France), World Food Systems Summer School, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)

Simon Zachary, Service at Jesuit House (California)



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