INTERNSHIPS BY ORGANISATION

- 3Keel Ltd, Oxford, UK
- Académie Diplomatique, Paris, France
- Academy of European Law, Trier, Germany
- AID India, Chennai, India
- Aix Marseilles University, Marseilles, France
- Alliance for African Women Initiative, Accra, Ghana
- Amantani UK, Abingdon, UK
- Ario Caves Project, Gijon, Spain
- Artichoke, London, UK
- Ashinaga, Tokyo, Japan
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK
- ATD Bio, Oxford, UK
- Atelier Favela, Managua, Nicaragua
- Auchindrain Trust, Inveraray, Scotland
- Balliol College Library, Oxford, UK
- Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
- BIME (We are Cloud), Montpellier, France
- Bio IT Centre Bangalore, India
- Birmingham Mind, Birmingham, UK
- Blenheim Palace and Thames Valley Country House Partnership, Oxfordshire, UK
- Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, UK
- Brathay Trust, Cumbria, UK
- British Council Thailand, Thailand
- British School, New Delhi, India
- Broughton Castle/Oxford University, Oxfordshire, UK
- CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
- Child and Youth Finance International, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- CleanUpUK, London, UK
- Compton Verney, Warwickshire, UK
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water, New Delhi, India
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), London, UK
- dunnhumby, London, UK
- ECOM Agroindustrial Corporation, Bangalore, India
- EM Communications, Moscow, Russia
- Europäische Projektwerkstatt Kultur im ländlichen Raum, Naumburg, Germany
- Exidor, Staffordshire, UK
- Faculty of Law, Oxford, UK
- Federal University of Ouro Preto, Brazil
- GamblingCompliance, London, UK
- Gateway House – Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai, India
- Generations for Peace, Amman, Jordan
- German Literature Archive, Marbach, Germany
- Global Canopy Programme, Oxford, UK
- Gloucestershire Constabulary/ The Aston Project, Cheltenham, UK
- Graduate Admissions and Funding, Oxford, UK
- Green and Away, Stroud, UK
- Harris Kyriakides, Cyprus
- Herzog August Bibliotek, Wolfenbuttel, Germany
- Historic Annapolis, Annapolis, USA
- Hong Kong Institute for Education, Hong Kong, China
- Hong Kong University, Live Learn and Intern in China Programme (LLIC), Hong Kong, China
- Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China
- Humanities Division, Oxford, UK
- IARU/Environmental Sustainability (University of Oxford Estates Services), California, USA and Zurich, Switzerland
- Imaflora, Piracicaba, Brazil
- Institute for Food Research, Norwich, UK
- Instituto del Sur (ISUR), Arequipa, Peru
- Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Lisbon, Portugal
- Intergenerational Foundation, London, UK
- International Association for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), Oxford, UK
- IntoUniversity, Oxford, UK
- Jacob’s University, Bremen, Germany
- Julie’s Bicycle, London, UK
- Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade, UK
- Klassik Stiftung, Weimar, Germany
- Library of Congress, Washington, USA
• Lowe Stratéus, Paris, France
• Mamirauá Institute of Sustainable Development, Minas Tefé, Brazil
• Margaret Thatcher Foundation, Edinburgh, UK
• Marketfield Asset Management, New York, USA
• MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Kalpetta, India
• MSABI (Maji Safi kwa Afya Bora Ifakara), Ifakara, Tanzania
• Museum of Natural History, Oxford, UK
• National Institute for Public Health and Environment, Utrecht, Netherlands
• National Trust, Henley-on-Thames, UK
• Natural Mystic, Jodhpur, India
• Naval History Heritage Command, Washington, USA
• Office of the Chief Scientist, Australian Government, Canberra, Australia
• Oghma Partners LLP, London, UK
• Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology, Japan
• OPP Limited, Oxford, UK
• Otsuma Gakuin University and School, Tokyo, Japan
• Overseas Development Institute, London, UK
• Oxford ASPIRE- Museum of Natural History, Oxford, UK
• Oxford Preservation Trust, Oxford, UK
• Oxford University Estates Department, Oxford, UK
• Pearson Group PLC, London, UK
• Perm State University, Perm, Russia
• Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK
• Pop Up Productions, Hong Kong, China
• Project Rousseau, New York, USA
• Qobuz, Paris, France
• Queen’s Nursing Institute, London, UK
• RolBAC Ltd, London, UK
• Royal Forestry Society, Banbury, UK
• RSPCA Mallydams Wood, East Sussex, UK
• Shiv Nadar Foundation, Uttar Pradesh, India
• Society of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi
• Sony Corporation, Tokyo, Japan
• Stowe House Preservation Trust, Buckingham, UK
• Tanglin Trust School, Singapore
• Thames Festival Trust, London, UK
• The International School, Bangalore, India

• The Story Museum, Oxford, UK
• Tinderbox Working Capital, Oxford, UK
• TNG Technology Consulting, Munich, Germany
• Tradewind Books, Vancouver, Canada
• Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
• Umniah Mobile Company, Amman, Jordan
• United Nations Development Programme, Amman, Jordan
• United Nations Development Programme, Beijing, China
• United Nations Relief and Works Agency Disputes Tribunal, Amman, Jordan
• United World College of the Adriatic, Italy
• University College, Oxford, UK
• University of Sào Paulo, Institute of Energy and Environment, Brazil
• Vermilion Partners, Beijing, China
• WaterSHED, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
• Web International Jiangyin Center, Jiangyin, China
• Wordsworth Trust, Cumbria, UK
• World Food Programme, Rome, Italy
• World Resource Institute, Mumbai, India
• Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
### Internships by Country

#### Australia
- Office of the Chief Scientist, Australian Government, Canberra

#### Brazil
- Federal University of Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais
- Imaflora, Piracicaba
- Mamirauá Institute of Sustainable Development, Minas Tefé
- University of São Paulo

#### Cambodia
- WaterSHED, Phnom Penh

#### Canada
- Tradewind Books, Vancouver

#### China
- Beijing Normal University, Beijing
- Hong Kong Institute for Education, Hong Kong
- Hong Kong University, Live Learn and Intern in China Programme (LLIC), Hong Kong
- Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Nanjing
- Pop Up Productions, Hong Kong
- Tsinghua University, Beijing
- United Nations Development Programme China, Beijing
- Vermilion Partners, Beijing
- Web International Jiangyin Center, Jiangyin

#### Cyprus
- Harris Kyriakides LLC, Larnaca

#### France
- Académie Diplomatique, Paris
- Aix Marseilles University, Marseilles
- BIME (We are Cloud), Montpellier
- Lowe Stratéus, Paris
- Qobuz, Paris

#### Germany
- Academy of European Law, Trier
- Europäische Projektwerkstatt Kultur im ländlichen Raum, Naumburg
- German Literature Archive, Marbach
- Herzog August Bibliotek, Wolfenbuttel
- Jacob’s University, Bremen
- Klassik Stiftung, Weimar
- TNG Technology Consulting, Munich

#### Ghana
- Alliance for African Women Initiative, Accra

#### India
- AID India, Chennai
- Bio IT Centre Bangalore
- British School, New Delhi
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water, New Delhi
- ECOM Agroindustrial Corporation, Bangalore
- Gateway House – Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai
- MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Kalpetta
- Natural Mystic, Jodhpur
- Shiv Nadar Foundation, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
- The International School, Bangalore
- World Resource Institute, Mumbai

#### Italy
- World Food Programme, Rome
- United World College of the Adriatic, Trieste

#### Japan
- Ashinaga, Tokyo
- Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology, Okinawa
- Otsuma Gakuin University and School, Tokyo
- Sony Corporation, Tokyo

#### Jordan
- Generations for Peace, Amman
- Umniah Mobile Company, Amman, Jordan
- United Nations Development Programme, Amman, Jordan
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency Disputes Tribunal, Amman, Jordan

#### Malawi
- Society of Malawi, Blantyre
Netherlands
- Child and Youth Finance International, Amsterdam
- National Institute for Public Health and Environment, Utrecht

Nicaragua
- Atelier Favela, Managua

Peru
- Instituto del Sur (ISUR), Arequipa

Portugal
- Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Lisbon

Russia
- EM Communications, Moscow
- Perm State University, Perm

Singapore
- Tanglin Trust School

South Korea
- Yonsei University, Seoul

Spain
- Ario Caves Project, Gijon

Switzerland
- CERN, Geneva
- IARU/Environmental Sustainability and Estates Services, Zurich

Tanzania
- MSABI (Maji Safi kwa Afya Bora Ifakara), Ifakara

Thailand
- British Council Thailand, Bangkok

United Kingdom
- 3Keel Ltd, Oxford
- Amantani UK, Abingdon
- Artichoke, London
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
- ATD Bio, Oxford
- Auchindrain Trust, Inveraray, Scotland
- Balliol College Library, Oxford
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- Bodleian Libraries, Oxford
- Brathay Trust, Cumbria
- Broughton Castle/Oxford University, Banbury
- CleanUpUK, London
- Compton Verney, Warwickshire
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), London
- dunnhumby, London
- Exidor, Cannock, Staffordshire
- Faculty of Law, Oxford
- GamblingCompliance, London
- Global Canopy Programme, Oxford
- Gloucestershire Constabulary/The Aston Project, Cheltenham
- Graduate Admissions and Funding, Oxford
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- International Association for the Availability of Scientific Publications, Oxford
- International Strategy Office, Oxford
- IntoUniversity, Oxford
- Julie's Bicycle, London
- Kelmsgt Manor, Lechlade
- Margaret Thatcher Foundation, Edinburgh
- Museum of Natural History, Oxford
- National Trust, Henley-on-Thames
- Oghma Partners LLP, London
- OPP Limited, Oxford
- Overseas Development Institute, London
- Oxford ASPIRE: Museum of Natural History, Oxford
- Oxford Preservation Trust, Oxford
- Oxford University Estates Department
- Pearson Group PLC, London
- Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford
- Queen's Nursing Institute, London
- RolBAC Ltd, London
- Royal Forestry Society, Banbury
- RSPCA Mallydams Wood, East Sussex
- Stowe House Preservation Trust, Buckingham
- Thames Festival Trust, London
- The Story Museum, Oxford
- Tinderbox Working Capital, Oxford
- University College, Oxford
- Wordsworth Trust, Cumbria

United States
- Historic Annapolis, Annapolis
- IARU/Environmental Sustainability and Estates Services, Berkeley, California
- Library of Congress, Washington
- Marketfield Asset Management, New York
- Naval History Heritage Command, Washington
- Project Rousseau, New York
INTRODUCTION

Since 2009, the Internship Programme has been providing access to hundreds of summer internship opportunities. They are offered by international alumni, by multi-national corporations, by world-leading NGOs, by cutting-edge research institutions and many other organisations, and all are exclusively available to Oxford University students. Since the programme’s inception students have undertaken internships in 40 countries and have gained valuable work experience while travelling to exciting and exotic locations. The Internship Programme also gives students the chance to explore work experience options in a variety of sectors in the UK.

In 2014, the Internship Programme offered 515 placements in 35 countries, hosted by 164 employers. This yearbook represents feedback from many of the students who took part in these internships. We intend to showcase the success of the Internship Programme and spread the word about the great benefits of internships for students and employers alike.

The photos in this yearbook were either taken by students, © Shutterstock or © sxc.hu. Please contact us at internships@careers.ox.ac.uk if you would like information about specific photographs.
Lasting Impressions
I very much enjoyed my internship, both the work and the people. I have not done consulting before so it was a good chance to gain a better understanding of this career as well as some experience. I will be staying on to work full-time and I am very excited to be doing so.

Daily Life
I worked 9–5, Monday through Friday. I cycled to work (the office was in St Clements). The office is small and open-plan so it has a very communal feel.

Work Projects
I assisted in projects on the potato supply chain as well as a grant proposal. I headed a project on energy flow on a large estate in Devon.

Académie Diplomatique Internationale
Paris, France
Nicholas Tan, 2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Harris Manchester College

Daily Life
Settling into life in Paris proved to be a manageable challenge; although I spoke almost no French when I started, the staff at the Académie is quite international, and they were very happy to ease me into life at the office and in France. I usually worked from 10.30 am to 6pm, and occasionally stayed back to help with the Académie's events (which usually involve dignitaries from the diplomatic circles in Paris, such as ambassadors, civil servants and journalists). Getting to work and around Paris was fairly easy, since the Metro (despite occasional breakdowns) covers much of Paris’ main areas and attractions. Outside of work, I met a number of friends for post-work drinks and dinners – some were interns in other organisations and friends from my Oxford college, others were friends who were studying in Sciences Po in Paris. The city itself was an incredible place to explore – with museums and antique bookstores, and plenty of amazing gourmet experiences in its restaurants.
Work Projects
The Academie Diplomatique Internationale is running a Project on Law and Diplomacy, aiming to resolve difficulties between diplomats and judges in dealing with war crimes, such as Libya, Sudan, etc. I was assigned to conduct research on a number of case studies in the Project (involving past and present conflict zones), and then to organise the research information and data into a presentable format that would allow for easy analysis and reference. This was a fascinating endeavour that played into my interests in international politics and law, and allowed me to gain deeper insight into some of the overlooked problems in conflict resolution. I worked alongside another intern from Oxford, and although the Project was challenging, the Academie provided us with support and direction whenever we requested guidance. The senior management and the Director of the Project constantly engaged us, and sought our feedback and opinions on the research we were conducting. They did their best to afford us every opportunity to embark on interesting research, and attend events with some of the leading policymakers in Paris. This was a refreshing work environment that was close-knit, friendly and involving, and it was a real opportunity to gain practical experience in think-tank/policy work from some of the best mentors in the field.

Lasting Impressions
The internship has been one of the most valuable experiences I have had, and I am very grateful for the chance to gain an insight into the think-tank/policy field and work in the inspiring environments of Paris. The Academie’s staff are all highly-respected veterans in their respective fields, but are also friendly and accessible, taking every effort to involve interns in their work. It has affirmed my intentions to work in policy analysis/advisory (in many of its forms), and I have since become more encouraged to pursue graduate school in politics/public policy.
Lasting Impressions
I used my internship as a progression into life in Germany, as I have finished my studies at Oxford and I’m starting a Master’s degree and a job in Germany in October. The internship was absolutely invaluable in bringing my German up to speed after a year of barely speaking it. It also gave me the time to sort out some administrative issues and get settled in before term starts in October. On the whole, it has confirmed that I would fit in well in a German workplace and has reinforced my plans to move here on a long-term basis.

Daily Life
I worked regular hours of 9 until 5, depending on my schedule for that day and when I had finished the tasks given to me. My colleagues were friendly and helpful, encouraging me to speak German with them. I walked to work every morning, which was pleasant as it involved walking by the Mosel river. Out of work, I made friends with my flatmates (I advertised for a flatshare on wg-gesucht.de) and spent time with them, and also used the time to relax after a busy summer of finals.

Work Projects
I was generally involved in administrative and research work for the marketing department. This included gathering together information on firms and governmental departments heavily involved in EU law work. It also involved looking at the breakdown of those who attended ERA’s seminars and conferences, in order to allow the department to plan for future conferences. I helped out on a week-long course, meeting legal academics and practitioners from around the world. This included a trip to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg.

Academy of European Law
Trier, Germany
Charlotte Cutts, Finalist, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), Queens College
Daily Life

Settling in was rather difficult, due to various factors. While I got picked up at the airport and spent the first night at the contact person’s place, I felt quite alone the first few days. While people at work were friendly, I first felt rather isolated, not least because apart from the directors’ level, my co-workers’ English skills were very low. Furthermore I was living in a guesthouse without communal spaces (there is not really a Hostel scene in Chennai as Westerners might expect it), so it was difficult to meet people. Eventually I became friendly with one colleague my age, however, and that made things easier. My supervisor also put me in contact with a local sports (running) club, which was a great way to get in contact with locals and get some deeper cultural insights. I walked to work each morning and was at the office from about 10.30 to 18.00. Anyone going to India should be clear on the fact that things work very different there, so there was no stringent work plan. While Chennai might not be the greatest place for making holidays, with a lot of constant noise and traffic, there definitely are opportunities for cultural experiences, such as visiting temples, enjoying the South Indian cuisine, various museums and historical buildings. Also nearby is Mamallapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is well worth a visit.

Work Projects

During my time with Aid India’s Eureka Education Research Center, my work revolved mainly around data analysis in order to evaluate the effectiveness of after-school programmes the organisation is running, in terms of skills progress made by the children involved. In this I worked quite independently. The most exciting part about my work – and the one producing the most vivid memories – was when I actually had the opportunity to travel and visit several of those education centres in remote villages together with a colleague.

Lasting Impressions

All up, I have mixed feelings. While I am without a doubt grateful for the overall experience, life here was quite challenging at times. Also India itself is so multi-faceted, with green landscapes and dusty cities, hectic traffic and no-worries attitudes. I would definitely return, though at this point I find it difficult to imagine it as permanent residence and/or workplace. On the other hand what I have seen here confirms my conviction that development work is still much needed, and my willingness to get involved and make a difference.
Aix–Marseille University
Marseille, France
Bonnie Gammer, 2nd Year, BA Cell and Systems Biology, Exeter College
YaJing Xu, 2nd Year, BA Neuroscience, University College
Janet Carolyn Scott, Penultimate, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular), St Catherine’s College
Katherine Williams, Finalist, BA Biological Sciences, Wadham College

Bonnie Gammer
Daily Life
All the interns were accommodated on the university campus which was great. We each had a studio apartment and were located on the same floor which made meeting up convenient and easy. Although the campus is half an hour out of Marseille it made up for it by being on the edge of a stunning National Park and it also meant it was only a 10 minute walk to work. I generally worked 9-6 but the longer hours were offset by the long lunch break when all the lab staff ate lunch together. Outside of work I spent most of my time with the other interns exploring the National Park or Marseille but also met up with other people from the institute on occasion.

Marseille is a great city with lots of things going on since it was the city of culture last year. The National Park was also amazing and we spent most weekends on the beaches there.

Work Projects
For this internship, I was placed with the Le Bivic team in the Institute of Developmental Biology where I studied the distribution of polarity proteins in the abdominal epithelial cells of Drosophila. Although I spoke no French and had very basic lab skills the people I worked with couldn’t have been friendlier or more helpful. As my placement was fairly short I was supervised for its majority which meant I was always sure of what I was doing and was never left with nothing to do.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my time in Marseille and this is mainly due to the people I met there. All the scientists in the institute I worked in were so friendly and interesting and I was always made to feel welcome.

YaJing Xu
Daily Life
The accommodation was on campus, which made it very easy getting to work. As the campus was next to the Calanque National Park one could always enjoy an amazing view of the mountains on the way to work and hike through the Calanques to reach the sea on a day off. The people in my lab were mostly international which created a very open and inviting atmosphere. I was invited to birthdays and social gatherings, which also showed me the corners of Marseille I haven’t known before. As it was in the vacations, the campus was quite empty, which was a shame as I would have liked to have more contact with French students. Marseille as a whole was an amazing experience, offering a vibrant city and breathtaking nature aside from my research experience in the lab.

Work Projects
My project involved the cloning of a protein that was implied in regulation of macrophage proliferation as well as using qPCR to confirm that protein as a downstream target of a transcription factor that was previously shown to govern macrophage proliferation. My supervisor was superbly organised and very helpful in every aspect, which allowed me a certain level of individuality and some input into the experiment, though the majority of experiments were set-up by my supervisor.

Lasting Impressions
I loved the city and the nature, and I very much enjoyed the research I did in the immunology lab, although it was not in the field I am really passionate about, which is neuroscience. It did open my eyes though to how connected everything is and how elements involved in macrophage proliferation can have impacts on the brain as well. I was glad to be in a very international lab, however the lack of getting to know French people of my age was a bit of a shame.
Janet Carolyn Scott

Daily Life
I walked to work, hours were about 9-6 each day, and I remained in my room during the weekday evenings as the campus is essentially empty during the summer and everything is closed such as the cafeteria. At weekends I made the journey into Marseille and went to museums, cafes and art galleries. I socialized with the other lab members during work hours but there were not really any opportunities to socialize outside of work as the campus is very remote, and we relied entirely on public transportation to leave the campus.

Work Projects
I aided two projects in the lab at CIML, one that was RNAi of C. elegans and the other required a variety of molecular biology techniques. Two members of the lab supervised me and helped me learn the techniques required.

Lasting Impressions
I enjoyed being in France, but being so far outside town limited the cultural benefits of being there. I enjoyed the internship and it was very useful in helping me decide if a PhD and working in a lab were something I would like to pursue in the future. Ultimately I decided against this but I still enjoyed my experience and it will help me complete my research for my thesis as part of my Oxford degree.

Katherine Williams

Daily Life
The accommodation provided was really new and I had a very nice little apartment. The other good thing about the apartment is that it was on campus so the walk to work in the morning only took about 5 minutes. The disadvantage of this is that the campus is a ten minute bus ride from the nearest supermarket and a 40 minute bus ride into town, but the public transport is very good. I typically worked from around 9 until 5, but this varied with what work needed to be done. The hours were flexible, as with all lab work, so I imagine that if I’d wanted I could have worked 11-7 if necessary. As well as my lab work, I also attended lab meetings and seminars and had the opportunity to meet several of the PIs in the department. This was really interesting because it exposed me to fields of research I had not previously considered. In the evenings, I didn’t usually go into town because there wasn’t really time to do much, except for a couple of nights when the lab staff were doing something as a group. On Bastille Day, we all went to an apartment near the highest point in Marseille to watch the amazing fireworks which was a lot of fun. I did, though, spend quite a lot of time walking in the Calanques National Park, which is about a five minute walk away from the accommodation. It is pretty spectacular, particularly in early evening (though beware wild boar!), and it’s only a 20 minute walk until you can see the sea. There were a few others from Oxford at various points and when they were around I spent quite a lot of time with them. The campus is otherwise pretty quiet in the summer since all the students are on holiday.

Work Projects
I carried out a laboratory-based research project in evolutionary development. I used a variety of molecular biology techniques such as PCR, Sanger sequence analysis, molecular cloning and transformation, as well as working directly with fruit flies, setting up genetic crosses and using microinjection to create transgenic lines. Although the project worked well as a standalone internship, it did contribute to the work of the research group and will be carried on in the future, so I feel like the work I’ve done is worthwhile in itself as well as being a good experience for me. At the beginning, I had a lot of support from my supervisor and others in the lab but quickly became more independent. If I had a question I felt comfortable asking but for the most part I could get on with my project without much help.

Lasting Impressions
The area I travelled to was absolutely stunning and I would definitely recommend it as a tourist destination. Everyone was really friendly and welcoming and spoke good English and I feel like the project went really well. But I don’t think I would want to live or work here. Apart from anything else, it’s a bit hot for me! But also, I found the slower pace of life and inefficient admin a bit difficult (made worse because everyone is on vacation). However; I really enjoyed the 3 months I spent working here and think I got a lot out of it in terms of life experience and career. It was lovely to be able to walk or run in such a beautiful area and I think it only rained 3 or 4 times while I was there. In terms of my career goals, I think it has confirmed that I want to work in research, though probably not with flies!
**Keren Zhu**

**Daily Life**

A typical day started at 6–7 in the morning with community fieldwork. I usually came back from fieldwork at 4–5. During the days I didn’t go on fieldwork, I worked in the office analyzing data and drafting report. I usually had dinner with other volunteers together. In the evening I usually chatted with other volunteers, did a bit of leisure reading, or hang out in local pubs.

**Work Projects**

I had multiple responsibilities. My main responsibility was to conduct research for Operation 100, a research project seeking to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes towards sex education and HIV/AIDS among Ghanaian students in public junior high schools. I used random sampling to select one third of the students in each junior high school to conduct surveys. I selected 5–15 students in each school for focus group discussion to learn their attitudes towards sex education. I had one-on-one interviews with school teachers teaching classes related with sex education (i.e. social studies, integrated science, religion and moral studies classes) to evaluate their attitudes towards sex education, and to learn the challenges that they have encountered in teaching sex education classes. I was also able to be a participant observant for one social study class in one of the schools, when sex education teaching was conducted. Meanwhile, I visited 4 communities surrounding the targeted schools for our research and sought to understand community residents’ view on sex education and HIV/AIDS. I spent approximately three days in the field collecting quantitative and qualitative data, and two days in the AFAWI office analyzing data and drafting evaluative report to be sent to the Ministry of Education in Ghana. Together with another volunteer, I also launched a project publicizing and raising funds for AFAWI called ‘All Things Come Together’. I also initiated a collaboration between Huawei and AFAWI to support the implementation stage of the sex education project.

**Lasting Impressions**

Every day at AFAWI I was bombarded with multiple challenges, yet never have I gained so much experience in different implementation stages in the field of development. The alarming status quo of sex education in Ghana learnt from my fieldwork also motivates me to put more efforts and passions in the field of reproductive health and sex education. Working for a grass-roots NGO offers a more holistic and down-to-earth picture of development compared with what I have learnt from my previous working experience with the headquarters of a big international organization and a branch of a Chinese government. Instead of working as a tiny assembly in a huge bureaucratic system with neither a general picture of the organization in mind, nor knowledge about the specific implementation stages, in AFAWI every volunteer is endowed with hands-on experience and multiple duties on each development stage of the project, and is allowed to take initiatives in designing and launching one’s own project. Working with AFAWI is a particularly invaluable experience for me. Interested in running my own NGO one day, I gained a lot of transferable skills including project implementation, fundraising techniques, team coordination and management of domestic issues. It is a great pleasure to work and live with colleagues from multicultural backgrounds sharing the same passion and aspiration for development. Learning to live and work with people is no less enriching and rewarding than all job responsibilities themselves.

**Katie Major**

**Daily Life**

The bungalow which we lived and worked in contained two and a half (a very little box room!) bedrooms, a kitchette, a shower, toilet and the office. This meant that in the morning we’d get up and have breakfast on the outside terrace before going to work in the office. The set up meant that it was impossible to feel like you were actually leaving work but was perfect for when you needed a starch-induced power nap after lunch. The working day varied depending on which project I was working on. When I was working on Operation 100 I would usually start the day by travelling by ‘tro tro’ (public minibus) to the junction to meet a local intern and then travelling on to a local community which we were surveying, we rarely knew exactly where the community was so this required a bit of asking along the way! We’d walk around the community carrying out questionnaires with locals and then we would head back to the office about 2 for lunch. After lunch the afternoon might consist of entering collected data in a spreadsheet, proof reading a completed part of the evaluation report, or attempting to work out how to get to the next community to be surveyed! When I was working on the social welfare project days varied quite a lot more. Sometimes I had meetings in a community 45 minutes away at 7 am to fit in with our contacts’ schedules. That meant an early morning but it also gave me the chance to pick up a Ghanaian breakfast out which was always a nice start to the day! On return to the office I sometimes spent the morning interviewing Ghanaian staff about school supply prices, carried out long term cost analysis calculations in...
Welcome escape from the office. Time but they gave us a much broader view of the country and a sort. They usually meant a lot of travelling in a short amount of mountains to visiting historic castles and chilling out in beach resorts. These adventures ranged from climbing all of the interns and volunteers often went off to explore different parts of the country. These adventures ranged from climbing mountains to visiting historic castles and chilling out in beach resorts. They usually meant a lot of travelling in a short amount of time but they gave us a much broader view of the country and a welcome escape from the office.

Work Projects
I was involved in two projects whilst I was interning for AFAWI. It was Operation 100 that was advertised as part of the Internship Programme and which I went to Ghana to work on. Operation 100 is a research project into sexual health education in Junior High Schools in Ghana. We were involved in collecting primary data by surveying people in local communities, analysing that data in excel, and drawing conclusions and recommendations about how education could be improved from our results. The second project was a social welfare project which I seemed to ‘fall into’ in line with a gap in manpower and the organisation being open to me pursuing my own interests. In this project I took up a list of vulnerable children in a local community collated by a previous volunteer and from this list set up a programme to enrol and sustain some of these children in school. In completing this project I experienced all aspects of project management from conducting needs assessments to fundraising and creating cost analysis to determining the school enrolment process and completing this. The organisation gave a very low level of management which was challenging, but it did mean that I learnt so much more from the experience because of being forced so much to use my own initiative, and the organisation linked me to invaluable community contacts.

Lasting Impressions
I never understood until I travelled to Africa how much different cultures varied, not just in their music or history but in the very way people think, communicate and view the world. AFAWI is the epitome of a grassroots local NGO, run by locals for the benefit of the local culture. Working every day was challenging, as Ghanaian culture views both time and commitments differently, and it was difficult to understand people’s motives. However being thrown straight into that culture taught me so much about my own prejudices and was a humbling experience. I realised how many assumptions I make about the world by the time I’ve finished my morning coffee in England. It was a terrific learning experience spending my morning coffee in Ghana trying to unlearn all of the assumptions I needed to lay aside to get through the day.

Although the cultural differences were challenging in a work environment, they were an absolute delight outside of it! Ghanaians are such relaxed and passionate people. We’d see road rage incidents where drivers would be shouting at one another one minute and chatting about the traffic the next. Everyone was so friendly to us and the greeting culture meant that you could not even walk the minute long track to the main road without saying ‘ettisan’ (how are you) or good morning to at least five people! The internship taught me a lot about who I am and what I enjoy. I learnt that I adore living in another culture and I love the humbling process of realising that I’d always assumed my way of doing something was the best way but that was not necessarily the case.

However I also learnt that there are aspects of British culture and etiquette which are really valuable, and principles I am familiar with that are very much built-in to the way I like to work. Perhaps this means that I’m much better working in an international organisation in different countries than for a local organisation in a locality that is not my own.

The internship confirmed to me that I have a real interest in governance and large scale public issues. The type of things I found interesting and the working culture which I missed were invaluable in pointing me in the direction of the type of organisation I would like to work for and the type of work I would like to do in the future.

Florence Avery

Daily Life
The office was in the same compound as our hostel. I worked about 8 hours a day, ranging from 7–3 to 9–5 depending on whether I was doing fieldwork. There was a lot of scope to travel on weekends – I got to see a lot of Ghana. I socialised mainly with other interns at the organisation but would not have struggled to make friends outside of the organisation had I felt the need to.
Alice Priestland

Daily Life

The office and housing were attached, and so it was easy to get settled into life at AFAWI as all the volunteers lived and worked in one place. Generally, we started work before 9; as the office is in the house, when you woke up, you may as well start work. We generally finished after 5, but working hours were flexible. We had a 3PM finish on Fridays which made weekend trips away a possibility. Outside of work hours we often had to cook and clean, but there was not much to do in the immediate area around where we were staying, so the volunteers spent much of their time reading and socialising with each other. We often took trips to other places in Accra, and outside Accra on the weekends. Often, there was no power which, during the day, made work hard as it was all computer-based, and during the night made cooking etc. difficult. When the power was off for a few days in a row we would go to a mall an hour or so away in order to get power and internet.

Work Projects

I worked on Operation 100 – a research project looking at sex education in junior schools. I was responsible for doing data collection, data analysis, and compiling the final report. I managed several proofreading volunteers online to this end. I also worked on developing a clothing cooperative and a social media strategy.

Lasting Impressions

This internship has reaffirmed my interest in Africa and my career goals. I would love to return to Ghana although there are a number of African countries I have yet to visit. I feel very happy with my choice to pursue an MSc in African Politics and a career in research following my experience of this internship.

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**Amantani UK**  
**Abingdon, UK**  
Emily Silcock, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, New College

**Daily Life**
I work 9-5.30 each day at the internship, with an hour for lunch. The office is small, but the people are lovely. Mostly it was desk work - research, emails, design etc. However, I had some meetings out of the office.

**Work Projects**
I worked to promote ‘Meet My World’ a series of short films developed by Amantani. They gave me my own project to work with and let me take my own initiative. They were on-hand for any questions I had and we had regular review meetings.

**Lasting Impressions**
I couldn’t think of a nicer place to work. This is international aid done really well and it restored my faith in the sector. I will definitely be keeping in touch.

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**Ario Caves Project**  
**Gijon, Spain**  
John Williams, 1st Year, BA Medical Sciences, Pembroke College

**Daily Life**
I was welcomed very warmly to the group, which consisted of a large contingent of Leeds undergraduates, Irish postgraduates, and various people who had been connected to the project since it was an Oxford expedition. The camp is in a bowl high up in Spain’s Picos de Europa, with stunning views across its central massif. Facilities were limited but comfortable - a drystone hut with tarpaulin roof as a kitchen, a tap in the refugio (a few hundred metres away) and a diesel generator that had been carried up. Lots of time was spent coordinating trips into one main cave - Xitu - but I spent my first few days doing above ground jobs. It took me a while to realise that in order to get underground, you have to take charge - less talking, more action. Typical caving trips last up to 13 hours, so sleeping hours became confused and two large meals a day was not uncommon. On our day off, we walked 1000m vertically down to go wild swimming in the gorgeous Rio Cares.

**Work Projects**
The projects I was involved in fall in to two categories: above ground and below ground. Above ground, there are always jobs to do carrying food, fuel and equipment up and down the mountain, as well as cooking, organising equipment, marking paths to the caves, shaft bashing, and a surface dig. The surface dig only got underway in the last day of my internship but was one of the more exciting parts of the jobs above ground - it seemed very promising when I left. Below ground, I performed tasks such as restocking the underground camp; cleaning formations that had been muddied by other cavers trying to push a cavern; pushing and surveying leads; and helping on a rigging trip so that more experienced cavers could get to the leads more efficiently and get some exploration done.

**Lasting Impressions**
Spending a few weeks far from civilisation and in the mountains has inspired my decision to spend more time with nature. The caving was also truly awesome, both in terms of the scale of the caves and in terms of the physical and mental effort they required. My skills with ropes and my fitness both benefited from the internship. Meeting cavers my age was great as well, and the internship has made me feel more a part of the community. The largest lasting impact was very positive, and has already affected my outlook and ethic in the weeks since I came back – I learned the value of getting on with the task at hand, as opposed to worrying and dilly-dallying. I believe this realisation will help even more as I go back to university.
Artichoke
London, UK
Laura Hill, Finalist, BA History of Art, St Catherine's College

Daily Life
I commuted each day to work in Tower Hamlets from a room I rented in North Finchley (London's Zone 4). I worked 10-6, five days a week for 13 weeks of the placement. Whilst in London I managed to see some exhibitions and do a little shopping, trying to make the most of my time spent in the capital.

Work Projects
During my placement as part of the development team, I researched into potential corporate sponsors and foundations in order for my colleagues to create funding proposals and applications. I helped start some of these applications and proposals for my colleagues with their guidance. I also arranged meetings for my colleagues with potential funders and assisted at an event for the organisation's supporters.

Lasting Impressions
Working in development has given me a better insight into how the arts sector is funded, and how it is connected to the corporate world and that of councils, having a huge impact on how support for arts projects is attained and the difficulties often encountered in securing funding. The research and writing skills will definitely be useful, and hopefully will assist me in finding a job within the cultural sector outside of the capital.
Ashinaga
Tokyo, Japan
Anthony O’Driscoll, 2nd Year, BA Human Sciences, Harris Manchester College
Amy Dafnis, 1st Year, BA Oriental Studies (Japanese), Hertford College
Naomi Falkenburg, MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, Wolfson
Johan Trovik, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, St Benet’s Hall
Tanya Mckinlay, 2nd Year, BA History, St John’s College
Patrick Stockwell, Penultimate, BA Literae Humaniores, St Anne’s College
Mo Yin Ho, Penultimate, BA Oriental Studies (Japanese), Queen’s College
Kirsty Flanagan, Finalist, BA Classics and French Course I, St Hugh’s College
Vaibhav Agarwal, 1st Year, BA in Economics and Management, Keble College
Qingling Kong, MA Public Policy, St Hilda’s College
Bernardo Zang, Finalist, BA Jurisprudence, Somerville College
Ivy Mestrovic, MSt Social Anthropology, St Peter’s College

Anthony O’Driscoll
Daily Life
Daily life varied depending on the project the interns were working on. Sometimes we had very little to do and a lot of autonomy, and at other times we were working up to 18 hours a day. This internship doesn’t offer consistent 9-5 working hours. When travelling nearly all transport was arranged for us, and when it was, clear and accessible directions were given.

Work Projects
The internship began with the Global Student Conference, where interns were required to come up with relevant ideas and present them in a conference setting. After this interns were divided into groups and were sent on summer Tsudoi’s (Summer Camps) where we acted as facilitators for high school students. The primary aim here was to motivate and encourage students to pursue higher education. We were also taken to Tuhoku to learn about the social and political effects of the 2011 Tsunami that devastated Japan. After this we all attended another larger Tsudoi for university students, which was geared towards international aspirations and studying abroad. We also travelled to Kyoto where we participated in a cultural exchange programme that was incredibly enriching.

Lasting Impressions
The internship has left lasting positive impressions on me. I was a little disappointed to find a less consistent structure, but Ashinaga really went out of their way in order to provide additional travel opportunities to us interns. Consequently, we managed to see far more places than I originally anticipated.

Amy Dafnis
Daily Life
Settling into life in Japan was not at all that difficult. However, the fact that the other interns and I travelled so frequently meant that there was no standard format to ‘daily life’. The hours that we worked each day varied greatly, and could be as little as one hour at the start of the program, to twelve hours at the tsudoi and conference. Outside of work we had a lot of free time to explore Japan, and this was also an opportunity to informally socialize with the Ashinaga scholars. There were a very large number of interns working for Ashinaga. There was a cohort starting in June of sixty interns, and another cohort of forty arrived in Tokyo in August. These interns came from all over the world, as Ashinaga really wanted to create the most ‘internationally diverse’ environment possible. English was the main working language, but my Japanese language ability was also very valuable, and really contributed to improving my overall experience.

Work Projects
The work projects that I took part in were incredibly varied. For the first two weeks I was based in Tokyo teaching English to students who receive financial aid from Ashinaga. Together with the other interns I was also involved in a research project, focusing on the availability of scholarships for students from developing countries that enable them to study abroad. Following this we spent two weeks in Kyoto taking part in a program organized by Kyoto University. Our actual work-related duties were quite minimal at this point in the internship, and the primary goal was to facilitate cultural exchange between us and the Japanese university students. Our activities in Kyoto were also used to gain publicity for Ashinaga. After this we took part in a four day conference, where teams of interns and Ashinaga scholars researched and presented on topics such as poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa. This then culminated in a press event at the Tokyo Olympic Center. Following this we travelled to Tohoku to examine Ashinaga’s work in the disaster-relief effort following the March 11th earthquake and tsunami. We also spent time teaching at Sendai Ikuei Gakuin. Finally, I flew to Kumamoto in southern Kyushu where I took part in a type of summer camp for Japanese high-school students who have lost one or both parents. These camps are called tsudoi, and as well as providing emotional support for the children, our job as leaders was to inspire and empower them to pursue further education. As an intern I had a secondary function of educating the students on the value of studying abroad, and also of studying English. For every aspect of this internship I was required to write up reports detailing any problematic aspects of each individual program and activity.
Ashinaga continued...

Lasting Impressions
As someone who reads Japanese at Oxford, I was already fairly certain that I would want to work there in the future. However, this internship has absolutely confirmed that belief, and has also motivated me to work even harder to improve my proficiency in Japanese. Working with Ashinaga has effectively contributed to helping me solidify more concrete career goals for the future. I initially applied for this internship, because as a Moritz–Heyman scholar, I feel very passionate about access to education. Thanks to Ashinaga I now have a genuine desire to continue to work in the non-profit sector in order to improve access to education both in the UK and abroad. Finally, this internship has shown how amazing it is to be able to work in a truly international environment, and to get to know so many different people, with so many different life experiences.

Naomi Falkenburg

Daily Life
No day is the same working with Ashinaga. On our first day in Japan we were shuttled to the base of Mt. Fuji to attend a three-day international conference discussing Ashinaga’s work and plans for the future. It was very intense, but a great way to start the internship as I felt personally invested in the organization’s vision and work, and felt immediately useful. It also set the tone for the rest of the internship: we would have very intense programs/trips broken up by a few days of rest to recover. The most intense of these programs are called ‘tsudoi’, or ‘gathering’, which are summer camps arranged for the orphaned students supported by Ashinaga. During the 4–7 days these camps would run for, we would get up at 6 in the morning, have a very full program during the day, and eventually go to bed at 11:30 pm. On free days we could sleep in, although most of the interns would make use of the free time to go sight-seeing. Between the tsudoi experience and such free days, I feel like I bonded a lot both with the Japanese students I’ve met (despite the language barrier) as well as the other interns over the course of my internship.

Work Projects
Most of the work I did for Ashinaga was related to English, most directly through teaching private and group classes to some of the orphaned students the organization supports. Although all Japanese students learn English at school, they have very little opportunity to actually speak and therefore have quite low self-confidence in this regard. In addition to these classes, the most important shorter-term work projects involved attending summer camps organized with the aim of giving the orphaned students a chance to speak to one another about their experiences. Most of these discussions were done in Japanese (especially if they became heavy emotionally) but there were activities specifically designed to foster interaction between the interns and students, and thereby give the students the opportunity to practice their English. The secondary aim of having interns attend these summer camps (called ‘tsudoi’) was to encourage and inspire the students to think about the world beyond Japan. For many of these students, it was the first time to interact with foreigners and consider other cultures. At the end of the summer camp, everyone receives short messages from people they have spent a lot of time with; I found it very rewarding to read that many of the students I spoke to wanted to study English more after meeting me, and they were even considering travelling or studying abroad by the end of tsudoi.

Lasting Impressions
Both the organization and Japan more generally have left a profound impression on me. Ashinaga provides orphaned students with financial aid so they can complete their studies, and I had a chance to meet a lot of these students. Their resilience and drive really inspired me. We were also taken to a region of Japan that was really heavily hit by the earthquake and tsunami in 2011, and had a chance to speak to people who lived through that tragedy. I have such respect for them, as well as for what Ashinaga has done in that region to help. Seeing the efficacy of their work and its importance has only confirmed to me that I want to work for humanitarian NGOs in the future. Ashinaga also really went out of their way to provide the interns with a culturally rich experience, and arranged a lot of activities and programs for us that regular tourists would never get to experience (like a workshop from Noh actors, to guided tours through otherwise closed temples, and even a day experiencing life as a Buddhist monk). I have really come to love Japan and its people, and I really hope I can return someday and live here for a longer period of time.

Johan Trovik

Daily Life
There really was no general daily life as our routines varied substantially with regard to where in Japan we were and which program we were participating in. We socialised much amongst the interns, and also with the Ashinaga staff and students.

Work Projects
The work the interns did consisted of teaching and providing emotional support to orphans. We did these both at summer camps, called ‘tsudoi’, and at schools around Japan. We also worked on projects in connection to Ashinaga’s planned international expansion, for instance I worked on how to advance their social media presence. Moreover we participated in high-profile meetings with Japan’s minister for Education.

Ashinaga continued...

Lasting Impressions
This internship has been one of the best experiences of my life. I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to participate. One of the main aims of Ashinaga was to introduce us to different sides of Japan and with this they succeeded fully. Through the program we partook in a host of traditional Japanese activities, ranging from Zen Buddhist meditation in a thousand year old temple to Ikebana flower arrangement. We visited the tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku and learned about how Japan as a nation is coping with the disasters, and we met a multitude of good Japanese students with which we became friends. I feel as close to Japan after these two months as I feel to England after staying in Oxford for two years. I would love to return to work there.
Tanya Mckinlay

Daily Life
Settling into Ashinaga was very easy - all the interns recruited were of a similar international background, from top ranking universities, with liberal views on social development. It was therefore easy to find common ground with each other. The staff were also very friendly, welcoming, and diligent. They continually ensured that we were settling comfortable into life in Japan. Working hours were very few and relaxed, giving the interns a lot of time to explore Japan and spend time together. Out of work I would travel the area, visiting both traditional sights (such as temples) as well as modern ones (art galleries, buzzing Shibuya square etc). Because of this time I got to see and know a lot of Japan. Ashinaga also ensured that we got as much out of Japan as their organisation got out of us. The Kyoto Program they put together for us allowed us to study Japanese culture and customs, giving us a deeper insight to the context we were working in. Being in Japan’s cultural heart was truly spectacular.

Work Projects
The internship with Ashinaga did not have any one type of project - instead, as interns, we were involved in a variety of things. Firstly, we attended and took part in the Global Student Conference, in which we were doing research and strategising a plan for Ashinaga’s 100 Year Vision in Africa. Secondly, we did hands on work with the orphans that Ashinaga supports during two week long summer camps. During these camps we led and took part in exercises that encouraged their academic development as well as provided emotional support. Finally, the interns were paired with Ashinaga scholars and gave them English lessons. Concurrently, we did research on different aspects of the organisations - such as fundraising, educational access, scholarship opportunities etc.

Lasting Impressions
My time with Ashinaga gave me a very deep appreciation for a culture that was entirely different to my own. Japan is a spectacular place with extremely interesting cultural nuances and, at times, juxtapositions. However, although I enjoyed my time there, I don’t believe I would return to live or work there - Japanese culture was interesting to learn about as an outsider, but could potentially be quite difficult to grow completely accustomed to as a resident. My time with Ashinaga has confirmed my career goals and ambitions to work in international development and enter the NGO sector. They showed me the very human element of this sector that I would love to be involved in.

Patrick Stockwell

Daily Life
There was no real typical day- all interns and students of Ashinaga lived together and some days we would mainly socialise with the other 100 interns from across the world, some days we would do some teaching to the students, others we would go on cultural trips. At various points in the internship we left Tokyo, for example a two–week long all expenses paid trip to Kyoto for the biggest festival in Japan and cultural tour of the city which was fantastic. There was never really a dull moment, as there were so many different people to talk to and meet from all across the world. Work demands were minimal, apart from the summer camp for a week at the end which was fantastic.

Work Projects
During the internship I was involved in a wide variety of projects, from teaching English to assessing the corporate and fundraising structure of the NGO, meeting the Japanese Deputy Prime Minis- ter and various other leading figures.

Lasting Impressions
I am really glad to have had the opportunity to have worked with Ashinaga and visited all across Japan. I would really recommend a visit to the country. I feel privileged to have met all the staff members and students at Ashinaga, as well as my fellow interns, and had a fantastic time on this internship, despite the experience not equipping me with business skills. It has led me away from the third sector ambitions I held, and more towards a strategy/consulting role, having had a good insight into a huge business like Ashinaga and what it takes to change a business and overhaul it.
Daily Life

There was enough leeway for me to make the internship what I wanted, but the schedules in the programme were sometimes either very packed or lacked structure, so it was difficult to say when exactly the interns would be able to rest, get free time, or indeed, how many hours we actually worked. Settling in was not so easy for some people, who didn’t know much about Japanese culture or what to expect, but with the help of Ashinaga staff and the other interns as support, it was very easy to have a good time in both work and leisure time. Out of work we were able to organise our own itineraries, choosing to explore Tokyo and its surrounding areas if we so wished. Because befriending students was a big part of the internship, I feel that the Ashinaga staff worked hard to recruit people who were open-minded, receptive and friendly, which meant it was very easy to socialise with the other interns. The Japanese students were also very welcoming, and we felt very at home living with them in the residential halls.

Projects I was involved in included firstly the Global Student Conference, where we analysed, discussed in teams and presented our ideas on Ashinaga’s ‘100 year vision’. I also worked on the Tsudoi (summer camp) Programme, which involved befriending and socialising with groups of bereaved high school and university students, teaching English and encouraging them to go abroad through sharing and teaching them about our home cultures. The Kyoto Programme involved learning about Japanese culture to enable us to be better cultural ambassadors on our return to England, and finally the Juku Programme required us to stay in residential halls with bereaved university students, tutoring them in English while organising group sessions to try and promote student–intern relations and boost students’ self-confidence. The Ashinaga staff were constantly available to lend us a hand where necessary, and some programmes were actively organised by the staff (such as the Kyoto Programme and the Tsudoi) but most of the planning of lessons and such was left to us.

As a student of Japanese, I was apprehensive about the internship being able to teach me any more about Japan. However, Ashinaga worked hard to provide authentic opportunities for us to learn about traditional Japanese culture and I got to experience many things I wouldn’t have been able to, even as a student of Japanese (such as Noh theatre and a very special tea ceremony during the Kyoto Programme). I am considering working in Japan under Ashinaga, who are currently expanding into Africa, and it has both confirmed and challenged my career goals: as I expected, it is extremely rewarding to work with a non-profit organisation such as Ashinaga, but it is also tough work, with no guarantee of success, especially when in the midst of an experimental expansive stage, as Ashinaga is now! I would also like to mention that the internship was a great way to meet a vast range of bright, young and talented people from all over the world. It is my honour to have worked with them.

All accommodation, transport and meals were provided by Ashinaga or were reimbursed.

With Ashinaga every day is different. We spent time on tsudoi, summer camps at which teenage orphans can meet and discuss their life experience. This was fun but intense. We also spent time in Kyoto on a cultural programme which was lots of fun but not as helpful to others. With Ashinaga everything is paid for but I felt like their guest rather than their employee which was rather strange.

This internship has instilled in me a love of Japan and the Japanese people whose hospitality and kindness was to be found in the staff at Ashinaga. However I was hoping for a chance to prove myself and learn rather than hospitality. For this reason I am very glad I did the internship but I would not do it again.

Ashinaga continued...
Ashinaga continued...

Qingling Kong

Daily Life
The life at Ashinaga is highly planned and sometimes detailed to hours in summer camps. Ashinaga provided strong support in settling in, working and social life. It’s a great organization to work with and every day comes with something new and occasionally moving.

Work Projects
We participated in a variety of tasks and projects. Firstly I worked on developing Ashinaga’s Strategic Mission, which included helping Ashinaga clarify its marketing plans and researching how to continue its international expansion. An example of a project we participated in to these ends was a 3 day conference for which we were placed in teams. In these we developed our strategy in one of 6 areas that Ashinaga wanted our help and then had opportunity to present these. Secondly, I worked with recipients of Ashinaga Support. Ashinaga supports hundreds of orphans with scholarships and we had opportunity to be a part of this. Of the 8 weeks, we spent 2 weeks in summer camps that are run for these students and were able to help facilitate the emotional bonding and healing that these camps are used for. Thirdly, Ashinaga very generously gave us a lot of time to understand Japan in structured sessions where we participated in cultural activities.

Lasting Impressions
It was a fantastic experience for the long run and will certainly shape my life. However, it was not what I expected in the slightest.

Vaibhav Agarwal

Daily Life
It was great to have so many fellow interns on the program in many ways as it was easy to socialize with them. This helped from the very first day. Generally, days were quite varied. We had no concept of a weekend but we regularly had off days, even if not Saturday or Sunday. Some weeks were very hectic and tiring whilst others were totally relaxed. The commute to work was generally non-existent as Ashinaga placed us at or near the places we were required but this meant living out of a suitcase as sometimes you would move for a week at a time. Overall, it was an internship of hugely varied daily life.

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Daily Life
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Work Projects
I participated in the Global Student Conference to discuss Ashinaga’s African Vision, and also worked on summer camps with Ashinaga scholars. I was also involved in a Tohoko study tour and Kyotoology program that gave an in-depth view of Japan.

Lasting Impressions
My time in Japan was a great summer experience. The oriental culture and food made every day a treat. I would love to return some time in the future.
Ashinaga continued...

Bernardo Zang

Daily Life
The interns had a range of different activities, and were put into groups with the Japanese students in most of these activities. Some of the summer camps which took place around the country had intense timetables with a strict schedule from 6-11 every day for a week. Other times were less demanding and we spent a week in Kyoto socialising with Japanese orphans and other interns, and there was not so much demanding work involved.

Work Projects
We were tasked with a range of different projects at Ashinaga. The organisation is starting to expand abroad so we acted as consultants on areas such as financing, social media and culture. We participated in summer camps for the orphans, raising aspirations and teaching classes. We spent two weeks in the accommodation block teaching English and other classes.

Lasting Impressions
I helped do something different and this was the first experience I had with an NGO. I learned a lot about Japanese culture.

Ivy Mestrovic

Daily Life
Ashinaga provides affordable accommodation to university level students who have lost one or both of their parents. The other interns and I lived with them in the same dorm setting. We taught English Second Language classes in the early mornings or evenings to accommodate the students' schedules. We lived where we worked, so there was a definite blurring between professional and personal life space that could be tiring at times. We socialized with the college students and our fellow interns. There were 60 of us interns in the Tokyo branch and about 20 at the Kobe branch. In August, the second batch of interns came and then there were 100 interns. We spent about three weeks in Tokyo, then lived in hotels in the other places we visited. Two weeks in Kyoto, one week in Sendai, three days at Lake Yamanako for our conference, and a week in our summer camp. Our roommates changed each time we moved, as well as work groups.

Work Projects
We taught English Second Language courses to college students in one-on-one and group style settings. We taught at a high school class once. A partner and I supervised an art class for that part. As interns we also helped develop potential fundraising schemes for the organization. Our projects and programmes changed fairly frequently. Such as, we also attended lectures at Kyoto and Tohoku University, and became symbols of publicity for the organization as well. The best project was when we assisted in a summer camp for orphan high school students. The high school students were placed under the leadership of college students who had done the camp when they were in high school. The idea was that of orphans helping orphans- that was where the strength of Ashinaga showed through in facilitating these camps.

Lasting Impressions
This was my first internship, and I travelled to Japan, a country I have dreamed of visiting for years. In that way, I feel very lucky that I could participate in an internship and earn that chance to visit for myself. Ashinaga exposed me to more of Japan then I had even dreamed. However, the culture I experienced showed different ideas about the separation of personal and professional space and time, which do not incentivize me to return and work there.
Ashmolean Museum
Oxford, UK
Lucy Andia, MSt Archaeology, Magdalen College

Daily Life
I settled in very easily as everyone was very kind and accepting. I cycled to work in less than 10 minutes and worked generally from 10–4. However, some days I came in early so I could leave early and other days I stayed until after 6 as I got very involved in the work I was undertaking. Out of work I spent time with my friends who were still in my college where I was living and also in London with my friends there.

Work Projects
Each week I was introduced to a different department within the museum. Through this set up I was able to understand the ways the different departments work together and also meet many different people. The main project I was working on was a blog on my experience and the LiveFriday Late Night event programming. I will be continuing this project in October.

Lasting Impressions
My experience at the Ashmolean confirmed that I would like to work in the museum sector, but it also showed me the reality of that work. I am now very aware of the difficulties of securing a proper contract within this sector and that curatorial positions are generally only achievable through an academic career. These realities have helped me to understand what I am getting myself in for!
Eleanor Thurtle
Daily Life
I settled in very quickly, as my colleagues were very friendly and helpful from day one. I got to work by bus, and worked from 8:30 - 4:30. Outside of work I swam at Iffley, went jogging, and socialised with other friends on internships at Oxford.

Work Projects
The project I worked on involved optimisation and purification of DNA synthesised by the company using a High Performance Liquid Chromatography machine. I researched and gave a presentation on the applications and future of Next Generation Sequencing which was very interesting. I gave assistance in producing modified DNA for individual customers, gaining a wide experience in different modified oligonucleotides. Colleagues I worked with could not have been more helpful or patient and were always keen to teach us about the field, giving up much of their time to mentor us.

Lasting Impressions
Prior to the internship, I was not keen on the idea of a career in research, however I have since reconsidered and now I have even more career options. This internship has taught me how exciting research can be, and that if I were to do postgraduate research, it would be in the bio side of Chemistry, giving me a much better idea of which Part II group I’d like to join. I feel much more ambitious having had this experience and feel I have learnt a huge amount about life after university as well as my two final years of MChem from the older intern working with me. A fantastic place to work that I would recommend thoroughly!

Haewon Song
Daily Life
The day began by getting into work at 8.15 am with my intern colleague on the bus. On most days we were given a short briefing by the Director to outline the tasks to be carried out on that day, and we were supervised by the researcher in laboratories. We were given frequent break times and an hour for lunch. The day ended at 4.30 pm and I was back home by 5 pm to enjoy some free time in the evenings.

Work Projects
During the internship period, I was given two main responsibilities - firstly a research project to optimise the new DNA synthesiser and secondly to write a scientific article for the company's website. As the ATDBio Oxford office was opened only last year, the instruments were still in the process of being optimised for the type of oligonucleotide synthesis that ATDBio undertook. My research project involved testing different factors that influenced the synthesis (for example the ratio of reagents, or the different types of resin in the synthesis column) to find the best conditions that gave maximum output from the machine. Outside the laboratory I was asked to write an article on a novel DNA synthetic method, called 'DNA origami', to expand the website's online guidebook. I spent several weeks researching this new area and presented to the company what I had learnt before submitting a short 1400-word article to be added to their website. Throughout the whole internship all members of the company were very friendly and supportive, especially during the first few weeks when there was a vast amount of information and laboratory techniques to be learnt.

Lasting Impressions
This internship has been a very useful experience for me, as it was my first attempt working in a laboratory that specialised in DNA synthesis. Being a very small company, I was able to work closely with all members of the company and everyone was very welcoming from the beginning. I enjoyed the laboratory work very much, and I was very pleased to be offered a full-time role after a few weeks.
Daily Life
The biggest challenge I initially faced was my limited Spanish, which affected the quality of my interaction with the children and teenagers of Atelier Favela. However, I used my spare time to revise and further study Spanish and proactively practiced with anyone in Atelier Favela and the community. My conversations were often unintentionally humorous but always appreciated, and the reward of new friendships made these efforts worthwhile.

Work Projects
Atelier Favela is a youth centre located in a small neighbourhood near Managua, the capital city of Nicaragua. It provides classes in art and crafts, sport and games, dance, gardening, cooking, music, storytelling, and English language. As an intern, I lead classes in all these areas. The highlight of my internship was helping organise a festival for the local community.

I have developed my transferable skills such as managing children and teenagers, social skills to reach out to the local community, and improving my Spanish language. I have acquired knowledge on how a non-profit organisation is managed both daily and in the long-term, and how these organisations affect their communities.

Lasting Impressions
I have gained an understanding of Nicaraguan culture and its people, and this has confirmed and further ignited my interest in the charity and international development field. Coming to the end of my two-month internship, I can write that my OUIP placement has been an amazing experience. Beyond my internship I will further research into the international non-profit sector with the aim to find employment and/or tie my cultural interests to doctoral studies.
The Auchindrain Trust
Inverary, UK
Georgina Salzedo, 2nd Year, BA History, Somerville College
Lydia O’Sullivan, 2nd Year, BA History and Politics, St Edmund Hall

Georgina Salzedo
Daily Life
I was renting a room in a B&B where another intern was staying, so we drove to work together (only about five minutes). I worked 9–5, 5 days a week. Days off were at my direction, so sometimes I took three days off, in order to visit home. Some days I worked a few hours in the tea room, others mainly in the office. The people at the museum were all very friendly, and over the course of several months I got to know them quite well, so work was always good. Sometimes we stayed at work late in order to use the internet, and then cooked dinner/watched films etc. Other days we went to the local pub, the George. If we had days off together, we visited Glasgow & Edinburgh/other day trips, and were always allowed extra days if trips required it.

Work Projects
I was involved in the running of the museum in numerous ways - I helped to organise and set up an exhibition; analysed and corrected a previous year’s accounts; worked to compile an inventory of miscellaneous objects; and researched relevant government policy for the museum. I also performed odd jobs such as handing out flyers in Inveraray, and locking the buildings. In addition, I worked (for a wage) in the tea room, which included cooking, cleaning, waitressing, and working the till. In the tea room I was supported by the leaders there, and overall I was supported very well by the managing director of the museum, who regularly gave me new jobs and asked for feedback on what I was doing.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed this internship, and it has definitely confirmed my interest in museums. I travelled to rural Scotland, and while I enjoyed the wonderful views, I would definitely live a bit closer to a supermarket!
The Auchindrain Trust continued...

Lydia O’Sullivan

Daily Life
I lived and worked with another intern, and we generally got in to work at 9 AM. How we spent our days varied enormously, but we generally began our mornings in the office. We might be given a job to order something or contact someone, which I’d do first, and then I’d spend a couple of hours on one of my longstanding tasks. Sometimes we’d be asked to give out leaflets in Inveraray, the nearest town, for an hour. Lunch was provided, soup or a sandwich, and we’d pop down to the tearoom to eat. If I was down to work there and it was busy, I’d stay to help for a few hours. If not, I’d generally head back to the office for the rest of the afternoon, unless I had a meeting or a special event. If I was working on the weekend, the museum would generally be emptier and there would only be one or two workers on site. After work, my fellow intern and I would generally chill with books for a couple of hours. I’d cook or we’d go out for fish and chips or a meal. 2/3 nights a week we’d drive to the nearest pub, a large touristy one, and hang out there. We’d socialise with some of the patrons, though they were generally tourists just passing through, the bar staff and sometimes with one of our colleagues and her friends. Some weekends were spent away. We went to Edinburgh twice, once for the fringe, and Glasgow a few evenings. We often had friends or family down to visit and explored Argyll with them. I occasionally went hiking alone on my days off.

Work Projects
At Auchindrain, I was part of the museum management team and helped with the everyday running of the museum and various small tasks and research jobs. I also spent some time working in the tearoom and shop. My primary tasks, however, were several research projects. The first was helping to organise the setup of a traveling exhibition on Travellers, by Moving Minds, and an open day to publicise the exhibition. This went well, and taught me more about planning events. From this, I also ended up working with a few Travellers collecting photos and information about their lives. I was also involved in a long running project to sort and organise genealogical data on the past inhabitants of the township; an interesting piece of data analysis. Some time was also spent sorting through site finds and submitting them for treasure trove applications, a process I’d known nothing about before I started this internship. My final project was to research and prepare a report on previous uses of iPads in museums, particularly for open air and living history institutions, for use in a funding proposal. This was fascinating and helped me to develop my non-academic research skills. It’s also been helpful in preparing me for my current job with a tech startup.

Lasting Impressions
I loved the area - it was beautiful and the weather was surprisingly good. I’d certainly return to Scotland for a visit and maybe to live there, although only in a city. Argyll is very rural and quite isolated, even with the tourists. We had to drive even to the nearest pub and there wasn’t a lot to do, especially in the evenings. I really enjoyed working in the museum and I’m certainly still looking into that option. However, I would want to work somewhere larger and less isolated, at least for now. The management, admin and non-academic research I found surprisingly enjoyable. I am now looking at different options than previously, focusing on work rather than further study. Auchindrain has given me the courage to suspend for a year and work, something I’d not considered before but I know is the best thing for me. I will always remember it fondly.
Amrit Sidhu-Brar

Daily Life
I spent three weeks working in the Library. Each day I arrived at 9am. I would usually work on my research project for most of the day - in the early days this meant reading College histories or going through Archive catalogues looking for relevant material. Soon I started looking at and photographing the documents I'd selected, and later on in the internship I drew my conclusions, comparing the various sources I'd found, and wrote up my report. When I was working in the main Library office the atmosphere was both industrious and sociable - I learnt a lot about the lives of the staff in a College, not something I'd been exposed to before. Lunch was provided each day in the College Hall - this was very sociable. I would sit with various members of the College staff - Library staff, the other intern, or others entirely, and the conversation was always interesting. In the afternoon, I might be introduced to a more conventional Library task - over the internship I did some cataloguing (In fact, I ended up cataloguing a collection of old catalogues!), some stock-checking and shelf-tidying, as well as selecting new books for purchase, and then ordering and processing them. The day would end at 5pm, whereupon I would usually get the bus back to my accommodation - I rented a room in a College annexe a couple of miles outside the city centre. Since I was still in Oxford, I had friends here at the time, so my main out-of-work socialising was with them.

Assistant Librarians retrieved the key from the porters, and accompanied me on an explorational sojourn underground. Another time, when I discovered that the College Register that I needed to read for the late 18th Century was in Latin, I was provided with a stack of reference books that might be useful for interpretation! By the end, I produced a written report together with several diagrams and plan.

Lasting Impressions
I greatly enjoyed my time at Balliol. Being a physics student, the Library work was completely different from anything I'd done before, and I especially enjoyed carrying out the research project. I already planned to move away from physics at least for a while when I started the internship - I am about to apply for a second undergraduate degree in ancient languages - but doing this humanities-oriented research greatly helped me see that moving away from science permanently is certainly an option. I very much enjoyed using primary sources - the fact that I was reading something actually written in the period I was researching was brilliant, and utterly unlike any work I'd previously done. I don't think that I'll look to library work as a career, I am still set on entering academia, but my period there has certainly swayed me towards the humanities.
Working in Oxford, and in a College in particular was a very good experience, and something that I can certainly see myself doing in the future.

Work Projects
I was given a project to carry out during my internship - the Library was considering having its internal space reconfigured to maximise the number or readers that could study in there at once, and for this purpose, they asked me to research the history of the library buildings. This had twofold purpose: that previous layouts and ideas for the Library may be useful in decided how to reconfigure it, and because knowing the relative ages of parts of the library, which walls and doorways are original and which more modern, is useful for knowing what to preserve. I was given full access to the College's historical collections and archives - I made great use of collections of old architectural plans and proceedings of College meetings in the historical Registers. The Librarians were very helpful, aiding me when I needed to find material and pointing me in the right direction several times. Once, when I was struggling to match up an untitled, undated map of the cellars with reality, the
Kamile Vaupsaite

Daily Life
During my six-week internship at Balliol’s Historic Collections Centre in St Cross Church, Holywell, my work hours were from 9 to 5 and I was based at one of the oldest buildings even in Oxford. And a curious one too – it looks like a church, it is a church, and yet it is full of manuscripts, early printed books and modern papers. The reason for this is that Balliol College has leased the previously dilapidated building for 999 years (starting from 2012), with a 50 year notice if they wanted to pull out, and because it is a lease, the building is still a consecrated church with occasional services held in it. The pews have been burnt, but the bells are still in the attic. I had worked here four weeks until my supervisor went on holiday, and then I needed to relocate to the Broad Street site. The setting was less exciting, and the heating caused some troubles too, but otherwise the things remained the same. I was mostly working on my research. But that was not all: alongside my research, I was also able to participate in a number of stimulating visits and talks. I visited the Oxford Conservation Consortium, where I witnessed how old, damaged volumes, paper rolls and sheets were brought back to life through cleaning and repair. I assisted when the Archives were visited by a group of students from Texas University and together with them touched the corners of St Aquinas’s Summa Teologicae. And I learned the dirty little secrets involved in the bookbinding trade during a workshop on the early printed books by Traherne.

Alongside my research, I was also able to participate in a number of stimulating visits and talks.

Work Projects
I undertook one major project: I researched the history of the Balliol Sunday Concerts as seen (but, unfortunately, not heard) from the concert programmes. It might sound less exciting than it was – but you have to know that I actually spent hours and hours before and after work to pursue the subject further. I even spent a few Saturdays, during the summery sunshine, at the Bodleian. So it was, indeed, remarkably interesting. Established in 1885, the Balliol Sunday Concerts were the first secular music concerts in England and they are held in the Balliol Hall even today. To start with, few Saturdays, during the summery sunshine, at the Bodleian. So it was, indeed, remarkably interesting. Established in 1885, the Balliol Sunday Concerts were the first secular music concerts in England and they are held in the Balliol Hall even today. To start with, I had to compile a searchable database of concert programmes. Although the social historian Cyril Ehrlich has remarked that tedious research and counting are a necessary preliminary to useful generalization, my trawl for information was anything but tedious. How could you be bored, when you constantly, but unexpectedly, stumble upon some odd message that addresses the audiences of the late nineteenth century? Such was my time at Balliol – getting onwards with my research, trying to conjure up how these concerts might have been like without having actually heard any of them. I complemented concert programmes with various other primary sources found in the archives and had a delightful reading of the long saga of the music room, the happy-ending story about the mad tuner and the account of the healing of a squealing piano stool – all found among the pages of the Balliol College Musical Society Committee Meeting Minutes. At the end of my internship I handed in an enormously large database file, containing all Sunday Concert programmes that I could locate in the archives (the database will hopefully be used by future researchers, music historians and Balliol College) as well as a 50-page article (with pictures) on the changes in these concerts in their almost 140 year long history. I greatly enjoyed the academic environment provided by the internship and the large degree of autonomy that I was given. The Balliol staff was always there to help and to advise, but they were also very encouraging and open when it came to choosing my research topic.

Lasting Impressions
Having spent four years at Oxford (well, three as one was in Rome), I have never stayed here in summer. But Oxford is lovely when blackberries are ripe, sumptuous lunches are provided by an award-winning chef and the Bodleian remains closed on Sundays. I have never appreciated Oxford as much as I do now, and I would love to stay and live here. There are still many regional walks that I have not explored (this was what my free time was about) and many interesting people that I have not yet talked to. Being in Oxford only in term time, or living in Oxford only with students, you fail to understand – or at least I did, – how wonderful this pie-bald town is, as Jan Morris described it. As to my career goals, I still dream about the job in publishing. The research carried out at Balliol (and the time involved in it) has not put me off, but rather strengthened my interest in working with the written and printed material. What the internship has changed, and for the good, is my habit of not throwing things away. Now any doodles that I make face the recycling bin immediately – God forbid one day they might end up in the archives.
Beijing Normal University
Beijing, China

Oliver Bentley, Penultimate, BA Oriental Studies (Chinese), Pembroke
Lena Garrett, 2nd Year, BA German and Russian, Brasenose College
Nikita Hayward, 2nd Year, BA History, Worcester College
Cynthia Yoon, MSc Migration Studies, Linacre College
Katie Sharkey, MSt Modern Languages, New College
Jennifer Redmond, 2nd Year, MChem, Worcester College
Nicholas Marsh, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Exeter College
Alexandra Kasseri, DPhil Archaeology, St Cross College

Oliver Bentley
Daily Life
Daily life was quite convenient; we had our own dormitories and could access the university’s facilities conveniently on foot. Hours depended on what we were doing; usually we started at nine and finished by five or six, but sometimes later. That said, we had free periods during the day, so the hours were not too taxing. Outside of work we took part in teambuilding activities, like rock climbing and karaoke, as well as trips the students took us on to places in the city. Mostly we socialized with the Chinese students during the day, and met up with international students in the evening.

Work Projects
I undertook a research project with students from Birmingham and Beijing Normal University. The Chinese classmates chose the topic, being an analysis of the business model of a tourist attraction in Zhuhai. The student from Birmingham and I advised them on how to carry it out, how to analyse the data, and the use of English. We did this over two weeks. Beforehand, we had a week of preparatory lectures and workshops on ‘leadership’ and ‘cultural exchange’, one workshop of which we Oxford students delivered.

Lasting Impressions
I have already been to China twice, so my impressions are a little different. I enjoyed working with Chinese students, I had never had that opportunity before, and it was great to get close to people in that way. I am grateful that I got to see how Chinese universities operate since I intend on studying for a masters either in China or Europe.

Lena Garrett
Daily Life
The interns were provided with excellent accommodation and meal costs. We had things to do every day, ranging from lectures, seminars and presentations in the first week to the actual field work and research in the second week. There was time to unwind every day as well. It was a great time to meet new people and make new friends—both with international and Chinese students. Leisure activities included swimming in the campus pool and rock climbing in Zhuhai, and sightseeing and exploring the city in Beijing.

Work Projects
We worked in groups (usually made up of two interns and five students from Beijing Normal University) to carry out a research project. We had two weeks to propose, plan, carry out our research and then present our findings.

Lasting Impressions
Overall this internship is definitely worth doing if you’d like to find out more about China and meet Chinese students, most of whom are really keen to share thoughts and ideas with foreign students, even on ‘sensitive’ topics. I think it would be difficult to live in China on a long-term basis, but the internship has made me realise that China is definitely a place I would like to visit again, and that I would be happy to find a job that enabled me to travel, and perhaps even take me back to China for a while.
Beijing Normal University continued...

Nikita Hayward

Daily Life

Throughout the internship we stayed in accommodation on campus, including what was normally teacher’s accommodation at Zhuhai and a campus hotel in Beijing. For the first week of the internship, we attended lectures in the morning, discussed our research projects with our groups in the afternoon, and then attended workshops organised by each of the participating universities in the evening. However, there was still plenty of time to make use of the Zhuhai campus’ outdoor swimming pool, and to have meals in one of the many canteens and restaurants on site. Occasionally external activities were organised, such as rock climbing, and a trip to the home of the revolutionary leader Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. The second week of the internship was much less timetabled, as each group started independent research, often meeting up with members of other groups in the evenings to socialise. My group chose to start work quite early in the morning and then keep the evenings free, and we even organised our work so that we could take a day trip to Guangzhou (formerly ‘Canton’, home of the Cantonese dialect), which is the provincial capital of Guangdong. The internship was very social as it was orientated towards group work. Even the lectures encouraged questions, and the workshops often contained games and quizzes. Everyone enjoyed meeting up in large groups to go for meals, sometimes in town, and trying new food, which ranged from Korean BBQ style to traditional Dim Sum. I spent a lot of time with my group as well as with the other international students. The students who were local to either Zhuhai or Beijing made sure to show us around the best attractions in the area, even if this involved taking several buses, and even venturing onto the busy Beijing metro! We were lucky to have a welcome party and even a karaoke session (complete with lychee snacks) organised for us, as well as more official outings to museums and the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing.

Work Projects

Each team was made up of students from Beijing Normal University (Zhuhai and Beijing campuses) and then students from the Universities of Oxford, Birmingham and Harvard. Each team had to come up with a research project which would be presented to everyone on the programme in Zhuhai and in Beijing, as well as written up in a report form. We were given a lot of freedom in choosing the topics of our project, although we received feedback on our proposals before we started actual research. My group chose to look at the training of student volunteers on campus, and whether this could be improved. Therefore our research involved interviewing students in person, designing an online survey, reading online resources about volunteering, and even visiting the headquarters of a local volunteering foundation. A lot of time was spent translating research material we had gathered, for example, the interviews from Chinese students, or the journal articles which were in English. However, this was usually just a case of proof-reading work, and occasionally clarifying what different concepts meant, I didn't need any knowledge of Mandarin (though I did gain some by the end of the internship!). The students I was working with had a good knowledge of English, and a lot of the time they just wanted to discuss British culture. During our time on the internship programme we also submitted group reflection reports, based on what we'd learnt as a group, and how we had learnt to work together. Everyone on the programme wrote short individual reflections on some of the lectures and workshops we attended, as well as a short report on ‘cross-cultural communication’. Some of us were asked to give interviews or provide short written answers to questions which Beijing Normal University wanted to use for its own publications, e.g. newsletters.

Lasting Impressions

I had never been to Asia before the internship, but after a month in China I would definitely like to return to Asia, if not China. China is a fascinating country, and the people I encountered there were extremely friendly, keen to improve their English, and interested in the western world. However, due to cultural differences (and obviously, the language barrier!) I don’t see myself living or working in China in the near future, though I am now more engaged with the politics and issues of modern Chinese society, rather than its older history. The experience as a whole has made me consider teaching English as a Foreign Language, or that I might like to work abroad the summer after I graduate, though not necessarily in China.

Top Tips:

1. The culture shock will be overwhelming at first if you’ve never been to China before. The food (the menu as well as the method of eating) doesn’t really resemble Chinese food in the UK. However, make sure you try a variety of dishes, even if only once – you probably won’t see them again when you’re back home.
2. Prepare yourself for a culture which is simultaneously fascinating but quite unfamiliar with foreigners. Especially if you have fair hair and/or skin, people will want to take photos with you, and will genuinely be very interested in your appearance, though they don’t mean any harm!
3. Be open to being taken to random local places by the student that you’re working with. Without them, you’re unlikely to find such authentic restaurants and near-hidden temples.
4. Remember items such as bug spray and sun tan lotion might not be sold locally, but they are essential.
5. Bring a laptop and ethernet cable, so you can access the internet. This will make things much easier when the time comes to type up your project work. (Though there is also a library on campus, which you can use).
Beijing Normal University continued...

Cynthia Yoon

Daily Life
Settling in was a bit daunting due to communication issues. Once I arrived in the campus, I had not been given any information, didn't know where other Oxford interns were, and being without drinking water for the evening/night was a bit difficult. I had expected stipends to be ready once I arrived but they were not available for next few days. I had to resort to borrowing money from the Chinese students. It was wonderful connecting with Chinese students and students from Birmingham and Harvard as well as getting to know fellow Oxford students deeper. The program schedule changed quite often which caused a lot of confusion. It was important that we ‘go with the flow.’ We did many exciting activities outside of the work hours. Aside from the lectures that we had to attend, each team planned its own work schedule. My research team was perhaps the most relaxed one - we worked individually and met together for 10 hrs/week on the project. Instead of overwhelming ourselves with the research project, we focused on learning about each other, exploring different perspectives, and visiting interesting sites.

Work Projects
I was responsible for leading/participating in a research project in a group of 7 on a topic of our interest - the relationship between migration and development in a village island in China. We received grants for the research fieldwork and the Chinese professors offered feedback on our research proposal and the final product.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my time in ZhuHai and Beijing. I could see myself returning to Beijing to live/work. This experience has helped me become more adept at dealing with the bureaucratic/logistical/operational challenges in China.

Top Tips:
1. Go with the flow.
2. Be respectful of and open to different perspectives. Stay aware of your biased perceptions and attitudes.
3. While being respectful, feel comfortable about standing up for yourself.
4. Take time for introspection and reflection. Be sensitive to the historical and cultural contexts in which we interact with each other.
5. Try to branch out of your Oxford group to get to know others.

Katie Sharkey

Daily Life
Daily life generally involved a lecture, a meeting with my research group or an outing with the entire group. I frequently socialised with both the Western and Chinese students, but socialising with the latter was limited to eating as they were very reluctant to venture outside campus in the evening or to drink alcohol. The hours I worked were flexible and varied from nothing at all some days to six hours other days.

Work Projects
The main project I was involved in was a small group research project. We conducted research into aspects of environmental life in Zhuzhai. The projects were quite vague and I got the sense that it was about doing something and showing that we had done it rather than about what exactly we were doing or why. The support we reviewed from the host organisation was good on paper, we were told we could make meetings with supervisors and ask questions, but in reality the instructions we received were complicated and changed frequently. Each university also had to prepare a presentation at the beginning of the internship.

Lasting Impressions
This was my first time in China and I found the country fascinating - it was interesting for me to be in a cultural minority as a Westerner and to see the West from a Chinese perspective as well as to experience China at first hand with Chinese students. I wouldn’t live in China because, although it was very interesting and I would return to travel again, there are other countries which I would prefer to live in and in which I would feel more at home culturally. My career goals and ambitions remain the same.
Beijing Normal University continued...

Anthony Lenihan

Daily Life
As we went in a group of 9 interns who I had got to know briefly before the internship it was very easy to settle in. The Chinese students were incredibly welcoming and friendly. We were working on the university campus and staying in university accommodation and so getting to work was either walking distance or a short ride on the electric cart service. Hours of work varied a lot and were not arduous, I think I probably worked on average only 4 hours a day. Outside of the work there were lots of social activities organized for us with the Chinese students as part of the cultural exchange which meant that our days were still full and busy. These activities were anything from rock climbing to museum visits or just going out for a traditional meal.

Work Projects
The main project we worked on involved working with a team of Chinese students on a research project for which we could choose the title ourselves. The purpose of the project was to work with the students to develop their understanding of the research process and to help them develop vital skills such as presenting and also to increase their confidence and ability to act autonomously. The research area therefore was not so important, our project was on the development of tourism on Qiao island. Aside from this main project we were required to give a workshop to the students on leadership.

Lasting Impressions
The internship taught me a lot about China and Asia in general, which I previously knew embarrassingly little about. I really enjoyed my time there with the students although I don’t think China is a country I would choose to live in the future due to a combination of climate, culture and politics. The trip overall has definitely changed my career views and made me realise that working a long hours job in the city isn’t necessarily what the next step of my career has to be about.

Top Tips
1. Do – expect to be flexible and adaptable with regards to un-planned changes to the programme
2. Do – Try and embrace the food as much as possible, if you just try one new thing each day you will soon find a range of dishes you love, even if chicken feet never become your favourite snack.
3. Do – be patient and remember that cultural and language barriers can make communication with colleagues a challenge.
4. Do – encourage the Chinese students as much as you can

Jennifer Redmond

Daily Life
The first few weeks of the International Youth Leadership Programme were spent in Zhuhai, followed by travelling to Beijing for the final few days. At the start of the programme, our time was concentrated more on lectures and workshops and was slightly more structured and then it was up to us to plan our timetable for completing our projects in our individual groups. The final few days in Beijing were also timetabled, with events such as the closing ceremony and a visit to the National Museum. Throughout the internship, we spent lots of time with the Chinese students, who were extremely friendly and welcoming. We had trips out to a water park, Sun Yat-Sen’s house, the ‘Fisherwoman’ statue in Zhuhai, and a few of us visited Hong Kong for a day. Meals were always really sociable and we ate in the university canteens and a wide variety of restaurants. In the afternoons a group of us sometimes went to the swimming pool on campus before the evening events.

Work Projects
At the start of the internship, the focus was on lectures and workshops. Students from each of the universities taking part in the International Youth Leadership Programme were responsible for preparing workshops on an aspect of leadership of their choice; the Oxford students decided to give a presentation on ‘Virtuous Leadership’ and looked at the importance of various attributes of a leader and followed this with a series of smaller group activities. We enjoyed a variety of lectures: a description of experiences of China and thoughts on leadership by Professor John Holden (Associate Dean of Yenching Academy, Peking University), a talk from Peter Vesterbacka on his company’s creation of the game Angry Birds, and lectures by academics on cross-cultural communication, design and Chinese politics. Following each lecture we were able to ask the lecturer questions, which made the experience more interactive. Following this we worked on our research projects in small groups consisting of 2 international students and 5 Chinese students. We were free to plan our own time in our groups, preparing for our initial presentation on our research proposal and then working towards our final presentation and report. My group chose to research education on climate change; to research this topic we surveyed students, interviewed teachers and looked at online curriculum and news reports. It was very interesting to compare the Chinese curriculum with the UK equivalent. We also had to write short reflections on the workshops, lectures and cross-cultural communication.

Lasting Impressions
It gave me a fascinating insight into the differences between the UK and Chinese education systems as well as the cultural differences. My main lasting impression is how friendly and welcoming all the Chinese students were. If I had the opportunity, I would love to return to China in the future and the experience has confirmed that I would like to work abroad at some point in my career.
Beijing Normal University continued...

Top Tips:
1. Do try and get your Chinese visa sorted as early as possible as I think a few people did get rejected first time. It means less stress if it's sorted out sooner – I went to London in person and it was fine. If you want to go to Hong Kong or Macau for the day while in Zhuhai, get a dual entry VISA.
2. I would take a reasonable amount of money with you – I took £300 which was more than I needed but it meant I had cash left for the rest of my stay in China after the internship. Food is really cheap in China and they did give us money for food (about £350) about a week into the internship, although we did need to remind them so do ask if you don’t get it straight away. Also you need different currency for Hong Kong and Macau.
3. It’s really hot so pack cool clothes. BNU told us to bring some smart clothes, but I wouldn’t bring much as we only wore them a few times and some people didn’t dress particularly smartly and it was fine – I just wore a dress and cardigan (didn’t need a jacket). Bring a swimsuit and swimming hat (you need one to use the pool but could buy them on campus) as the pool is really nice on the Zhuhai campus.
4. If the timing of the programme is the same next year, I would recommend staying in Beijing for an extra few days as we didn’t have a huge amount of time to go sightseeing during the programme. Hotels are really cheap (I shared a room with someone else on the programme) and all the main tourist attractions are too - the Great Wall is definitely good to go to and I really enjoyed the park on the hill overlooking the Forbidden City.

Nicholas Marsh

Daily Life
A standard day during the first week usually involved being at lectures from 8 or 9 until lunch, then local cultural trips on some days, or more lectures on other days until after lunch, before workshops in the evening. In the second and third weeks we were undertaking research projects so the level of contact time drastically decreased. During this time, our hours were far more flexible though we were still required to work roughly 8 hours per day. In Beijing, however, only a minimal amount of work was expected of us as the aim of the time there appeared to be visiting local cultural sites.

Work Projects
We gave a workshop on the second evening that we were there. For this we received no support from the host organisation, however, none was required as we were able to work out what to do. Other than that, work predominantly included supervising and helping out on the students research projects. This involved minimal supervision or direction from the programme leaders.

Lasting Impressions
My overwhelming impression of the internship, and China more generally, was of a naturally stunning country - helped in no small part by the beautiful countryside surrounding Zhuhai. I would certainly return to China in the future as it was a culturally fascinating place to visit.
Alexandra Kasseri

Daily Life
Foreign students welcomed us and they were extremely hospitable to the entire team of foreign students. There were several activities which allowed foreign and Chinese students to socialise.

Work Projects
The work projects were interesting and there was a nice sense of team work developing between foreign and local students. However, the topics of the undertaken projects were different to what the internship positions were advertised as, which was the development of leadership skills.

Lasting Impressions
This internship made me realise the differences between East and the West. Nonetheless, there were parts that I enjoyed a lot and for this I would certainly give the experience another opportunity, under certain circumstances. The programme required a lot of flexibility on the part of the foreign participants.
BIME (We Are Cloud)  
Montpellier, France  
Adrian David, Finalist, MMath, Mansfield College

Daily Life  
Montpellier being a small town, every morning I had a 15-20 minute walk from my apartment in the old town to BIME’s office which was in the town centre. Working hours were 9am – 6pm with 1.5 hours for lunch, but this schedule was generally quite flexible. BIME is a young, international company, so out of work I socialised with a group of other employees (many of them who were also interns, or started recently and were on probation periods) with nationalities ranging from Mexican to Slovakian. I also spent time with my flatmates, who were spending the summer in Montpellier on language courses, and their classmates, again a widely international bunch.

Work Projects  
The main task of the internship was to work with the sales and marketing teams to develop an online portal for BIME’s partners as a global, and comprehensive resource to help partners best manage their, and their clients’ relationship with BIME. This involved the development of the IT infrastructure supporting the portal, done in such a way to facilitate the administration of the portal by non-tech employees, and gathering and editing the relevant documentation and resources required by partners. However, as this was completed before the end of the internship, and BIME being a small company, I was assigned other tasks, on an almost ad-hoc basis, depending on my skills, interest and BIME’s need. So, I helped the development team with product checking the new version BIME v6, at the time in beta phase, by reporting bugs, comments and suggestions. I also built data visualisation dashboards that were included in showcase of the new version. Throughout all these tasks I’ve been helped and supported by BIME’s employees, ranging from HR, my direct supervisor through to CEO and CTO.

Lasting Impressions  
Montpellier and the south of France are, as expected, great places to live and work, and I am definitely considering that a place to go back to in the (near) future.
Daily Life
I usually get into the office at around 10 and leave at 6, and this is roughly the time schedule that everyone follows. This is flexible however, and I was told that I could do whatever suited me best, as long as I produced good work. I live a couple of miles out and make my commute by either the (very crowded!) bus or rickshaw. Quite a lot of the lab staff are around my age and I’ve really enjoyed spending time with them outside of work. The apartment complex where I’m living was designed as nice, clean, comfortable accommodation for young professionals working in the IT sector, and it has been really easy to meet people and build up a group of friends while I’ve been staying here. Most weekends I’ve found time to go and explore the city and I’ve been given a couple of weeks’ holiday, in which I’ll be taking a ‘grand tour’ of India.

Work Projects
I’m currently working on a novel method for the identification of genetic diseases from raw DNA sequencing data, which does not require assembly of the reads. The method appears to be working well so far, and it is very computationally efficient compared with similar existing methods. The project has had quite a focus on the mathematics of the problem, and most of my time has been spent developing the underlying mathematical ideas and producing the relevant software. This is due to my background and leanings, as I have been given a great deal of autonomy over my work and have chosen to take this approach to the problem. Although my work has been very independent, I have had regular contact with my supervisor, and he has aided me in the development of my ideas, while actively contributing ideas of his own. Everyone in the lab is working on their own assignments, but I have found that there has been a lot of time to discuss each other’s work, resulting in improvements to all our projects.

I’ve greatly improved my research and coding skills, while enriching my understanding of certain areas of Computational Biology.

Lasting Impressions
Working in India has been a big shock to the system but also a really enjoyable experience. I feel like I’ve learned some valuable cultural lessons and I now have a far greater understanding of this increasingly important part of the world. I’m very happy with how my work has gone so far. I’ve greatly improved my research and coding skills, while enriching my understanding of certain areas of Computational Biology, and the experience has certainly confirmed my ambitions to go into this line of work.
**Daily Life**

I had a room in student accommodation in Selly Oak. The room was good value for what it was, but it definitely made me realise how pampered we are in Oxford by Scouts helping to keep the place clean! I got a train in to New Street every morning then had about a 15 minute walk to the office. As we had glorious sunshine for the majority of my time there this was quite enjoyable. I filled most of my weekends by either having friends and family to visit me in Birmingham or going away for the weekend.

**Work Projects**

The purpose of my placement was to revamp all of Birmingham Mind's publicity materials. To do this I visited most of their services, including five care homes across Birmingham and a day centre in the north of the city. As I didn't know Birmingham at all before, this was quite daunting! But I was given advice for how best to get everywhere, and at all of the services I visited the staff were lovely and massively helpful. Over my time there I produced around 30 leaflets, booklets and posters, with various staff members helping me along the way.

**Lasting Impressions**

Working in Birmingham has definitely changed my view of the city. I think most people who haven't spent much time there have quite a negative view of the city, but I found that there are actually many different fun and exciting parts of the city which I enjoyed taking friends and family to. I would actually be happy to return to work in Birmingham, and Birmingham Mind in particular. My view of New Street station hasn't changed though - I still think it's a massively confusing station! This internship has confirmed my aim to work in the charity sector. I found the general ethos of the office great, as everyone was completely focused on helping their service users instead of only wanting to save money. It was just a nice atmosphere to work in, and I hope I find somewhere similar after I've graduated.
Daily Life
Given the nature of my work (a single project piece) there was not a great deal of interaction with other members of staff except my supervisors, with whom I went to a very enjoyable dinner on one occasion. My hours were normally about 9:30am to 5pm, but they were never concrete. The majority of my time was spent in the archives, but due to disruption to schedules from the planning process of a new exhibition, I spent a good deal of time working in the offices – on a table outside the main office due to a lack of working space within the office itself.

Work Projects
I went through the Estates ledgers of the Dukes of Marlborough from the 7th onwards, for the period of 1860–1901. From the entries in the ledgers I extracted the employment dates, the pay, location of habitation, the names and positions of the various waged palace staff of the period. I entered these into a database to be consulted by the Blenheim Palace staff and by interested external parties. These efforts were an attempt to reduce the extra workload imposed on the Palace’s Education department by the large number of requests for archival information on people’s ancestors that the department doesn’t have the manpower to manually handle.

Lasting Impressions
It has perhaps lessened my desire to work in heritage in some ways, certainly I found the work somewhat repetitive, but I feel that may not be indicative of the actual experience of working in heritage as a full employee, so I will reserve judgement. This has mainly been an educational experience for me – it has not radically altered the few plans I had, but it has allowed me to make more educated decisions.
Daily Life
My daily hours were flexible; I normally started at 9:30am and worked until 5:30pm. The commute to work was walkable, but when the weather was inclement, there was the option of the Bodleian shuttle bus. I mostly worked independently, sometimes within an office environment, sometimes alone. The team I was in was very sociable and spent breaks together. Out of work, I was able to maintain my normal social life with my non-work friends.

Work Projects
I was involved with digitisation of audio cassette tapes; preservation of photographic material; research; and transcription of important audio material. The team that I worked in provided comprehensive training and support when I was carrying out these tasks.

Lasting Impressions
I very much enjoyed my internship and feel that it gave me a very helpful insight into the possible career track of archival work.
In addition I also accompanied another researcher to sit in on some and then a couple of weeks transcribing interviews, thematically. I spent about four weeks planning the research and carrying it out, and that use was so practically beneficial and exciting. The approaches I’d been learning about in lectures and readings, the course, for up to an hour each. It was so cool to put to use some observation. In total I interviewed around twenty people involved in semi-structured interviews, internet surveys, and participant observation. The methods I used to explore some of these questions included interviewing she was doing with vulnerable families in the North West. This was probably the best day of the entire internship. I learned so much from watching how she interacted with interviewees in difficult situations, and was reflexive to their needs.

**Daily Life**
I stayed on site in the grounds of an old manor house by Lake Windermere which was completely stunning! The offices are also located on site, so I was able to walk to work and back very easily. I worked roughly 9–5 every day, though I was quite independent in deciding how long to work for or which hours to do, which I really valued. I could take a couple of hours off in the middle of the day if the weather was beautiful, and go for a walk (this was actually encouraged!), and I was trusted to make up for the time during the evenings. There were other young people also staying on site for the summer and working, often in their early twenties. Though no others were working in the research hub like me, it was really nice to have this community around, since Brathay is located about twenty minutes walk from the nearest town (Ambleside). I also lived with a couple of others in a bungalow on site by the end of my stay, which was really nice.

Other than working, there is so much you can do in the Lake District! Outdoor activities are absolutely huge, and almost everyone will cycle/run/climb ridiculous distances each day. I didn’t have a bike, but I did a lot of walking, running and swimming in the lakes. It was also fantastic to visit places like Dove Cottage, the home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth, which is only a couple of miles away.

**Work Projects**
I carried out a qualitative research project into the impact of a leadership programme that is run in partnership between Brathay Trust, the University of Cumbria and Common Purpose Mentoring. The course was called the ‘Aspiring Leaders Programme’, and is a pioneering leadership development programme for young people living in Cumbria. The programme is targeted at people who may not have had much experience in formal education before (perhaps they left school after their GCSEs), yet who are bringing about positive change in their communities, for example through community projects or charity work. This video gives a brilliant overview of the programme’s content and ethos, and explains it better than I could do in words.

I was assessing the extent to which the individuals involved on the programme have been impacted by their participation, as well as looking at the impact that their involvement has had upon their organisations and communities. Perhaps unexpectedly, Cumbria has high levels of deprivation, and the majority of participants had come from communities with low levels of aspiration and high levels of apathy. It was particularly interesting to see the impact of such highly motivated participants returning to their communities and attempting to make positive change within them, perhaps through inspiring others to aim higher, or setting up projects to target specific issues within their communities.

The methods I used to explore some of these questions included semi-structured interviews, internet surveys, and participant observation. In total I interviewed around twenty people involved in the course, for up to an hour each. It was so cool to put to use some of the approaches I’d been learning about in lectures and readings, and that that use was so practically beneficial and exciting.

I spent about four weeks planning the research and carrying it out, and then a couple of weeks transcribing interviews, thematically analysing the transcripts, and writing up a report.

In addition I also accompanied another researcher to sit in on some interviews she was doing with vulnerable families in the North West. This was probably the best day of the entire internship. I learned so much from watching how she interacted with interviewees in difficult situations, and was reflexive to their needs.

**Lasting Impressions**
This internship has opened my eyes in a massive way to what it really means to live in a deprived community, and what terms such as ‘low aspiration culture’ really mean. I thought I understood this, but I now know how much I really don’t know, which has been very humbling.

I feel far more confident about choosing a dissertation topic, and in fact, I’m really excited about the prospect, because the research I did this summer was so rewarding. I’m considering research as a future career, particularly research in a non-academic context – the research I did seemed to have a real practical application, which I sometimes feel is missing within more academic research contexts.

The people at Brathay are so welcoming and accepting, it’s really a lovely place to be. I felt very cared for during my time there.

In terms of personal impact, I can see how I am far more self-assured than I was before the internship. I think I’m more assertive – in a good way, I hope! I have more confidence in my ability to make myself a home in unfamiliar places. I feel able to interact with a range of people of different ages and backgrounds to my own. And I feel confident in my ability to carry out a large piece of work.

All in all I had a brilliant time – it was really the perfect internship for me in terms of its flexibility, the fact that it was away from home but still in the UK, and in the lovely people that I worked with. I hope to go back very soon!
Flora Harris

Daily Life
I was placed with one other girl and we shared an apartment together. School started at 8am and finished at 4 but I only had scheduled classes for about 16 hours a week. The rest of the time I would work on particular English projects they set me or could have free time in the office I shared with 3 other teachers. At the weekends we travelled around Phuket and we were also given 2 long weekends off in which we travelled a little more round Thailand. I found I had a good balance between teaching and travelling.

Work Projects
I worked as an English Teaching Assistant in a vocational college in Phuket, Thailand. My day to day job was to teach or assist in teaching lessons and to engage students in English.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed living in Thailand and would love to go back. It’s confirmed to me that I would like to work abroad in the future and also that teaching is something I enjoy. I got to experience a lot that you would never see as a tourist e.g. one of the teachers invited me to her wedding.

Amrita Ahmed

Daily Life
I walked to work, worked a full school day including free periods, met up with other teachers after school and spent time with my partner teacher.

Work Projects
I was involved in English Camp, teaching lessons, marking students work and correcting exam papers.

Lasting Impressions
I absolutely love Thailand, and would definitely return. I am grateful for the experience but I know teaching will only be a temporary career goal.
**Mary Maschio**

**Daily Life**
I lived with a host family and travelled to school with them every day, and worked from 8am till 3.30pm Mondays to Fridays. The school organised a trip for the interns to the Taj Mahal and a weekend of community service in Delhi.

**Work Projects**
I was involved in teaching several classes for International Baccalaureate and IGCSE French and English, as well as helping with university applications including personal statements and university choice. I also helped run student organisations such as student council and the student paper.

**Lasting Impressions**
I really enjoyed myself and felt like I got to know a lot more about India, it’s definitely somewhere I’d want to go back to.

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**Edmund Moss**

**Daily Life**
I got up early to get into school, usually was involved in 5 or 6 lessons a day, but all my free periods were spent lesson planning. After school I would either go home with my host family, or go out into Delhi with the other interns for some sightseeing.

**Work Projects**
At first I worked as an assistant in the lessons, then after a week was planning and taking the lessons myself. I worked with sixth form students as well as some GCSE students.

**Lasting Impressions**
The experience has been really good fun, and a great way to experience India. All the host families were really nice.
Broughton Castle
Oxfordshire, UK
Lilah Howson, 1st Year, BA History, St Hugh’s College

Daily Life
I was based at Broughton Castle for about ten days collecting the information required to catalogue items. I then wrote up my findings from home, subsequently writing the blog post from home as well. When I was at Broughton I worked from 9.30am until 5.30pm. The Fiennes family, who own Broughton Castle, were extremely welcoming and I had meals with them when I was there. They were helpful in indicating the documents which were of most interest and answering any questions.

Work Projects
I catalogued all material at Broughton Castle connected to the De Bunsen family, indicating items of particular historical relevance, especially those which were relevant to the WW1 centenary. I wrote a blog post recording my experience for the Oxford WW1 centenary website.

Lasting Impressions
It has made me consider more seriously a career in research. Broughton was an incredible place to work, and I enjoyed working by myself and setting my own targets which I was able to do there.

CERN, Oxford University Physics Department
Geneva, Switzerland
Joseph Taylor, Penultimate, MPhys, Hertford College
Alexandra Rollings, Penultimate, MPhys, Christ Church College

Joseph Taylor
Daily Life
The hostel I stayed at was actually within the CERN site. It was a little weird living and working within the same compound but it meant that getting to work was easy. For the first six weeks there were three lectures on particle physics every morning starting at 9.15, these ranged from incredible to rather poor. Three lectures a day is perhaps a bit too much information to absorb, but it was nice to attend lectures for the pleasure of learning without that niggling feeling of having an exam at the end of it all. The lecture theatre I recognised as famously it was where the Higgs Boson discovery was announced. Before heading to the office for the afternoon I would enjoy a nice lunch in the CERN cafeteria overlooking Swiss vineyards. Most of the work I did was on my computer in the office, but occasionally I would go over to the accelerator itself to do small bits of hardware. As I was part of a summer student programme of around 250 people from all over the world, there were a lot of people to get to know and lots of things to do when not working. It reminded me of freshers’ week as there were lots of young people in a new foreign place who were really excited to be there.

Work Projects
Within CERN I was working on an experiment called CTF3. This is a prototype for a new particle accelerator called CLIC which is one of the proposed machines to replace the Large Hadron Collider. The Large Hadron Collider smashes protons together in a 27km long circular ring. CLIC will smash electrons and positrons (anti-electrons) together in the middle of a 50km long straight line. This will...
allow much higher precision particle physics measurements. CLIC is unique in that it will use another beam of electrons called the drive beam to power the accelerator. In the prototype it was this drive beam that I was working on, looking at the stability of the beam. The Oxford physics course doesn’t put much emphasis on the experimental side of physics, so this internship was very different to anything I had done before. It meant I learnt a lot, especially with using computers in science.

**Lasting Impressions**

I had already been playing around with the idea of applying for a PhD this year, but coming to CERN and working alongside real physicists has assured me this is what I want to do. CERN was a great place to work: the work going on within its walls is absolutely ground breaking, yet there is such a relaxed atmosphere. I enjoyed living in Switzerland, although there was something refreshing about getting back to England, it makes me think that although I am English living in Switzerland, although there was something refreshing about the French town where I did my shopping very easy.

Geneva, and spent the evening there. CERN bikes that were available for a 2 minute walk from where I was staying and my office was just 5 minutes away. My evenings were spent cooking and relaxing. Often we took a picnic to Bains des Paquis, a small walkway onto Lake Parades and the Fete de Geneve, which you could eat at the CERN canteen (which was fairly cheap for Geneva but still expensive!) or cook in the hostel (which was what my group of friends and I tended to do). In the afternoon I would go to the office and work, from 1.30–5.30 pm but there were no strict working hours, as long as you kept up with the work nobody minded what time you came and went. I was also offered numerous coffee breaks with colleagues working at CTF3, who were all very welcoming. For the final 3 weeks, after the lecture series ended, I went to work in my office for the entire working day, and this is when I made the most progress in my project as it was given my full attention. Another bonus was the fact that as I lived on site, lectures were only a 2 minute walk from where I was staying and my office was just 5 minutes away. My evenings were spent cooking and relaxing. Often we took a picnic to Bains des Paquis, a small walkway onto Lake Geneva, and spent the evening there. CERN bikes that were available to rent cheaply made transport to and from Geneva/St Genis (the nearest French town where we did our shopping) very easy.

Also there was a lot going on in Geneva over the summer, from open-air cinemas to Lake Parades and the Fete de Geneve, which runs for 2 weeks in August with a finale of the biggest fireworks display in Europe! On the weekends we took advantage of being in central Europe and travelled to the surrounding countries. I was lucky enough to make friends with a fantastic group of people, a few of which had access to cars, so we went on a number of road trips. The highlights of these were going to Freiburg, Germany, for the football world cup final; a weekend trip to Milan; a night at Montreux jazz festival; and a weekend camping in the Swiss Alps in Interlaken.

**Alexandra Rollings**

**Daily Life**

The internship ran alongside the CERN summer school, therefore I lived at the CERN hostel with around 200 other students from all over the world. Our working hours were 9.00–12.00 Monday to Friday, with evenings and weekends free for us to do as we wished. A lecture series ran for the first 6 weeks and I attended 3 lectures every morning, from 9.00–12.00. These covered all aspects of the work that takes place at CERN, from complex string theory to practical trigger systems, so there really was something for everyone as the audience was a mixture of engineers, computer scientists and physicists. After lectures it was lunch, which you could eat at the CERN canteen (which was fairly cheap for Geneva but still expensive!) or cook in the hostel (which was what my group of friends and I tended to do). In the afternoon I would go to the office and work, from 1.30–5.30 pm but there were no strict working hours, as long as you kept up with the work nobody minded what time you came and went. I was also offered numerous coffee breaks with colleagues working at CTF3, who were all very welcoming. For the final 3 weeks, after the lecture series ended, I went to work in my office for the entire working day, and this is when I made the most progress in my project as it was given my full attention. Another bonus was the fact that as I lived on site, lectures were only a 2 minute walk from where I was staying and my office was just 5 minutes away. My evenings were spent cooking and relaxing. Often we took a picnic to Bains des Paquis, a small walkway onto Lake Geneva, and spent the evening there. CERN bikes that were available to rent cheaply made transport to and from Geneva/St Genis (the nearest French town where we did our shopping) very easy.

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**Work Projects**

During the 9 weeks I spent at CERN I worked within the CTF3 group. This is the third testing facility for the Compact Linear Collider (CLIC), which is a proposed 100 km long electron-positron collider and is one of the potential future developments at CERN. With a nominal energy of 3 TeV this lepton collider would allow particle physicists to study particle collisions at incredibly high energies, with a precision that is unavailable using present accelerator technologies. During Trinity term of my third year I took the accelerators short option in order to provide me with the relevant background to take on the internship, but prior to this summer I had very little experience in computer programming, having only completed a few practicals in C. My first few weeks were therefore focused on learning how to simulate a particle beam travelling down an accelerating line using MadX from the computer Terminal and learning how to program in Matlab. MadX is the programme used at CERN to model its accelerators. Once I felt more confident with this I was given a choice of projects, as I would be working alongside a PhD student at CERN. I chose to write a tomography algorithm for a particle beam in transverse phase-space (position/momentum space). The aim of this was to re-generate the particle distribution at the start of the beam line when looking at the distribution at the end, which can in practice be measured with a beam profile monitor. I succeeded in writing a tomography algorithm for a particle beam in phase space using a Matlab/MadX interface and I found the work challenging but very enjoyable. The PhD student with whom I was working was incredibly supportive and was always available if I needed further direction. Frequently we worked on aspects of the project together as the topic was new to him as well.

**Lasting Impressions**

Over my time working at CTF3 my programming skills have greatly improved, alongside my knowledge of accelerators, but most importantly I have received an insight into the job of an Accelerator Physicist. The Physics course at Oxford gives its students a strong theoretical background but doesn’t explore the experimental side of the subject as much. For this reason, this opportunity has been invaluable to me, as I thoroughly enjoyed everything that I learnt over the summer and it was incredibly satisfying to be able to apply the problem solving skills that my degree has taught me to practical situations. Switzerland is a beautiful place to stay and the people I met really made the weeks I spent at CERN some of the best that I have ever had. It was an invaluable experience to meet like-minded people from all over the world and I have definitely made some friends for life. The whole experience has confirmed my ambition to take on a PhD after my MPhys and I would strongly recommend it to any Physicist/Engineer interested in a career in Accelerators.
Intan Natasha Putri

Daily Life
I settled in quite well since I rented accommodation from a family that were very helpful during my stay. I went to work using the very convenient public transport and worked from 9 AM until 5.30 PM. I also socialised with the other interns and staff of the host organisation after office hours.

Work Projects
I was assisting the host organisation in drafting a policy paper on enhancing Economic Citizenship Education in Indonesia. I was also involved in giving ideas for their social media strategy and Global Money Week event.

Lasting Impressions
This internship has opened my mind on another aspect of financial inclusion: child and youth economic citizenship education. I am keen on researching and specialising in this topic for my future endeavours.

Laure-Anais Zultak

Daily Life
The internship working hours were 9 to 5.30 with an hour long lunch break. Like most people in Amsterdam I cycled to work, it took me about 15 minutes from the room I rented. We would have office lunches three times a week, otherwise either bring your own meal or go to nearby shops. The staff were very sociable, and we went for drinks together on Friday nights several times. Everybody spoke very good English and were very friendly.

Work Projects
The main project I worked on was the development of an index that would measure Youth economic citizenship. I joined the project at its’ start and took part in it until the first draft of a white paper. The development of this index involved researching related existing indexes, selecting relevant indicators, then finding academic research justifying the choice of every indicator.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed working in Amsterdam, I would like to come back to work in the Netherlands or the neighbouring countries. The internship also helped me to confirm my goal to work in NGOs or a similar inspiring, vibrant environment in the future.

The staff were very sociable, and we went for drinks together on Friday nights.
Halima Ahmad

Daily Life

Cleanup UK is a small charity with no offices, so the majority of our work was conducted from home. This meant having to be very disciplined and ensuring that our working hours were fulfilled. The other intern and I initially stuck with desk research but in the later weeks of the internship the priority became organising interviews and meetings with various groups and organisations. Often this involved having to commute to unfamiliar areas in London and meet with people. This was enjoyable because, although I live in London, it made me explore many different areas.

Work Projects

We conducted a research project on the attitudes of different faith communities towards litter-picking, and more widely attitudes to the environment and general social action. In order to conduct this research we had to do a combination of desk research and face to face interviews with as many representatives/individuals of faith communities as possible. We also conducted a research discussion group with recent refugees and migrants to the UK.

Lasting Impressions

This internship was very enjoyable as it made me discover so much about London and the demographics and diversity of this city. I am surprised that I got so much out of an internship that was this ‘close to home’, but the people I met and conversations I had have really stuck with me. It has made me appreciate the importance of local communities and how community has different meanings to different people. It has spurred my existing interest in research.

Grace Maher

Daily Life

The work was hugely varied, and was a mix of office work and meetings. Working hours were totally flexible and depended on what meetings and interviews I had booked in for the day.

Work Projects

I undertook a research project which involved desk research, face to face interviews, telephone interviews, and regular meetings with the host organisation. Cleanup UK provided myself and my fellow intern with some contacts, and some suggested reading material, but most of the internship was done under our own initiative.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed the internship and feel satisfied with the report we have produced and the way we have tried to tackle the problems faced by the charity. I have always lived in London, where the internship was based, however the internship gave me an insight into communities which I wouldn’t have normally entered e.g. mosques, gurdwaras, refugee centres etc.
Daily Life
The area was beautiful and there was lovely countryside. I found my own accommodation which was on a camel farm so I was really entrenched in the countryside. I got to work by car and always had a coffee on arrival. I got in quite early, at around 8.00 am so that I could have a head start and collect my thoughts for the day. This meant I could familiarise myself with the various tasks involved and prepare what questions I needed to ask so that I didn’t pester my supervisors throughout the day, but grabbed their attention for one moment rather than many. I also asked questions about the work and tried to listen in on any other items or events that were happening in the department. This meant that I kept myself in the loop so I could help out where necessary and made myself more useful. I didn’t have lunch with my colleagues to begin with as I was a little nervous, but I did towards the end. I was mainly keen to keep working as I found that rewarding and I have a good work ethic anyway. I worked a seven hour day and mainly focused on my own projects. Outside of work hours I did a little bit of socialising with colleagues but mostly I had the evenings to myself. This is not to say that I didn’t get on with the people in my department. We had a lot of giggles and fun so there was both work and play.

Work Projects
I researched housing requirements in the area, organisations that could give us grants for various projects, and the archive of the family who previously owned the estate. I visited Stratford-Upon-Avon to see the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust archive which had some accounts for the estate along with various maps, photos and other documents. I took photos of each of the pertinent entries. I also wrote a large proportion of the business plan for the Stage Two HLF application. This involved research into the marketing statistics and local competition to try and ascertain their business strategy and target audience. I also compiled an excel spreadsheets of all the potential trusts and foundations who could give us money for various outreach programmes related to the stage two application.

I was supported by the host organisation through weekly meetings with my managers. This was to recap any projects that they wanted to follow up and also to go over what I required to finish the projects that I was working on. The organisation as a whole was friendly and positive. They allowed me to be responsible and take on serious tasks which required an element of trust. The gallery was set in beautiful parkland and it was a joy to walk up the drive and see the big lake and building emerge round the corner as Capability Brown intended.

Lasting Impressions
I would have loved to have stayed on. It has made me think about working in the arts but also showed how difficult it is to make money as a charity in the arts. I did think about looking for work in the area however I needed to return home and to find work near my home for various reasons. I will remember the internship with fond memories. My colleagues laid out cake and coffee for everyone to mark my leaving which was really kind, they also gave me presents. I will stay in touch with the people in my department and hopefully I may return there to work one day. The area was beautiful and there was lovely countryside. My career goals have actually become less clearly defined but that is due to the job market and how few there are around. Hopefully with time I will be able to think more carefully about what it is I want to do next.
Maria Pikoula

Daily Life
Since I’ve been to India before, this helped me settle into life in Delhi- as it is quite an experience coming from Europe. My workplace was close to a central metro line, which helped a lot to facilitate my everyday transportation routine (buses are not the best option, and driving for a newcomer would be quite dangerous). My co-workers were very friendly, helpful and inclusive. Hours at work were often long but arrival/leaving time was flexible and negotiable.

Work Projects
The project I was involved in was on energy security, specifically in the electricity generation sector. It was in collaboration with the University of East Anglia Business School. The support I received from CEEW was excellent. My mentor was extremely competent and professional, helping me focus on the key aspects of the data analysis and the report writing.

Lasting Impressions
I am very glad I took this opportunity. So far it is all going very well, India is an extremely interesting and diverse country and I am looking forward to spending the remaining 6 weeks here. I believe this internship will help my future career prospects.

Louis Chambers

Daily Life
The work environment is friendly, focused, fun, technical and hard working. I felt welcomed from the moment I arrived. Interns are common at CEEW – although it never felt like there were too many of us and my friends and I felt well supervised during our time there. We would sit down for lunch together every day and people would often bring snacks to share with the office. I worked 8 1/2 hours per day on average. I did choose to stay late sometimes but the work was stimulating and it was up to us how we managed the projects that we had been given. The work environment is rigorous but I did not feel pressured to work long hours or to conform to a particular approach to work. We had some nice times together as an office, and I also lived with another intern working in human rights law in Delhi. This gave me a chance to meet people outside of the office. I spent most of my time outside of work eating, visiting friends (some of whom had also studied in Oxford), and checking out Delhi’s various quirky corners.

Work Projects
My project at CEEW involved a market profile of financing of decentralised clean energy in India, with a focus on solar home systems and solar micro-grids. I worked closely with a supervisor to develop the research approach and then to execute it using contacts shared with me by the organisation and some which I found myself. I spoke with financial institutions, investors, entrepreneurs, and other research institutions to gain an understanding of the risks faced by the clean energy sector and how these might be mitigated to support access to finance. I had an opportunity to workshop my ideas with others at CEEW and to build upon the work the organisation had already done.

Lasting Impressions
I had already travelled through India as a tourist, but living there showed me a different side of the country. I saw how many smart, engaged people there are. Although I only scratched the surface, I was given a glimpse into the endless depths of Indian culture. Living in Delhi as a relatively wealthy, secure student, I had to confront the incredible inequality of a city where thousands of people sleep on the streets every night and a country where less than 5% of the population own a car. I fell in love with India and I felt lucky to have experienced the warmth and hospitality of the people. I am considering living or returning to work here, although if I did I would want to be able to stay for a long period of time so that I could really come to call India home. It has confirmed the importance of thorough research. It has also challenged how I think about sustainable development. I now understand why Indians are hesitant to restrict growth for environmental goals but I also see the huge opportunities in the country for renewable energy generation and low-carbon development. I feel less pessimistic about environmental impact of the rise of countries like India and more optimistic about the innovation India is unleashing. It also gave me space away from Oxford to think more deeply about my future. The answers are still taking shape but I valued the opportunity.
Daily Life
CPRE was an absolutely lovely place to work, and was unlike any organisation I had worked in before. I felt part of a small and friendly team – on my first day I was immediately introduced to everyone and taken for a welcome lunch as is the tradition for new permanent employees. I especially enjoyed the office afternoon tea parties every Wednesday, where everyone stopped work and came together to enjoy the baking that people had brought in! These occasions also allowed me to get to know my colleagues, many of whom were only a few years older than me, and were very friendly. I was never treated as ‘just the intern’, as I have felt in previous work experience placements, and felt like I was doing useful work. As I was commuting from Kent, I appreciated that CPRE were flexible about my hours, allowing me to get the cheaper off-peak train in the morning. I was not expected to work late, and was always encouraged to take a full hour’s lunch break - generally I worked 10.15 - 5.30. They also allowed me time off to go to a job interview, which was important because I ended up getting the position! I was pleased that they asked me to extend my internship, and was sad not to be able to accept because I had been offered a new job!

Work Projects
Although I started with no knowledge of press and communications work, CPRE immediately made me feel welcome and gave me plenty of things to do. My supervisor, the Press Officer, was especially good at giving me mini-lessons in key aspects of his role, which enabled me to take the lead on some tasks. Straight away I was involved in drafting press releases, monitoring media coverage, responding to press enquiries and compiling briefings. I was invited to lots of meetings with members of the policy team, which allowed me to see how the role of the communications team is linked to all sections of the charity. I learned a lot, not only about press, but also about the issues that CPRE campaigns for, and enjoyed communicating the more technical aspects of their work in my press tasks.

Lasting Impressions
I entered into the internship not knowing what to expect - I had never worked in this field before, and thought I wanted to pursue a different career path. But, my experience at CPRE taught me a range of important skills and gave me great experience, both of which have made me want to pursue a career in press and communications. I especially enjoyed learning about how press/communications fits into the organisation of a charity, and this is something that I would like to explore in the future. I have since been offered a similar role at a different organisation, and without my internship at CPRE I do not think I would have got the job. I have learnt a lot about myself and my skills, which has enabled me to apply more realistically for jobs, and has given me a confidence boost after a series of rejections from jobs in other fields.
Karen Meadows

Daily Life
I rented accommodation in Ealing Broadway for the first 8 weeks, so I could walk to work each morning (approx 10 mins). This was really nice and meant that I could easily get involved in the sports teams after work. I worked 9am-5:30 every day for the duration of the 10 week internship, with the exception of a few days in the last week where I stayed until 7pm. Day-to-day I was writing computer code in SAS, SQL and R to sort, filter and manipulate Tesco transactional data in order to get results. I also worked a lot with powerpoint and excel, especially in preparation for weekly meetings with managers and the rest of the team. I had a lot of opportunities to present my work and interact with senior members of the company. I socialised with the other interns, people from the softball team I joined, the recent graduates, and the science team. For the final 2 weeks of the internship I commuted from home (approx 1.5 hrs) due to issues with the house I was renting.

Work Projects
During my internship I worked on a project in the Tesco Market Solutions team, specifically with the Science Team. The other two interns, myself and about 4 others worked on a project to predict a range of future trends in Tesco and where within each trend brands and suppliers could expand in order to exploit the trend. I worked on producing a Flavour categorisation for products and customers in order to create a prediction of future trending flavours.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed the culture and atmosphere of the company, everyone was extremely friendly and helpful. The work myself and the other interns were given was valuable to the company and carried real responsibility. This made the internship interesting and our work worthwhile!

Mengshu He

Daily Life
I got to work by bus, which stops exactly at the entrance of the company’s office. I started work at 9, and during the day was doing research or coding in SAS/SQL, getting regular meetings with our science team (weekly/monthly), having frequent catch-up with supervisors. After work, I went to bars with team members.

Work Projects
I researched over 100 creditable papers and innovative business models, documented them and updated the whole team of 15 people with my results every week. I summarized the research using digital and physical mind mapping tools with external data, to find distinctive sub-trends for future hot trends. I created distinctive approaches to validate the importance of the trends, using internal capabilities such as the data for product transactions. I developed an automatic and efficient methodology in SAS, to search for a list of products according to flexible requirements. This methodology was launched with a user guide as an APP component on the company website, accessible for all employees.

Lasting Impressions
A very warm and friendly atmosphere meant I would like to return to work there. It has helped me to learn a new skill for future job applications: analysis of large data sets.
Daily Life
I couldn’t really say that I had a typical day or even a coherent picture of my ‘daily life’ as this internship was fast paced and required me to be spontaneous and always adaptable. I was made to feel extremely welcome by everyone I met, and was always well looked after - and fed fantastically! As for the structure of my daily work, this varied enormously. When based in Bangalore I lived in a hotel near to the office and came in for office hours every day. When on the road I moved from place to place, usually staying in a hotel close to the third party agent whom I was spending time with. This work usually involved making field visits, collecting data, getting to grips with the cotton production process, and even visiting conferences. Out of work I socialised with people I worked with, people I’d met along the way, and my friends who were travelling in India at the same time.

Work Projects
I was given the task of analysing ECOM’s Indian cotton supply chain for bottlenecks, and suggesting tailored solutions and improvements. This required me to travel independently around India, visiting third party value chain partners and collecting evidence to support my recommendations. This travel period lasted for 5 weeks and I spent the remaining 2 weeks at HQ in Bangalore. In completing this project I was required to be adaptable, analytical and very organised. ECOM allowed me to put forward my own ideas and placed an enormous amount of faith in my abilities to add value to their business. In addition to this project I was given training in diverse business areas from accounting and trading to operations and logistics management. On a number of days I was also asked to contribute to the development of business plans and strategic decisions, from designing a new domestic revenue stream to helping present ECOM’s import strategy for the new season.

Lasting Impressions
I have three lasting impressions of my time with ECOM in India. Firstly, this experience has certainly cemented my previous belief that I want to undertake a career in consultancy. The nature of my time with ECOM reaffirmed my interest in solving complex problems, but also in solving a variety of such problems. The short yet intensive internship was a perfect insight into the tailor-made form of thinking that attracts me to consulting. My time with ECOM confirmed that having the chance to identify and influence change is what really excites me. Secondly my time in India allowed me to apply the theories that I had learnt during my MSc in Indian politics and economics, to the contemporary Indian setting - often with surprising outcomes. Whilst I took enormous satisfaction in identifying the many challenges and opportunities in the Indian marketplace, I also found the experience eye-opening from a human development standpoint, and plan to return next summer to film a documentary highlighting a number of issues I feel passionately about – funding permitting... Lastly the internship experience made me realise that I certainly want to live abroad at some stage in my career, but that now isn’t the right time. Whilst I loved being away, experiencing a new culture, meeting new people, and overcoming new challenges, this was largely because I knew that it had a definite end.
Daily Life
I was lucky enough to find a cheap hostel in the centre of Moscow. Thus, my morning commute was only about 20 minutes. I used the metro every day, and it’s by far the easiest way to get around in Moscow. My work hours were long. The office seemed to run on ‘London time’ in Moscow, which meant that many stayed in the office past 7pm. Outside of work I investigated the city and socialised with a friend from St Petersburg and two friends from university who happened to be in Moscow for a short period.

Work Projects
I worked on a range of projects, from media monitoring and analysis to Russian-English translations. I also got a taste of where the firm wants to expand, working on a brief on Kazakhstan’s financial communications market.

Lasting Impressions
The team at EM Communications are welcoming and kind. It’s an excellent work environment and I would be happy to live and work in Moscow. There are so many misconceptions about Moscow, and Russia in general, that could be dispelled with a short visit. While I was working for EM, the crisis in Ukraine began, sanctions were imposed, the Russian food ban kicked off, and MH17 was shot down. It was a very tense time to be in Russia and be exposed to Russian media. However, at work and outside, I was never made to feel that my personal views on the crisis and the illegitimate annexation of Crimea were ill-considered or a result of ‘western’ thinking. In terms of career goals, my time at EM Communications confirmed my ambition to fully master the Russian language.
Work Projects
During my time at the camp my main role was to immerse the children in English as much as possible. This involved being a constant presence for them to talk to, encouraging them to try communicating in English whenever possible and organising activities that would be explained and carried out in English. The owner of the camp was always present to support myself and a fellow Oxford intern in these efforts. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experience from previous years’ camps. This was a great help when selecting activities, planning activities and working through the general day to day running of life in the camp.

Lasting Impressions
Having never travelled to Germany before, it was always going to be a new experience. I did really enjoy the country. The area I was based was very remote and beautiful. The local food was delicious. I would not return to work or live there simply due to the language barrier (I know very little German), however I would definitely like to visit more of Germany and explore further.

Emily Hayes

Daily Life
I was staying in the main house of the camp: the same building as the children. My first task of the day was to help with breakfast. Two of the children had to prepare the table while discussing with me in English. I would talk them through what they were doing and ask them for names of objects in English. Then the entire camp (eight children and three supervisors) would have breakfast together. Again my job (and the job of the other supervisors) was to encourage the children to speak as much English as possible during the meal. After breakfast I would supervise washing up, continuing to encourage the use of English in general conversation. The morning was broken up into two halves: sports and film. I was in charge of supervising the sports half. As the camp was focused on British culture as well as learning English I focused on British sports that the children were unlikely to have tried before. During my time at the camp we played cricket, rounders and quidditch. Sports would normally last an hour and a half, depending on weather. After we finished the kids would have a drinks break and my fellow supervisor would take over for the film portion of the day. This was scheduled to be my free time. However, depending on the plan for filming that day I often joined in. Over the course of the camp the children aim to complete a short film. They either worked with stop animation or live action. After the filming we had lunch. This followed a similar procedure to breakfast with two children being responsible for getting the meal ready and cleaning up afterwards with English supervision. The afternoon schedule was far more variable. Some days we continued to film, others we went to the local pool, others we worked on crafts. The activity was normally selected the evening before. It filled the afternoon until 5pm at which point the entire camp was given an hour of free time before dinner. This was normally spent watching ‘Doctor Who’ episodes or chilling on the hammocks talking to the kids. Dinner was followed by either a movie night or toasting marshmallows around a bonfire. Lights out was at 10 and after making sure the children were in bed we would plan the next days’ activities. The camps would run for 8 days. The first day would be welcoming the children to the camp. The last day would be saying farewell. The remaining days would be spent as above, with the exception of one trip day. During the 3 to 4 days between camps we were free to remain at the camp or to travel around the local area.

The area I was based was very remote and beautiful. The local food was delicious.
Laura Cull

Daily Life

The day was quite heavily structured, in order to keep the kids busy. We started at 9am with a camp breakfast, followed by British sports, and a film workshop. After lunch we took part in more outdoor activities, and shot some of the film. After dinner were evening activities, such as a bonfire, or night walk! Each day I would be working for approximately 10 hours, and even during my breaks the kids wanted to talk to me, to learn about my life in England, or just relax by playing some sport. In the breaks between camps my host took me sightseeing around the area.

Work Projects

I helped to create an invigorating, challenging, and exciting programme of activities for German children, all in English. We played British sports like cricket, rounders, even Quidditch, produced films, went to the pool, and generally had fun. I was able to discuss and develop my ideas with the project leaders, who in turn provided their own suggestions.

Lasting Impressions

My internship tested me and helped me to develop in so many ways. I feel more confident, and was inspired by the initiative of the project, by its aims and philosophy. The project proved to me the importance of learning languages. It was a lot of fun to be taught some German by the kids in the camp, and I am resolved to return to Germany to visit my host family with a better grasp of the language. I hope whoever gets the chance to go next year will find it as fulfilling and rewarding as I did!
Exidor
Staffordshire, UK
Robert Howlett, 2nd Year, MEng, Exeter College

Daily Life
I had lodgings nearby which were organised by the company. After walking or taking a lift by car I wrote software in my office in the factory. Everyone (including the factory workers) was very friendly, although none understood the nature of programming and tended to interrupt my work to be sociable or to ask me a question. My office was usually fairly busy with other people due to the presence of the public photocopier and fax, as well as the office also functioning as a hallway.

Work Projects
I wrote systems in VBA/excel to keep track of scrap losses, track job progress, process customer survey data and generate production plans for the factory. Exidor provided hardware and software packages, and knowledge of their current systems.

Lasting Impressions
I am beginning to understand the merits of good management and efficient bureaucracy, along with how to survive as a programmer in a non-programmer environment. I think my experience would have been improved if I was able to influence larger organisational changes. I am unsure if I want to become a programmer or an engineer.
**Faculty of Law**
**Oxford, UK**

Hiu Ching So, 2nd Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Worcester College
Katie Light, MSt General Linguistics and Comparative Philology, Worcester College

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**Hiu Ching So**

**Daily Life**

As my internship was with the Faculty of Law at Oxford, I didn’t have to really get used to anything unfamiliar; I stayed in college accommodation. The staff at the faculty were all wonderful and friendly; I enjoyed a nice faculty party one sunny afternoon in Headington. I worked from 9 to 5, Monday to Friday.

**Work Projects**

I helped to produce class profile books for the postgraduate students coming to Oxford to study the BCL, MJur and MLF programmes here. I created a PDF form which I then sent out to all the students for them to fill in; after receiving the completed forms, I collated them and sent them to the designer; I did lots of editing and proofreading as well. I received great support from the Communications Manager at the faculty.

**Lasting Impressions**

The internship gave me interesting insight into administration work. As I am considering a career in publishing, I feel this internship has given me some relevant experience and it’s very satisfying to know that I’ve overseen the production of two publications for the faculty.

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**Katie Light**

**Daily Life**

As I was working in Oxford, I was able to cycle to my internship at the St Cross Building. My days consisted on working on projects for my supervisor and with other colleagues. I had the opportunity to attend lots of meeting around the university, in different colleges and divisions. This meant I was often out and about on my bike during the day. At lunch time I would often catch up with the other interns in the faculty and we would chat about our projects. I was working 9 - 5 so I had time in the evening to enjoy Oxford in the summer and to meet up with friends.

**Work Projects**

I was involved in a number of projects during my internship and was given lots of responsibility from day one. A large part of my work was helping academics in the grants application process, which involved meeting with academics to discuss their research ideas and researching funding opportunities for them. I was then able to assist them in the process of making a funding application. Other projects I was working on included writing up content for the website related to research projects and researching important policies for faculty members.

**Lasting Impressions**

My internship has been really beneficial in so many ways. It has really helped me to define my career aspirations and to understand a lot more about the Higher Education sector.
Nathaniel Levine
Daily Life
I was living in a fraternity house with about 15 Brazilian university students. I had a lovely time there and enjoyed getting to know them. Their way of life is a very social one, and I met lots of different people. I travelled to and from work by bus. The other people working in the same lab were friendly and had a similar interest in computer science.

Work Projects
I was working with one other student from Oxford on a research project in computer science. We were building a simulator to model pollution in a big city. While we were unable to code for the real geographical systems that mediate pollution levels, we built an infrastructure to which a ‘real-world’ scientific model could very easily be added. Our supervisor was sometimes available to meet in person but usually over Skype.

Lasting Impressions
My most lasting impressions will probably be cultural. I was really pleased to discover the very open and friendly atmosphere in Brazil, and to have so much time to appreciate it. In some ways it was a bit of a culture shock, and I found that certain tenets of equality that I regard as fundamental in the UK were often regarded as radical. However, it is certainly important to approach a different culture in the least judgmental way possible - and this is what I tried to do.

Abhav Kedia
Daily Life
I and another intern lived in a student house, and the people there were very kind and helpful. I never felt like an outsider, but people were always curious to learn about my culture, Oxford and other things about me. I too learned a lot about life and prevalent customs in Brazil from the many great people I met there. We worked from about 10 am to 6 pm.

Work Projects
We worked on a simulator called JSensor that modelled communication between a large number of sensors. We were given basic models to understand and we had to develop a model that simulated the carbon dioxide in a city, given pre-conditions such as the number of cars, industries, people, etc. Although I feel like we could have handled more work, I was very pleased with this opportunity to work with Java and learn valuable coding and organizational skills. Overall I felt the internship was very rewarding.

Lasting Impressions
I learnt that Brazil is an incredible place. The people there are really warm, and I formed some friendships that I think will last me a lifetime. I would love to go back there at some point, if only just to visit. In terms of career prospects, this was the first time that I actually applied what I learnt doing computer science in Oxford, and I learnt that coding, especially simulations, can be a lot of fun. It has definitely opened me up to considering a career in simulations and modelling.
Gambling Compliance Ltd
London, UK
Katarzyna Zielinska, 2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), St Anne’s College

Daily Life
I settled in pretty easily. The work was a bit overwhelming to start with, since I wasn’t really aware of the gambling regulations. But I quickly picked up all the jargon. I got to work on the London underground, which turned out fine. I worked 10am – 5pm, Mon-Fri, with an hour lunch break. Sometimes I got out for lunch with my co-workers, which was really nice. We had coffee meetings on an almost weekly basis to discuss our plans for the week, and we also had some meals together. What was nice was that the size of the company allowed me to meet almost everyone who works there and socialise with them all.

Work Projects
I worked on a number of projects during the internship, which means I’ve gained really varied experience in relatively little time. My first task was fairly easy – updating a country report, but thanks to that I could see what the company does and what would be expected from me. And my native language finally came in handy. I’ve also done things I wouldn’t have expected – like translating bits of legal texts into English. My next projects were more time consuming and demanding. I’ve compiled a country report all of my own, getting to know the gambling business regulations, corresponding with regulators and checking the news. I’ve also written a big project on European offshore jurisdictions, which the company will use in their next update. I’ve also started work on the company’s new project on payments, which was something, yet again, completely new for me and really exciting. I’ve had the support of the regulatory team, with one designated legal analyst who looked after me.

Lasting Impressions
What I liked was that the work environment was really relaxed and I could work independently. Definitely, the internship gave me an insight into working in legal research which is not academic in nature. It also showed me that I’m good at research, but would rather work with people in the future.
Nicholas Gordon
Daily Life
The other intern and I worked from 9.30 to 6.30, with an hour for lunch. I started out living at a hostel around the corner, so the commute was small; we then moved to a flat that was about a 25 minute walk away.

Work Projects
I worked on a three-month research project where I collated sources and data on illegal activity in India; the final results of which were turned into a map.

Lasting Impressions
This internship certainly revealed several things about India, in terms of how it operates and how it ‘thinks,’ at least in terms of foreign policy.

Katharina Obermeier
Daily Life
I arrived in Mumbai a week early in order to find a flat to rent for the three months of the internship and stayed at a hotel until I was able to move into a rented flat in Colaba. My typical work day at the internship was from 9:30am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday. The flat was close enough to the think tank that I was able to walk to work most days. Taxis are very cheap in Mumbai so I was able to take them for longer journeys and during heavy rains. The other interns at the think tank were very welcoming and invited me to join them for social events. I attended several cultural events which I enjoyed very much, and explored many of Mumbai’s excellent restaurants. I also had the opportunity to visit rural Maharashtra, which was very interesting.

Work Projects
For a good part of the internship I worked on establishing a database for corporate membership of the think tank. I also put together background documents and primers for meetings and policy trips, on topics as diverse as energy security in Asia and the US-India relationship. I was also given the opportunity to write articles for the Gateway House blog, which I enjoyed.

Lasting Impressions
The internship provided me with some insight into the challenges and opportunities of working for a think tank. Working at Gateway House also gave me a unique opportunity to explore Indian perspectives on international relations, and Indian politics in general. While I would be interested in working in Mumbai in the future, there would be several logistic and administrative issues to consider, as the local bureaucracy can be very difficult.
Generations for Peace
Ammam, Jordan
Love Calisendorff, MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, Pembroke College
Frances Morrow, MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, Lincoln College
Edward Beswick, MSc Russian & East European Studies, Exeter College

Love Calisendorff
Daily Life
During the main part of the internship, I was working 9-5 at the Generations for Peace headquarters. My main responsibilities were related to research and data analysis. Outside of work, I either explored Amman with the rest of the Oxford interns or spent time relaxing in the furnished accommodation provided free of charge. While in the field, I conducted research in Juba, South Sudan. I spent a lot of time in the 5 star hotel where we stayed, but also considerable time exploring the city with the local GFP staff.

Work Projects
I went to South Sudan on behalf of Generations for Peace to conduct research on intergroup stereotypes, perceptions and dehumanisation between the Dinka and Nuer tribes. This would then later help the organisation to implement successful and sustainable peace building programmes. The organisation provided additional financial support as well as facilitation in the presence of their local delegates, which greatly contributed both to the conduct of the research and my personal experience.

Lasting Impressions
I definitely got what I expected from the internship: an insight into the global peace-building industry and NGO sector. I found both Jordan and South Sudan very interesting and different countries with incredibly diverse cultures. As a part of my new full-time job at GFP, I will now conduct peace building research all around the Middle East and study Arabic in Amman. The internship experience has definitely solidified my long-term career goals, aspirations, and improved my opportunities.

Frances Morrow
Daily Life
In Jordan I lived down the road from the office and so easily walked to work every day. It was a very pleasant work environment: friendly and transparent. When the interns worked overtime, we were encouraged to go home and relax, and we were encouraged to see as much of Jordan as possible, which we definitely did! In Juba, we were well looked after and financially supported.

Work Projects
I arrived in Jordan and spent some time developing a Research Design on how I was going to map the conflict in South Sudan. Included in that research was a personal interest of mine; the role of ontological security in polarising communities so quickly. I was allowed to design the research based on my own interests, guided by my supervisor who ensured that it would also be useful to GFP. I also went to South Sudan (Juba) to conduct interviews and collect data before coming back to Jordan to write up and process the data.

Lasting Impressions
The GFP internship was an incredibly rewarding experience. I learned a great deal, and thoroughly enjoyed it. I would certainly live in Jordan and South Sudan (though perhaps not for very long), and it really inspired me to continue on my long term goal of conflict resolution.
Generations for Peace continued...

Edward Beswick

Daily Life
The organisation does not employ many people so it was very easy to fit in. Everyone was extremely friendly and kind, and the interns were frequently taken on excursions and invited round to people's homes. The accommodation provided by the organisation was just 10 minutes walk away from the office, so the commute to work was very easy. When we first arrived it was Ramadan so there were reduced working hours, but after that an average day was 9 till 6. In the field there were not regular working hours.

Work Projects
The organisation I interned for works to achieve sustainable conflict transformation around the world. I carried out research in Georgia, interviewing people to gain a better understanding of conflict in the country and the ways it is perceived by the different parties involved. The organisation provided funds to cover my research and travel costs. They also provided me with a supervisor who helped me with my research design, travelled with me to the field and assisted me with my write-up when I returned.

Lasting Impressions
My time in Jordan certainly increased my interest in the country and the region. I would happily go out to work there, should the opportunity arise. I finished the internship feeling much more certain about my future career and with an improved knowledge about the charity/NGO sector. One of the nicest things about the internship is that I feel my work and research will be used by the organisation to help design future peace-building programmes.
German Literature Archive
Marbach, Germany

Julian Koch, MSt Modern Languages, Somerville College

Sebastian Klinger, MPhil Modern Languages, Oriel College

Julian Koch
Daily Life
I spent about 45 hours per week working in the archive. I spent a lot of my leisure time doing sports in the gym and playing the piano at a friend’s house. Apart from that, I spent the rest of my time with other interns who, like myself, lived in the accommodation provided by the archive.

Work Projects
I was involved in making bibliographies, researching certain topics and making overviews of them, transcribing interviews and collecting data.

Lasting Impressions
I am a German national, so I knew Germany well already. I went to the archive to find out if I would like to pursue a career as a librarian after my PhD. Even though I now know that this is certainly no job for me, this finding has clarified my future goals more clearly. Even though this overall seems like a ‘negative finding’, I do take away positive impressions. Apart from the work, I really did enjoy socializing with the other interns with whom I shared a lot of interest and from whom I learned a lot.

Sebastian Klinger
Daily Life
No doubt, my life centred around literature during my internship at the DLA. Conveniently I was based at the archive-owned accommodation next to the institution, and became embedded within an often inspiring world of literary scholars conducting research at the archive. Being concerned with literature in professional and private terms, the internship provided a stimulating way of spending my summer. I usually worked from 9am to 5pm and used the time-gap until the archive closed (8pm) for private study towards my DPhil proposal, receiving inspiring feedback and supervision by the research department’s faculty. I would like to thank them for this extraordinary support. Moreover, I was very appreciative of the institute’s understanding to split my internship in the middle to accommodate my 2 weeks summer school by the German National Academic Foundation.

Work Projects
I was involved in several activities during my internship. Firstly, I helped with the compilation of a large-scale research proposal, targeting third-party funds by the DFG (German Research Foundation). This also required investigation and implementation of directions by the EU and the DFG; examining and solving project-related difficulties, and creative revision of argumentative strategies. Secondly, I took part in conference planning, in particular preparing, creating and processing an inaugural address. Third, I actively contributed to the Research Cooperation MWW (Forschungsverbund Marbach-Weimar-Wolfenbüttel), project, ‘Politics of the Image: The Portrait of the Author as Iconic Authorisation’. For this project, I investigated and interpreted photographic legacies by authors such as Rainer Maria Rilke, Karl Wolfskehlt, Friedrich Gundolf and Leopold von Andrian. Finally, I was also Personal Assistant to the Head of Research, which meant consulting on decisions concerning suggested lectures; corresponding with scholars; translations; editing of publications and texts for exhibitions; and investigating and preparing scholarly questions.

Lasting Impressions
From the very first moment, I felt welcomed and assisted by all DLA authorities and staff. In particular, I appreciate the extraordinary support by the Head of Research and Academic Project Director. Being directly embedded in the research department of the DLA provided in-depth insight into its broad variety of scholarly activities and fundamentally enhanced my general understanding of academia. All in all, my internship at the DLA not only confirmed my intention to become an academic but also provided support towards the first steps of its realisation. Therefore, I gained a lot of extra experience in new fields. Thank you.
Global Canopy Programme
Oxford, UK
Katherine Davies, 2nd Year, BA Geography, Keble College
Thomas Caton Harrison, 2nd Year, BA Geography, Hertford College
Eun Seo Kim, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Lady Margaret Hall

Katherine Davies
Daily Life
The day starts in the office around 9.30 to 10.00, but given my morning routine I liked to arrive at about 9.30. I worked mostly in an office with other colleagues working on the project I was helping out with and my supervisor, which really added to a feeling of being an integral member of the organisation. My first task each morning was to update the website with relevant news articles of the day, and newly published reports relevant to the topic. The rest of the day involved working through my research tasks and answering any questions my supervisor needed for the legal frameworks book. I had an hour for lunch which was happily spent with my colleagues and other interns in the garden behind the office (weather permitting) and I usually went home at around 5.30. I was also invited to several staff meetings, and lunchtime presentations about other projects going on in the organisation. One of my favourite days at work was when I was invited to Wytham Woods with the team working on community forest monitoring to practice a training session for forest communities, using our smartphones to log and reference the biomass of trees – it was great fun to leave the office to go on a fieldtrip and still call it work!

Work Projects
I had meetings with my internship supervisor before and regularly throughout my internship to discuss my work plan for the 6 weeks. The internship was based on the REDD Desk which is the largest online platform for news, resources and information on projects related to the UN-REDD programme for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The first project was to update the country profile for Brazil, which has a considerable contribution to the REDD agenda. Based mostly on the internet, I would research various projects, policies, institutions and laws to find up to date information, summarise and upload it onto the online database. Having become quite an expert on everything to do with REDD and Brazil, I then did some more specific research on Brazil’s legal frameworks, which involved searching through existing laws and decrees. This contributed to GCP’s current project to produce a ‘Little Book’ on Legal Frameworks for REDD. This was much harder than I thought, and needless to say (thanks to Google translate) my Portuguese improved greatly! For the final part of my internship I was tasked with doing further research on the legal frameworks for five other tropical forest countries, in order to compare the progress of different national policies in implementing this international strategy for avoiding both carbon emissions and deforestation. It was amazing at the end of the day to be able to discuss at length the things I had researched and learned about, and contribute to something that will be useful in facilitating understanding and more effective implementation of REDD. My internship ended with a presentation to the rest of the organisation with feedback on my experience, and a blog post for the website on what I’d learnt about Brazil and REDD.

Lasting Impressions
I had a fantastic time during my internship at GCP and would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in research and environmental policy. It has confirmed my ambitions to pursue a career in this sector, working in a think tank, and I am looking to complete a Masters’ degree in environmental policy in order to achieve this. My experience at GCP was invaluable in this; my understanding of how NGOs operate, the nature of their activities and the importance of their work has been reinforced, as has my knowledge of current environmental policies such as UN-REDD. With the support of my supervisor my work plan was as such that my research skills and confidence have vastly improved, which will always be a valuable skill. The internship experience also would not have been so enjoyable without the friendly, relaxed and supportive workplace environment which GCP creates.

Thomas Caton Harrison
Daily Life
I started off my internship by attending a breakfast briefing and meetings in London, which meant being thrown in at the deep end, but it was worth it to meet some of the big names in natural capital accounting and responsible investment. Usually I was at the GCP office just across from the Oxford train station. The hours were very good – mine were from 10-10.30am to 5.30-6pm. I sat in an area downstairs with my boss (and sometimes with other interns and volunteers). People would often pass through though and there would be meetings everywhere, from the garden to the board room (the meeting room seemed to be clogged with books for the entirety of my internship). I met and chatted with many of the other people working at GCP, and found the other volunteers and interns very friendly (one of the interns was another second-year geographer here which was great). It goes without saying my boss and I chatted a lot and she was very friendly and always very helpful. Outside of work I lived in Oxford and I would cycle each day into the office, which was at a convenient distance (taking care around the traffic near the station).
Global Canopy Programme continued...

Work Projects
I was involved with a range of work projects at GCP which ranged from the purely practical to research-based work towards the Natural Capital Declaration’s (NCD) implementation. The internship involved desk-based research, but I was able to participate in meetings with stakeholders as well as internal meetings, giving me an insight into the structure of the organisation and the NCD projects. As well as collating data sources for a number of future projects (for example relating to water risk in the mining sector), my main project involved putting together a spreadsheet of forms and examples of material risk for companies and sectors relating to water (above all), air pollution and land use. This included details of the financial impact, type of risk and impact relative to company size. In the end this had over 100 entries. The research will be used in projects aimed at understanding and quantifying the dependence upon and impact of natural capital in the financial sector (with TEEB, GIZ, VfU, Bloomberg and financial institution supporters). Practical tasks I was involved with included updating, formatting and adding to the NCD website, contributing to a form for new NCD signatories, proofreading materials before publication or sharing, updating the NCD spreadsheet and mailing list, putting together presentations and assisting with some work for another team at the GCP.

Lasting Impressions
I had a preconception that an office environment would be antagonistic and rigid, but my GCP experience completely changed that. It was enjoyable going to work every day and I loved the personalities of the people I worked with. The flexibility and openness of the organisation gave me more confidence to enter the job market. I really like working in Oxford but as I am an international student I am not sure about my future prospects. Nonetheless, I have acquired an in-depth knowledge on rainforest protection measures, and as a result of this experience I am more interested in assisting NGOs like GCP.

Eun Seo Kim

Daily Life
I worked at the Global Canopy Programme (GCP) office from 9:30-5:30 with an hour long lunch break. There were few people in the office and I had lunch with colleagues occasionally. There were quite a few parties at the end of the day involving punting, going on a picnic and a treasure hunt. It was a great working atmosphere during the day and a lot of fun socialising, too. I cycled to work and my supervisor offered initial training programmes and provided me basic guidelines, and helped me to settle in by introducing me to all the colleagues.

Work Projects
GCP is an NGO with an aim of protecting tropical rainforests. I was in charge of monitoring the costs of a project GCP was involved in, called Forest COMPASS. I also conducted research on the legal and community relations aspects of this project as well. My supervisor and colleagues were very responsive to my questions and we had regular bi-weekly feedback sessions. I was also able to go on a fieldwork trip testing forest monitoring technology, which gave me hands-on experience. I gave two presentations on my findings which provided me a great opportunity to meet people as well as to receive feedback on my research.

Lasting Impressions
I had a preconception that an office environment would be antagonistic and rigid, but my GCP experience completely changed that. It was enjoyable going to work every day and I loved the personalities of the people I worked with. The flexibility and openness of the organisation gave me more confidence to enter the job market. I really like working in Oxford but as I am an international student I am not sure about my future prospects. Nonetheless, I have acquired an in-depth knowledge on rainforest protection measures, and as a result of this experience I am more interested in assisting NGOs like GCP.
Gloucestershire Constabulary/ The Aston Project
Cheltenham, UK
Xianglin Meng, 2nd Year, MMath, Lady Margaret Hall

Daily Life
I spent eight weeks this summer working with The Aston Project. The Aston Project is the only Police led dedicated youth Timebank in the UK and its main aim is to reduce current and future youth crime and anti-social behaviour through positive engagement. The working hours and work locations were very flexible: I conducted most of the interviews at Cheltenham Police Station, travelled to the Headquarters in Gloucester for meetings with the Service Improvement Team, and even went back to Oxford on a few weekends to do some reading on criminology.

Work Projects
It has been three years since the establishment of the project and I was there to evaluate the project so as to provide insights into its future development. During my internship, I had the opportunity to work with the Service Improvement team of the Headquarters from which I acquired many new skills ranging from designing, conducting and analysing interviews to processing large data using Excel. Moreover, the staff at The Aston Project were all very supportive of my work and made every effort to provide all the information that I needed for the evaluation.

Lasting Impressions
During my interviews with the children who had engaged with the Project, I was touched that all the staff of the project truly committed themselves to the growth and development of the children. Further evaluation of the project in more detail is going to be part of a separate tranche of work of the Constabulary’s Service Improvement Team and I am enthusiastic to follow up on the results.
Lasting Impressions
I found the new insight that I gained into the University of Oxford interesting. I was able to understand more of the ‘business’ interests of the university by working on recruitment strategies, marketing techniques and promotional materials. I think I gained a lot of general and transferable administrative experience as well, although I feel it is unlikely that I will now pursue a career in higher education/administration. I think the work I did and the skills I gained will be useful in my ongoing job search, but I don’t think I will return to working in this sector in the immediate future.
Green and Away
Stroud, UK
Taskeen Nawab, 1st Year, BA History and Economics, Worcester College

Daily Life
A G&A internship is essentially a camping trip with work. The average day begins at 8am (you can choose to wake up earlier but that's when the breakfast bell rings). After this, there is a 9am meeting, during which the coordinator allocates the tasks of the day. The office hours end around 5.30–6pm, and the day is interspersed with a morning tea break at 11, a lunch break at 1 and an afternoon tea break at 3. Since this was my first time camping, it took at least a week getting used to it! The internship had also officially begun a week prior to my arrival. I had attended the interns’ induction for a few hours, but had to return to Oxford for a week to sit my Prelims before beginning the work. The other office interns helped acquaint me with the tasks, and the coordinator was very helpful too, so it did not take long to get into the swing of things. The general experience outside of work, was also very enjoyable! The people who surrounded me were all volunteers with interesting backgrounds. There are many returning volunteers, who are great fun to socialise with as they tell you about the transition of G&A over the years. There are an international group of volunteers who arrive through Concordia, and getting to know them really enhances the cultural exposure I received from the internship– I also often found that I had much to offer to them in return in terms of language etc. Activities out of work were very varied. G&A has a great community vibe, and I tended to do most things with other people. When it was someone's birthday, we celebrated it collectively, on hot days, we swam in the river. On official Down Days (which tend to come after one conference has ended), we went into town (Worcester or Malvern), to other cities (like Bristol or Bath), or for a day long canoeing trip (which was a tremendous amount of fun!)

Work Projects
As an office intern, work projects were a combination of tasks. I kept records of volunteer and delegate attendance on conference days, looked after volunteer accommodation by directing volunteers to their respective tents, and ran site inductions tours. I assembled information on meals and passed it to the kitchen so the meals were cooked with the numbers in mind– this information was later collated to help the treasurer estimate how much was spent on meals per person in the given season. I answered emails and telephone calls, researched information ranging from transport companies for a trip, to hunting down the cheapest electrics store. I wrote posts for the G&A website, including the last blog post of the season, which was then edited by the trustee in charge of blog posts– I really enjoyed this! I helped arrange the education and entertainment schedule for volunteers after work hours. Talks and presentations were given by volunteers and trustees, so we could learn more about the general purpose of the organisation. As part of this we showed a documentary as a part of the open weekend programme, listened to a talk by another volunteer on building wind turbines, and I also gave a talk on Pakistani culture. I also organised day trips out to nearby cities. We organised a canoeing trip to Ross on Wye– this entailed considering transport numbers, budget available to volunteers, organising people into groups, sorting out the final payments. G&A hosted a Shakespeare performance by the Pantaloons for which many attendees paid up front. I was one of the two responsible for receiving ticket payments at the entrance– volunteers paid their bar bills before leaving site for which they came to the office; we were responsible for receiving the payments, putting them in their respective boxes and keeping an account of it to pass on to the treasurer later on.

Lasting Impressions
The connections you form with people at this internship are really worth cherishing. By the time you leave, you can understand why G&A has so many returning volunteers. Many interns return as volunteers in future years just to soak in that community feel and partake in good conversation. It may take a while getting used to, but once you embrace the fact that you’re camping, and that your ‘office’ is a caravan, you begin to appreciate the degree of responsibility you are afforded and the this, in combination with the out of work hours fun, makes it very worthwhile. The community feel is a combination of many things. To begin with, the first phase of the season, called ‘set up’ involves putting up the structures which are used by the conferences (and volunteers) later on. While interns have specific jobs to do, one may often find oneself doing what volunteers do as well. This can range from washing up to lighting fires and holding up pillars as someone else pulleys a canvas into place over a structure. None of it is demeaning, and almost all of the tasks help in getting to know the members of your team quite well. While, a great deal of the ethos feels casual, the internship is handled in a very professional manner. I also found that the general mindfulness of the people I was there with was quite inspiring. Since G&A is a built on values of sustainability, you tend to take some of those values with you when you are leaving, even if you arrived without an active intention to do so. If you are at an early stage in your academic career, you may also find yourself question- ing what you want to pursue and whether it contributes to society positively and holistically. One thing that contributes to this is the lifestyle you adopt for a span of two months, and the other is partaking in discussions and conversations with other volunteers, as well as conference delegates.
Daily Life
The firm very generously put me up in a hotel in Larnaca. It was only about a 10 minute walk to work and less than a minute walk to the beach. My first 3 or 4 weeks of work were quite lonely. Everyone there was very nice and polite but it’s a busy firm and everyone is rushing about doing their own thing. I only had to work until 4 and evenings were very relaxed, usually at the beach. Things picked up significantly 4 weeks into my internship, when 2 other interns, one from NCH and the other from an Austrian university arrived. They started working on the same project as me – this really helped as I think the project really benefited from more discussion and also made work so much more interesting. We also started exploring the island out of work. It’s a tiny country and very easy to get around so well worth the effort for weekend breaks.

Work Projects
I was working on the same project my entire time at the firm. The overall view was to write an academic article comparing civil procedure rules in Cyprus with those in England and Wales.

Lasting Impressions
My lasting impressions are mostly really positive. Cyprus is a nice country - it’s small, very relaxed, and though there’s not much to do beyond the beach and eating out people are really friendly and I was very comfortable there. I can’t see myself living or working there though. The work was interesting as well and it made me realise how much I enjoy research. It wasn’t hard to feel motivated to work hard when the project was so interesting and the overall hope was that we could get our findings published. The only downside really is that I think you have to be quite self sufficient to really enjoy this internship. There was very little supervision or guidance when it came to work and before some other interns arrived it meant a lot of time spent by myself, both at work and out. I enjoyed it so much more when the other interns arrived.
Joanna Raisbeck

Daily Life
It was very easy to settle in in Wolfenbüttel, as I was formally introduced to the library and its staff, and was also encouraged to attend the fellows’ coffee, where scholars holding short-term fellowships meet every day for a chat and intellectual exchange. So socialising - in English and in German - was very easy. The library provided accommodation within walking distance of the main building, and I shared a small, well-equipped apartment with the other intern from Oxford. I generally worked from approximately 9-5 every day, but this was flexible according to what work I needed to do and how much time I wanted to spend physically in the library buildings undertaking my own research. I mainly used weekends for exploring Northern Germany - though the rail connections aren’t the best, many places are easily accessible via Braunschweig (Hannover, Hildesheim, Göttingen, to name a few, and Hamburg further afield).

Work Projects
I participated in two projects run by the library: the AEDIT project, where I primarily worked with the XML files for online digital editions of texts (letter corpora, anthologies of assorted texts) and with the ‘Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft’, where I performed a variety of tasks from identifying letters and texts, transcription of printed works and letter manuscripts. In both projects I was assigned a supervisor who was on hand for any questions or queries I might have, but other members of the project were always very willing to help.

Lasting Impressions
I would recommend the internship, but at the same time my experience was greatly improved by the fact that all the people I worked with were friendly and helpful and very accommodating. Wolfenbüttel itself is a very attractive town - perhaps a little small for a longer stay, but it’s definitely worth visiting for a few months. The library itself has outstanding holdings and I strongly recommend anyone who has interests in the medieval/Early Modern period to apply. I would say that my experience overall has been very positive. It certainly hasn’t put me off the world of academia.
Friederike Wolpert

Daily Life
As my internship programme was designed to also provide me with time to use the library’s manuscript and early printed book collection for research on my dissertation project, my working day was officially from nine to one o’clock, with the afternoons and the last week of my stay reserved for my own work. I am particularly grateful for the full week, as it ensured that I was able to see almost all of the primary material I require for my project. The library provided accommodation in a shared flat, which was located in the centre of town with a supermarket, an ice-cream parlour and my workplace only a five-minute walk away. I really enjoyed walking to and from work every day through Wolfenbüttel’s beautiful streets, which are lined with many, fantastically crooked late-medieval timber–framed buildings. Due to my rotation through different departments, my workplace was variously located in the main library building or in a shared office in the Leibnizhaus. During my stay, I regularly went to lunch with colleagues and was kindly invited to take part in the manuscript department’s daily coffee meeting. I also often went to the lunchtime coffee break organised for guest researchers, which was a great opportunity to meet and chat with other visitors and scholars. On the first weekend of my stay, I took part in an excursion organised by my supervisor to the Stiftskirche St. Cyriakus in Gernrode. I spent my free time travelling and exploring the area, made possible by the receipt of a Santander Research Award. I spent two weekends in Berlin, which I visited for the first time during this trip, and explored the Harz region, visiting Quedlinburg, Wernigerode, Goslar, Bad Harzburg, Halberstadt and Braunschweig.

Work Projects
My internship at the Herzog August Library took place within the project ‘Text und Rahmen’ (Text and Frame). Over the course of my six-week stay I accompanied a handful of manuscripts connected to the project’s research focus on the media history of the psalms as they made their way through different departments in the library: from conservation and restoration over the digitalisation workshop, the manuscript department and digital humanities to within the research project itself. I thereby experienced firsthand how a research library works, and how people with differing expertise contribute to preserving, making accessible and investigating the material artefacts housed in the library’s stacks. From these experts, I not only learnt how to describe a manuscript and practiced reading a variety of medieval scripts, but also how to represent the information gathered about the material object and its text(s) in digital form using XML according to the TEI guidelines. Using these guidelines, I was responsible for entering data structures for two manuscripts: a Middle High German Bible and a Middle Low German psalter – as well as for completing a couple of psalm transcriptions and for collecting data on watermarks and binding stamps for a manuscript description.

Lasting Impressions
The internship at the Herzog August Library was a very valuable experience, allowing me not only to gain insight into what it would be like to work in an archive and in a foreign country, but also to carry out essential research for my DPhil project. It was certainly a challenge to negotiate the workplace in a foreign language, but the experience was largely positive, and I would certainly consider looking for work in Germany in the future. I am still uncertain about what direction I will take post-study, but this internship has certainly opened my eyes to what working in an archive really entails, and I am certain I will now be able to more confidently and knowledgeably make that decision.
fantastic. One Saturday, my "host father" flew me and two other interns to New York in his four-seater plane! We flew along the Hudson River, not far above the city skyscrapers. Another highlight was when the curator took a few of us to the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. It’s a real decorative arts wonderland, and it can’t be matched by any other collection in the US.

### Lasting Impressions

The internship gave me a thorough insight into the job of a curator at a small non-profit heritage organisation. It was great to talk to so many people who have a passion for decorative arts, and are passionate about their museum/preservation jobs. The internship left me much more interested in American history than I had been before, and it was wonderful to see well-funded preservation institutions. The curator worked very hard to give us fantastic experiences. I came away better informed about the routes I might take into heritage after my BA.

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**Elena Porter**

**Daily Life**

I lived with a host family, about a half-hour walk from Historic Annapolis’ administrative offices, where I worked from 9.30am. My walk to work featured a picturesque view over the harbour as I crossed the bridge to downtown. Often I would sit in on a managerial meeting in the morning, and the curator would always tell me what she was doing that day, and show me how things worked. On Wednesday mornings a Historic Annapolis staff member or local historian/archaeologist would give us a fascinating lecture on their work and local history.

I was often given small curatorial tasks such as tracking down objects in the collection which were thought lost, and filling out loans paperwork. Delving into the storage rooms of a historic house was great fun. Most of my time was spent on independent research projects. I tended to eat lunch with a few other interns or staff members, and we usually sat to eat with a view of the water. After work on normal work days, just after 5pm, I would often get something to eat or drink with the other interns.

**Work Projects**

I was a curatorial intern, and I spent much of my time working in the same office as the organisation’s curator. Over my eight-week internship I was given several different research projects. These ranged from looking into whether William Paca (an important local historical figure, and the original owner of Historic Annapolis’ flagship historic house museum) might have owned a cat – a question asked by a visitor to the house – to finding some appropriate reproduction lighting for an eighteenth-century summerhouse.

I started a curatorial blog (annapoliscurator.blogspot.com), which showcased the interns’ research over the summer, and will now be maintained by the curator. Towards the end of my internship I expanded my research on one of my earlier research projects and developed a presentation. I gave a public talk at the museum, and even went on local radio to advertise it.

During my internship, the staff needed to travel to Williamsburg to pick up an eighteenth-century bed from a top textile consultant. The curator managed to build an incredible two-day trip for interns and staff members around the collection of the bed. We all travelled to Williamsburg, where we were treated to dinner at the textile consultant’s house with a variety of conservation professionals. The next day, we were given private tours by the Curator of Textiles and Costume, the Curator of Furniture, and the Conservator of Archaeological Materials at Colonial Williamsburg, and we were shown round the archaeological site of Jamestown by a senior archaeologist. A few weeks earlier we all had all visited an archaeological dig, where prehistoric artefacts were being found.

I was the first Oxford intern to arrive, but the staff at Historic Annapolis immediately invited me to lots of social events, and helped me to feel settled straight away. I spent my first Sunday evening in Annapolis at a barbeque in the President’s garden (President of Historic Annapolis, not Obama. But a big deal nonetheless). On other weekends, I went on daytrips with the other interns and the lovely American friends we made. Baltimore was a favourite destination; we went to a great arts festival, and the Walters Art Museum is
Historic Annapolis continued...

Mirela Ivanova

Daily Life

Daily life in America was absolutely different every other day – the organisation had invested an incredible amount of work into making our time in Annapolis fun. At least twice a week there was some event for interns to attend. These included visits to the local Maryland State Archeology Lab, every main historic house in the town, a guided tour of the State House and the Governor’s house, trips to the local university’s gallery and morning lectures every Wednesday given by members of the organization on their topic of interest, from architecture to archeology. There was also a tour to the largest Native American excavation site in Maryland presented by the leading archeologist – we got to ride in the back of a pickup truck through the Maryland forests to reach the site!

I also spent a day in Washington exploring the local museums of Art and History and the Library of Congress, to help me with my project. On one weekend we went (all paid for!) to Colonial Williamsburg, where I stayed in the house of a decorative arts expert and her historian husband. There we were given private tours around Colonial Williamsburg’s storage facilities, archeological and preservation labs, and curatorial offices as well as visiting the town itself which is wonderfully recreated to appear exactly as it would have in the 18th century.

Equally odd was my debut on local American radio – as Historic Annapolis has a time slot every Tuesday morning to tell people about its projects, another intern and I were interviewed on live radio to help promote our upcoming talks that week!

Outside the events put on relating to our work, or at least the field of museum work and the decorative arts, Historic Annapolis had also organized plenty of social events. One included a play by Molière in order to raise funds for our stipends. The play was performed in the garden of a local restaurant, and we got to meet the organisation’s patrons and directors. One of the board members put on a garden party for us, which she had catered in order to give us an experience of local food – plenty of crab cakes and seafood! Sometimes the events were more spontaneous – dinner at the lo-

Charles Chichester

Daily Life

My walk to work lasted five minutes and I would generally arrive for 9:30am. I worked in a variety of places - at the organisation’s headquarters, at the historic home where the majority of visitors came, sometimes even in the reconstructed Georgian garden if I wanted to read in the sun. Some days I would read up on museums in books and blogs, others I would study visitor behaviour and talk to them in order to get feedback. I also had the privilege of one-on-one meetings with the majority of staff members as I tried to gauge the back-story of the organization and where everyone wanted it to go. On special days we were taken on field trips to other historic sites in and out of state where we were privileged to be given private tours. Out of work I went on trips to Washington, Baltimore and New York, as well as to events and places elsewhere in Maryland.

Work Projects

As Visitor Experience Intern I had a number of tasks. The first was to talk to visitors and gather feedback on the organization’s tours and exhibitions. Part of this entailed giving tours myself, which I found rewarding. The second was to read up on museum theory, in books and online, which proved very illuminating and ultimately changed the way I viewed the museum sector. Lastly, I got to visit lots of other historical and museum sites both locally and in places like Washington DC and Baltimore, and use the findings from these visits towards my final report. This report contained analysis of the organization’s visitor services as they currently stand, and my recommendations – both for improving them and for a potential change in long-term strategy.

Lasting Impressions

I loved my time in Annapolis and in America. The generosity and hospitality of everyone I met was superb and I was made to feel so welcome.
Historic Annapolis continued...

cal Yacht Club or lunch with the managing director of the organization, or drinks at our supervisor’s house.
Work hours (when we were not out doing something!) were from half nine to around five, and I had the opportunity to work in the office or in the gorgeous historic gardens of the William Paca house. Unsurprisingly, given the sunny weather I often chose the latter.

Outside work, the fact we were given host families was absolutely fantastic as it meant we were constantly offered lifts everywhere and given suggestions on what to do. We quickly made friends with some interns at the Maryland State Archives and some of the American students also interning at Historic Annapolis. We would meet up almost every night after work and go to a local pub trivia or cook at someone’s home. My hostess was happy to take me shopping (and glad to introduce me to Wholefoods and American malls!). She also dropped me off at Baltimore so another intern and I could go up to New York.

Perhaps the most bizarre and wonderful thing that occurred, however, was the host father of one of the other Oxford interns offering three of us a lift to New York on his small private plane! We were flown all the way up and down the Hudson river, at an arm’s length from the Statue of Liberty and Empire State building. He then dropped us off at a small private airport and flew off back home to Maryland, around an hour and a half away by plane.

The various private tours of archeology sites, decorative arts collections and the experts we met were also absolutely invaluable to finding out more about a career in decorative arts.

Work Projects
The main project I worked on was a research piece on the debates around the ratification of the American constitution in 1787. My particular focus was twofold. Firstly, I focused on the role of the local history of Maryland in the formation and execution of these debates. In particular I looked at William Paca, whose historic house I worked in, and Samuel Chase, a good friend of Paca. Secondly, I sought to contextualize these debates within a much wider scheme of political ideology. I explored how the debates around particular parts of the constitution were actually disagreements on more fundamental questions on what representation and constitution meant to begin with and how their meanings changed over time.

I worked very closely with the organisation’s Senior Historian, whose Masters had also been focused on political history. He was, therefore, able to provide me with materials, both primary and secondary, from his private collection and that of Historic Annapolis. For further data, I visited the Library of Congress in Washington, DC which was only forty minutes away from Annapolis by bus or car. He met with me regularly and helped me direct my study, and then focus it into a paper and a presentation on William Paca and the Constitutional Debates. I also met with one of Annapolis’ most prominent historians who, although retired, still helps the organization – her direction was extremely useful in broadening my study. She also provided me with more material.

The project culminated in a paper presented in the Museum building of Historic Annapolis’ sites. The talk was well attended by people involved with the organization, but also local citizens who’d come across it in the local paper or on the Historic Annapolis website.

Lasting Impressions
My most lasting impression will certainly be how friendly and welcoming Americans are. Everyone we spoke to were willing to help us – whether with a lift, or information or taking us somewhere. We all made friends who I am sure we will keep in touch with and I will be more than happy to return to America. The various private tours of archeology sites, decorative arts collections and the experts we met were also absolutely invaluable to finding out more about a career in decorative arts. If anything, I realized I really was not certain what working as a curator actually involved! In that sense it was a very eye-opening experience. The time in America has also helped me focus my career ambitions toward more research-heavy rather than curation based posts.
Daily Life
During the 6 weeks of the internship, a German intern and I lived in a hostel in the city centre. Daily life at the office would therefore involve a commute early in the morning: I used to wake up at 6:30, have a quick breakfast and get ready for work; walk from the hostel to the MTR station (10 to 15 minutes), then take the tube from Kowloon Tong, get off at University Station and take the student bus to the Institute, in the New Territories. I would start the working day in the office at about 8:15 or 8:30 (depending on how long I’d have to queue for), take a lunch break in the canteen for an hour at 12:00, and finish at 17:15 or 17:30. I had my own desk in the Student Affairs Office, so it was easy to interact with the other members of the staff. Apart from the Tuesday morning round at 9am, and we interns had a meeting at the beginning of each week with our supervisor, who wanted to know what we did during the previous week and what we intended to do during the following week. The weather was very hot and humid when we arrived, but by the end of the internship we got used to it. We also experienced our first typhoon, which sounds more dramatic than it actually was. Students and staff alike complained about the canteen food, but I really liked the Asian food counter (Dim Sum, Japanese, Thai...), as well as the Chinese restaurant on campus. Sometimes the members of the staff took us out for lunch in Tai Po, or for dinner, somewhere around the city centre. I also made friends with one colleague and I taught her French and she taught me Mandarin. We also spent the weekends together exploring the HK outlying islands (Lantau and Lamma), which was really nice! Taking into account the working hours, we couldn’t visit much during the week, but we managed to visit the token tourist sites on weekends.

Work Projects
My main tasks at the Hong Kong Institute of Education Student Affairs Office (SAO) consisted of PR support and teaching. During my first week I assisted in developing the SAO’s Internship programme in the UK, and proofread and edited articles for the HKIEd website. During my second week I carried on with the internship programme, designed English conversation classes and introduced topics (British Culture; Career Plans) to the undergraduate and postgraduate students during the briefing sessions. In the third week, I organised the English Classes, attended briefing sessions, wrote the president’s speech for the new video, proofread and edited SAO website content. The fourth week was extremely hectic: I had my last English classes, attended a few briefing sessions, finished proofreading the new website, wrote the vice-president’s speech for the opening ceremony of the academic year, wrote the script for the opening ceremony and acted as one of the two MCs. At the end of the week, I was allowed to join the non-local students on a city tour. My fifth week was more relaxed: I just had to proofread and edit the programme reports of 10 HKIEd students who did internships over the summer; then I had to meet them in person and help them improve their pronunciation and intonation because they were going to be recorded for the new promotional video of the Institute. During my last week I proofread and edited the internship reports for the next issue of the Experiential Learning Booklet. I followed up the emails I received (related to the Internship programme in the UK) with written confirmations. I really enjoyed teaching students from Mainland China and working with the HKIEd summer interns! I can’t generalise, but 99% of my students were “false beginners”... Sometimes, the beginners were much better than the intermediates, the only difference was made by their self-confidence. My main objective was to get my students familiar with UK and British Culture, and to give them the opportunity to improve their speaking skills. Most of them have excellent reading and writing skills, they just need to practice listening and speaking, which is an aspect that the Chinese education system doesn’t provide them with very often. Most of my students said that I was the first foreigner they had ever talked to, so I thought that it was very important to encourage them to speak and feel confident about their English. During my 6 weeks in Hong Kong I worked with many different colleagues, and received a lot of support from the internship coordinator. Everybody was extremely nice and tried to make me feel at home.

Lasting Impressions
Coming from the UK, I found it very easy to settle in: the city felt fairly Westernised, it was very safe and people were really friendly. I loved living in Hong Kong, becoming familiar with a new city and meeting many interesting and lovely people. The Mid-Autumn Festival, with lanterns and mooncakes, was very special and I’m happy that I was in Hong Kong at the right time. Overall I felt really welcomed in Hong Kong and definitely look forward to returning.
was fortunate enough to have a wonderful group of interns at Lenovo so this was fine. Most of the time though a group of 4 of us would not head straight back to the hotel, instead we would go to a gym that was close to the changeover point on our metro part of the journey and so we ate around that area and got to know each other very well. However this meant that we would not get back to the hotel until 10.30-11pm on weekdays, which meant we didn't get to socialise much with the other interns on the programme. Although the travel to work each day was long and tiring, the location of the hotel in relation to exploring the main parts of Shanghai was ideal and meant we could walk to the Bund and go out at night easily.

Alex Eastwood  
Daily Life  
Work was 9.30am – 6pm. My commute took about 1.25 hours each way by two metro trains and a shuttle bus. I socialised with the 28 other interns from around the world – 4 of which were from Oxford. Out of work we explored Shanghai – eating, drinking, sightseeing etc., as well as travelling to elsewhere in China (e.g. Yellow Mountain and Hangzhou).

Work Projects  
I was at Lenovo in Shanghai. I was involved in designing and implementing a ‘We Action’ training plan to teach employees English. I was also involved with the Shanghai Plant People Development Plan, a wider training plan for plant employees. I also undertook and presented a study on the Lenovo brand.

Lasting Impressions  
I loved Shanghai and could easily work there. Hong Kong was great too but a bit more sterile - less to do. It hasn't changed my career goals much, but has re-affirmed the belief that I'd like to work abroad.

Richard Allen  
Daily Life  
As I was at Lenovo’s Wai Gao Qiao office this meant my commute was between 1hr 15 and 1hr 30mins every day. My hours were 9.30am-6pm, but this included an hour and a half lunch break at 12pm, with many of the office workers using this time to nap (the lights in the office were turned off at 12pm). The daily commute involved leaving at about 8am in the morning with the other Lenovo interns and we had to take two metro lines and then a bus at the end to get to our office. As the commute was long we would get back to our hotel at about 7.30pm each day, and at this time most of the other interns had already left for dinner in the local area as they got back much earlier than us. As a result the Lenovo interns ate together pretty much every meal during the week. I
My third project was on the speed and efficiency of the production line in the factory. This meant I was taken to the factory to measure the steps of the production process to assess its efficiency and whether any part of the production line needed more people.

My final big project with the Engineering department was with my mentor who I was assigned at the start of my internship who was always around if I had any queries or problems. During this project I was introduced to the software Lenovo use and the process of how this software is constantly upgraded and implemented on each computer. I was taken to the factory again to see how software is created and tested on new computers. I wrote a report about the software used for each computer, how it is implemented and the testing process used to see if each computer has the software installed properly.

I also had the option to take on extra project with other interns at the company, which I took up. This project involved improving the process of ordering new materials into the factory as it currently takes almost two weeks to decide on a new item by comparing prices and including delivery. This project got me involved with two other interns and was a nice addition to the internship as I got to experience work from a different department of Lenovo. Also during this internship we were told on the first day that we would be teaching English to the employees at Lenovo, mainly just the office workers, but we did teach a few employees from the factory. All of the interns taught two classes each week in pairs with at least one mandarin speaker in each pair. We decided to teach English Business classes in our pairs twice a week on the same subject but to different groups, this eventually turned into the interns teaching one English Business Class a week and then an English Beginners Class. We also had daily free chats in the afternoon when any of the employees could approach us in the rest area and practice their English. Also on Friday afternoons we presented about the countries we were from which turned into us talking about the different cultures of our countries with China on topics such as special events, food, etc...

**Lasting Impressions**

I really enjoyed the experience of living and working in another country and especially in China where I have thought about working in the future. It was made all the better by living and working with other interns from around the world. I really liked Shanghai, it was a vibrant city, however a lot of facilities shut quite early such as restaurants at about 10pm and the metro closing at about 10.30pm. I had thought about living and working in Shanghai in the future and this programme has shown that I could definitely live in Shanghai in the future.
Lasting Impressions

The trip gave me a valuable insight into how real experimental research is carried out and has reinforced my desire to pursue a career in renewable energy and environmental engineering. I am unsure as to whether I will go on to do a PhD, but I've learnt a lot about the dedication and passion it takes to do one. Beyond the work, the trip provided me with an amazing opportunity to live in and experience a country so very different from the UK in many ways (politically, socially and culturally). China really is a fascinating place. The trip was often fun, sometimes confusing, and always interesting. It was a great experience and I hope to visit China again in my future travels.

Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Nanjing, China

Samuel Henderson, Penultimate, MEng, St Edmund Hall
Jacob Pratt, Penultimate, MChem, St Catherine's College
Christopher Draper, Penultimate, MEarthSc, Worcester College
Alice Fox, 2nd Year, MChem, St Peter's College
Xiaonan Lu, 1st Year, MEng, St John's College

Samuel Henderson
Daily Life

I was picked up at the airport by one of the PhD students from the lab and taken to my accommodation, just around the corner from the university campus. I shared a room with a student who was studying at the university; he was really helpful in showing me around and generally helping me settle in during the first few days. The weather took some getting used to, with temperatures being 30–35 degrees most days and nights. I worked most days from 9 until about 4 or 5. I did not have weekends as such (PhD students don’t appear to follow any regular work schedule) but did have one or two days break every now and again. I ate most meals in the university canteen, but also ate out in restaurants a few times a week. Whilst not at work, I explored the city, sometimes with the guys from the lab and sometimes on my own. Nanjing is pretty big (comparable to London), and so there was an endless list of temples, museums, lakes, parks, restaurants, bars and shops to visit. I was also taken on day trips to Shanghai and Yangzhou.

Work Projects

Before starting work in the lab I was given some literature to read as an introduction to the work I would be doing. I was working with a PhD student with his experiments investigating chemical looping combustion (CLC), a fuel burning process potentially useful for industry due to its inherent carbon capture properties. The relatively simple experimental set-up meant that after the first week or so I was able to carry out the tests on my own, whilst my supervisor was processing results and preparing other experiments. It was really interesting to be involved in experimental research and experience all of the ups and downs that come with it. The experiments sometimes took an hour or more to run, so the work itself did not require constant concentration, which meant I was free to talk to the other students in the lab about their own experiments, as well as catch up on the previous day’s world cup highlights!

Jacob Pratt
Daily Life

The first few days were spent sorting out all of the formalities that had to be done, made easy thanks to the help of the really friendly Chinese students who helped us, and getting used to the culture and customs, as well as the heat. It really is hot here (Wuhan is known as one of the 3 furnaces along the Yangtze River), but everywhere is air conditioned, making it not too bad. Waking up at around 9am, I'd cycle into the office, grabbing some fruit from the nearby market for breakfast, though the option of noodles or other “breakfast” items were available if I'd just got up that little bit earlier. Cycling was my transport of choice around campus, and a really cheap and fun way to explore the area. Had I braved the hectic and busy roads outside of campus as well, it would have been a good way to see Wuhan too. After getting to work, I'd work until 11.30, when we would go for lunch in the canteens (lunch is taken early in China, but the food was so good I never dared to wait until later, it was usually gone). After that, the afternoon was free for me to do any number of things, as my supervisor had told me to 'explore Chinese culture'. Sometimes I'd play International or Chinese Chess with workmates (and lose), as well as other Chinese games like Chinese checkers or ping-pong. Other times, I'd write home to friends and family, have coffee in the very non-Chinese
Huazhong University continued...

coffee shops, explore Wuhan; there's no shortage of things to do in Wuhan and HUST. After eating dinner with the other Oxford interns and sometimes Chinese friends, we'd spend the evening relaxing, planning trips away, playing cards or a variety of other things. Weekends were mostly spent travelling China, thanks to the cheap hostels spread out everywhere, and with flexible work hours and night trains/buses with beds on, we could usually get a full 2 days somewhere in China, from Beijing to Mount Huangshan.

Work Projects
I was in a research group working on perovskite solar cells, a recent and exciting prospect for renewable energy. The work was very flexible, as the supervisor allowed me to do as much or as little work as I wanted, while encouraging me to find out more about the field. I started by getting to grips with all the equipment, figuring out what was what and how it all worked, as some of my colleagues showed me how to use everything. I was then shown how to manufacture a solar cell from scratch, starting from a bunch of raw materials to a tiny functioning solar cell, and invited to do so myself. I then helped with many of the experiments that the students were doing, involving how changes in the conditions and materials used in preparation of the cells affects the efficiency. Understanding how solar cells work, and why the changes in preparation are beneficial was interesting, and being on the cutting edge of the field was great experience. I also attended a seminar from a visiting Spanish professor, followed by an incredible meal, and a visit around a different university that was described as “the most beautiful campus in China”.

Lasting Impressions
Once I got to grips with chopsticks (and eating food was no longer a monumental challenge), one of the highlights for me was definitely the food, even in the canteens. While the staples of rice and noodles are ever present, the food that came along with them was varied and delicious. I quickly became a tomato and egg connoisseur, and an expert in aubergine-based dishes, and while these sound basic and boring, they were nothing of the sort. Eating out of dishes would be ordered and shared, and was a fun way to eat and improve chopstick prowess. The food also differed throughout China—some spicy, some sweet—and was fantastic everywhere. The people of China were also memorable. Our hosts were incredibly welcoming and inclusive, inviting us to many events and even helping us book our transport around China, when mine and the other interns’ limited Mandarin knowledge wouldn't cut it. Also, on the trains and buses, people who spoke English would always say hello and offer to help in any way possible, or just have a chat, while non-English speakers would rarely get too annoyed at my attempt to say ‘sorry, I don’t understand’ in broken and unintelligible Mandarin. The work was a really useful insight into the possibility of me doing research in the future, but I’m also glad my supervisor was very flexible with work, as this allowed me to see China’s many stunning sights. From the bustling alleyways in the Muslim Quarter of Xi’an to drinking tea on the edge of a bamboo forest, the sights and culture of China was something to savour, and I’m really glad I had a chance to experience it while I was here.

Christopher Draper

Daily Life
Being on a university campus I think made settling in a lot easier than it otherwise would have been, having never left Europe before China is quite a different culture! There were four of us from Oxford and we were each paired with a Chinese student from the department at which we were interning. Our helpers were some of the friendliest people I have ever met and they were very keen to get to know us and gave up a lot of their time getting us moved in and set up at the university. HUST very quickly felt like home. The university has over 100,000 students, but as it was their summer holidays and the campus is huge it never felt crowded. In the middle of a large city, the university has gone to a lot of effort to give the campus a natural feel, with every road lined with trees and a large number of parks and lakes. There were over 30 (very cheap!) canteens on campus, as well as banks and a few supermarkets (again very cheap, food and drink can cost about one tenth of what it does here in the UK), so there was not much need to leave the campus on a daily basis, it was often easy to forget the bustling sprawl of high rise buildings just outside! My office was a 10 minute walk from the accommodation, and working hours were fairly flexible as other than when doing the actual experiments, much of my work could be done independently. My supervisor was very relaxed and there wasn’t any pressure to stick to a strict 9 to 5 day, although in general people in China do start work early. Outside of work I spent most of my time with the other interns, our student helpers and some of their classmates. We’d often have meals together, play games or go sightseeing around Wuhan. Three of us had never been to China before, so we were keen to learn more about the country’s culture and history, as well as see some of its famous sights! We travelled every weekend, generally staying in hostels. Everyone we met was very friendly, on the trains (which take a long time to get anywhere, China’s big) we’d often talk to the other passengers, many of whom would tell us we’d seen more of China than they had. Top destinations include Beijing and the Great Wall, the Terracotta warriors, Huangshan (one of China’s most scenic mountains) and Sichuan province to see giant pandas. We got to see some of the best parts off the main tourist trails, whether it be a surprise tea house / Buddhist temple on the side of a cliff or accidentally stumbling upon a traditional market. Food is an important part of China’s culture, often if we were travelling somewhere the first thing people would tell us would be the type of noodles or other delicacy it was famous for! For the most part the food was delicious, although there were a few combinations that would be considered a little odd back home.
Huazhong University continued...

**Work Projects**
I worked in a small office of about half a dozen people, and assisted with research on the pre-treatment of biomass using pyrolysis to improve its viability as a renewable energy source. After reading a number of papers on the research area to get to grips with the basics, I then helped make corrections to papers already written by people in the group, primarily with regards to English language and grammar. Following this I conducted research alongside a supervising doctorate student and another master’s student into the effect of pyrolysis on various parts of corn, as the differences in chemical composition between parts of the plant have an impact on the products of the process. I then began writing a paper about the research, which will be continued by other people in the office.

**Lasting Impressions**
China is an amazing place, there’s just so much to see and do and the people are all very welcoming. It’s interesting to see how a lot of Chinese tradition still coexists with the ever-expanding urban sprawl. I could easily go back for another two months and still not be done! Although it hasn’t changed my career goals for now (I’m a geologist by trade) it’s been interesting to gain some insight into an entirely different field and I’ll have to see where I end up in the future.

Alice Fox

**Daily Life**
Each weekday of the internship I would walk across campus to my office to start at 9am. At 11.30 I would go to lunch with people from my office and afterwards they would either go back to their rooms to nap or return to the office either to sleep at their desks, continue working or relax. Work would restart at 2.30pm at the latest and I would stay at the office until going to dinner, either at one of the campus canteens or a restaurant off campus to try a different type of Chinese food, with the other Oxford interns, the Chinese friends or people from my office. My colleagues would usually get sleeper trains or coaches to leave on Friday night and get back on Monday morning. This meant we could spend the weekend sightseeing and enjoy exploring and soaking up the atmosphere of new places.

**Work Projects**
As part of my internship I worked with masters students on designing a module for experimental testing. This would be part of a power plant that harnesses the Gibbs’ free energy of mixing salt solutions of different concentrations and uses it to generate electricity. I read lots of papers on the topic and my colleagues went through what they had done so far with me. As part of my contribution to the project I did online research of papers to find information we needed for the design. I also carried out calculations to find variables we needed, and took part in discussions to brainstorm and plan tasks. I improved the standard of English for papers that colleagues had written on various topics for submission to journals. I was also given papers to read on topics that other people in my office were researching for my interest.

The host organisation, ICARE (The China-EU Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy) at HUST linked us with a student buddy from their masters programme. My buddy was extremely welcoming and friendly and we became good friends. Before I arrived, he sorted out accommodation and the necessary documentation I needed for my visa, and was willing to answer any questions I had. He met me at the airport when I arrived, took me back to the university and helped me settle in. He was great at helping me sort out things such as registering at the university, setting up internet and getting a Chinese SIM card. He showed us around campus, and for the first few days would walk us between places to help us not to get lost on the massive campus! The other ICARE students were also very willing to give us help we needed, as were the people we worked with in our offices, and everyone was really welcoming and keen to tell us about China and give us a good taste of life there. They helped us to book train tickets and hostels for travelling, tried to teach us some Mandarin and would always answer all our questions about Chinese culture! My professor took us sightseeing around Wuhan and my supervisor even took me to his friend’s wedding reception to see what that was like.

**Lasting Impressions**
I really enjoyed my time in China, and am extremely grateful for the opportunity. China was a welcoming, fascinating, surprising and really diverse country, both in people and landscapes. I visited massive cities, saw breathtaking views of mountains and had so much different food! It has provoked my interest in the history and culture of China and I would like to continue finding out more. I would definitely consider returning to live and work there if the opportunity arose, and to travel- China is so huge and diverse there is so much more to see! The internship has helped me to decide that I don’t think that I want to have a desk job in an office, or probably to do research as a job. It has made me more interested in the possibility of a career involving renewable energy and one in which I would have the opportunity to work in or travel to different countries.
Lasting Impressions
The campus was beautiful. I loved the school environment. The life was comfortable while the research work was challenging. This internship gave me an insight into research life and helped me understand my future dream career – professor, or even better.

Xiaonan Lu

Daily Life
A volunteer picked me up at the train station and helped me with registration matters such as accommodation, internet, and meal cards. My volunteer contacted me frequently and helped me greatly on every aspect throughout my internship. Organized by the University, I was invited to join some of the activities of a Summer Camp, including a trip to the New Renewable Centre. For daily life, I lived on campus and most of the time the facilities were within walking distance. I had lunch and dinner together with PhD/Master students in my group/laboratory and we fostered good friendships. I also hung out with other Oxford students doing the same internship.

Work Projects
On the second day of my arrival, my professor had a discussion with me about the tasks I could do. Due to my weak background, he asked me to follow one of the PhD students. That student gave me a few papers to read so that I could familiarize with my area ‘LED packaging’ first. Another graduating PhD student advised me to work on scattering of light with a view to producing some useful programming about that. I spent the rest of my weeks digesting the equations in the review, learning a new programming language (Fortran) and producing a PowerPoint presentation. In the meantime, I also helped an incoming PhD student with his Matlab programming. Although my professor was away on business trips for more than half of the time, the PhD and master students in my group helped me a lot with my work. They gave me advice on how to read papers effectively, how to approach a new language and how to debug errors. They also gave me an insight into research life in university.
The internship confirmed my aim to remain within academia after my DPhil.

Daily Life
My working day usually started at 9am and ended at 5pm with one hour lunch break around 1pm. My colleague and I were sharing an office with two other members of the Humanities Division Staff. The atmosphere has always been very pleasant and we were both warmly welcomed by all the staff.

Work Projects
During the internship I worked together with another intern, on developing two projects for the Humanities Division: a Public Engagement Summer School and a student-led fund, the AHRC-TORCH Graduate Humanities Seed Fund. Our supervisor, the Humanities Training Officer, was extremely helpful throughout the whole internship: he gave us the opportunity to develop the skills to work independently as well as being available to support us when necessary.

Lasting Impressions
The internship was based in Oxford where I am currently living, so it was very convenient. In terms of career goals, the internship confirmed my aim to remain within academia after my DPhil, whether as a researcher or within its administrative staff. I was very happy to notice how interesting and challenging it can be to develop these type of projects within academia.

Humanities Division, Oxford University
Oxford, UK
Adele Bardazzi, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages, Christ Church College
**Joanna Baker (Switzerland)**

**Daily Life**
I was greeted at the airport by one of the other student interns and she helped me move in and became a good friend. On my first weekend I was taken into the Swiss Alps camping with all the teams which was a great opportunity to get to know them and make friends. I was sharing a flat with another student and I went sightseeing with her and my work friends. I got many opportunities to travel with the work, going to Germany, Geneva, Italy and Emmental to name a few. The first few weeks of my internship were very flexible with little work, the last 3 weeks while the summer school was on, the hours were very long and days were quite tiring but rewarding.

**Work Projects**
I was involved in the organisation and running of the ETH Zurich Sustainability Summer School. This involved communicating with students, helping design the case studies and organising their lectures. I worked in a great environment with other student organis-ers and had a very flexible schedule I could fit to my own plans.

**Lasting Impressions**
I fell in love with Zurich as a city, it has an amazing ambience; it always feels very safe and is so clean. There is a lot to do in the way of sightseeing, swimming in the lake or hiking. I would be happy to live here if I was working here, everything is very expensive but the wages are high too so it is viable if you are earning a wage. The work I did here wasn’t directly related to what I am interested in pursuing as a career but it has taught me a lot and I have gained many skills and friends.

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**Timothy Hedgeland (USA)**

**Daily Life**
I worked Monday–Thursday for the period of the internship, between 8am and 6pm (the stated hours were 9–5 Monday to Friday, but I was offered the opportunity to change the hours to the ones I carried out, to give me a greater opportunity to explore California. I walked to work every day (about 10 minutes), used the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transport) to traverse the bay area, or rented a car (very cheap) to carry out travelling further afield (this was for personal tourist trips, rather than a necessity of the job). I was liv-ing in a mixed community of international students at International House, which meant that I had the opportunity to experience a range of cultures different to those that I am used to. With only a couple of others from the UK in a community of over six hundred, it means that you are thrust into other cultures, and you begin to understand them in a way that is not seen in a normal university experience. The experience makes you realise what a unique cultural identity you yourself have developed, and possibly how you can expand upon this by enveloping other cultural behaviours into your routine. International House was fantastic, and I feel that the experience will have made me friends for life around the globe from those I met. The Californian culture was very similar to much of the culture seen in UK universities, and will not act as a culture shock to anyone who has lived in the UK or Western Europe for any length of time. Living in an international community from my accommo-dation meant that if there were any things you were not used to (as there inevitably will be in a new environment), you would not be alone being able to adjust.
IARU/Environmental Sustainability (University of Oxford Estates Services) continued...

Work Projects

My time at UC Berkeley consisted of a variety of tasks, of which two major projects took up a large proportion of my time at the university. The first was the production of a document named ‘Storytelling with Intent: The Sustainability Story That Makes Your Point Wins.’ This 20 page booklet was inspired by a talk given by UC Berkeley’s Director of Sustainability Lisa McNeilly, and Sustainability Manager Kira Stoll. They focused on how to use storytelling (and the different techniques mentioned within the booklet) to create more engaging and inspiring talks, and more persuasive arguments, regarding issues of sustainability. The intended audience for the report is sustainability professionals. The project covered the types of stories that can be told (and the reasons for doing so), as well as the main techniques to tell such stories. Each topic is further expanded on by examples to stimulate further understanding. As the title suggests, the report shows how such projects can be linked with the sustainability sector, with sections discussing the implications of each topic to the field, and raising further questions for the reader to stimulate greater discussion of the topics covered. The final format of the document is for online reading, although a small number of hard copies was also produced.

The second major project I worked on was the production of an ideas toolkit for the University of California, for the engagement of students, staff, and faculty with the proposed 2025 carbon neutrality goals. The 24 page document consisted of various ideas and examples of how other universities across the globe have helped engage the population of their campuses (with a particular focus on the University of Oxford and UC Berkeley). Covering topics as diverse as Communications and Action Plans, the document aims to show (with reference to examples) how it is possible to create greater engagement with the campus communities. The document includes researched and anecdotal evidence about various events and schemes that have been put in place in different institutions, as well as posing questions to the reader to stimulate them into action. The audience is intended to be staff, faculty, students, and sustainability professionals within the UC system, although it could be applied to any university campus if desired. Other smaller tasks covered included producing a 15 page booklet on Citizen Science for staff at UC Berkeley, editing sections of the UC Berkeley Sustainability Report 2014, compiling data on the green credentials of LEED certified buildings for UN-Habitat, compilation of water use data on campus, sorted by building and date, sitting in on meetings of various working groups and projects, and 1 to 1 meetings with various departments from UC Berkeley and UCOP.

At the end of my internship, colleagues in my office were kind enough to take me to thank you drinks, which allowed me to say my goodbyes to those I had worked with, and gave me the opportunity to thank them for all of their support throughout the internship (which was a huge amount).

Lasting Impressions

Waiting for my flight home at Oakland airport I began to think about the summer I had been so lucky to have had, and jotted a few points down on the back of a Starbucks’s receipt. The first of these words I had written down was ‘INSPIRING.’ To me, it seems very important that my initial thought was how exciting the whole endeavour had been – the work carried out by Berkeley was truly fascinating and an inspiration to what people can achieve when we try to improve the environments we live and work in, where targets such as the zero carbon emissions by 2025 made me feel so excited for our future. Rather than the doom and gloom provided by the media about sustainability, where only pessimists got their message across, the campus was forward thinking and actively participating in the efforts to improve our future. Indeed it is a similar message that I found whilst producing some of the larger documents during the summer, where I liked to include short quotes in the booklets regarding sustainability, particularly focused towards climate change. You can try this for yourself – if you search for a quote you will get multitudes stating the risks and dangers that climate change will cause (which are doubtless correct), but you find very few sharing anecdotes of the successes that we are beginning to experience. The current state of affairs are aimed at the few who still don’t believe in the need for change to produce a sustainable future, rather than acting to inspire those who do. Secondly, I had written the word ‘FUN.’ The summer was the best I could remember, where the days in the office looking at a variety of enthralling topics were complimented by my trips into wider California to experience the culture of America. Needless to say, the trip afforded me opportunities and experiences not present at home, and for that I am very glad! This brings me onto the final word I wrote down, which was ‘GRATEFUL.’ I would like to thank IARU, UC Berkeley and the University of Oxford for providing me with this truly fantastic experience. I have learnt so much throughout my time there, and hope that I can apply everything I have learnt back at home! I am looking forward to being able to share the wonderful ideas and influences with my friends and the university.
Imaflora
Piracicaba, Brazil
Qingling Kong, Master of Public Policy (MPP), St Hilda’s College
Aleena Mehta, MPhil Social Anthropology, St Antony’s College

Qingling Kong
Daily Life
I worked from 9am to 5:30pm every day in the office with occasional field work to the places IMAFLORA works in. My colleague gave me a lift everyday to work. Out of office hours, I enjoyed the company of lovely friends in parties, barbecues and field trips.

Work Projects
I was working on drafting a strategy for IMAFLORA to advocate supportive public policies for Protected Areas in the Amazon. The strategy aims to combat formal threats from the government to downgrade, downsize or degazette protected areas.

Lasting Impressions
Brazil is a friendly country to live and work in. I made a bunch of close friends in Brazil which makes me miss the country even more after leaving. Working for an NGO confirmed my goal to work for NGOs in the future.

Aleena Mehta
Daily Life
I lived with a PhD student who had worked with Imaflora for a number of years, and was taken to and from work each day by a co-worker who happened to live in the same building. Everyone was so warm and welcoming, and the food was amazing!

Work Projects
I worked on two different projects. The first consisted of developing a model for measuring food insecurity in specific Brazilian municipalities based on data gathered from several public databases. The second project was an equity and critical discourse based review of the work of Imaflora, to determine if there were avenues where equity could be better advanced.

Lasting Impressions
I really appreciated the opportunity to spend time living in the country that I am researching and would definitely return again when the opportunity arises.
Institute of Food Research  
Norwich, UK  
Katherine Farmer, 2nd Year, MChem, Exeter College

Daily Life  
The hours were very flexible, but I generally worked 9 till 5 and did half days on Fridays. Everyone was very welcoming and friendly and settling in was easy. There were 3 other interns from Oxford as well as many lovely postgrads who I socialised at lunch with as well as after work. I cycled into work most days as I lived a 30 minute walk away. Out of work I mainly spent time with my housemates who were a mix of postgrads and interns at UEA. Most weekends I would travel home or to friends to visit people over the summer.

Work Projects  
I was involved in several ongoing projects which the IFR were working on. Most of what I did focused on a prototype NMR machine in which I obtain spectrums for the rest of the group to analyse. I worked with Oils and Whole Foods with the aim to identify fat content. I also did Gas Chromatography Preparation and well as oil extraction. I was given plenty of help and instruction from my supervisor as well as many others in the building, which I was very grateful for.

Lasting Impressions  
I really enjoyed my internship as it gave me a chance to see what opportunities were available after my degree. Norwich was a really lovely, small town but was very inaccessible to the rest of the country making it difficult and expensive for me to visit places at the weekend. The internship has made me realise that although I enjoyed my 8 weeks, research is not something I am passionate about and I now plan on pursuing a career in teaching.
**Daily Life**
I initially felt very out of my depth in this internship as there was a slight misunderstanding with the level of Spanish I would require - nobody spoke English and my Spanish was limited to GCSE. However, everyone was kind and invited me to many social events as the office had a young average age. In addition, I took Spanish classes to help me. I lived very near to work and thus walked there - my hours were easy and flexible: about 9:30am to 4:30pm. Outside of work I would take Spanish lessons, attend yoga and salsa class, socialise and take travel trips in free time and weekends.

**Work Projects**
I did a lot of work shadowing; sitting in interviews with local businesses, visiting client sites. I also did some accounting, taught English classes in the university in my free time and wrote some articles for the newsletter. The support I received was good however the organisation had not fully planned what the interns were going to do.

**Lasting Impressions**
My lasting impressions were positive because of the learning experience of living alone in another country and meeting wonderful people. I would definitely return to Peru but probably not to work there, as the work culture can be frustrating for someone coming from the UK. It made me see that I do enjoy consulting as a career choice.
**Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência**  
**Lisbon, Portugal**

Henry Owen, 2nd Year, BA Cell and Systems Biology, University College  
Alistair Leverett, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, St Catherine’s College  
Joy Sze Yu, 2nd Year, MBioChem (Molecular and Cellular), Lady Margaret Hall  
Haran Jackson, Finalist, MMath, Hertford College  
Jean Vila, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, Wadham College  
Michael West, Penultimate, MMath, St Hugh’s College

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**Henry Owen**  
**Daily Life**

The normal start time for work at the IGC is 10am, though people chose their own hours to suit their circumstances. I am staying in some accommodation with the other 5 interns about 5 minutes walk from the IGC. I generally work until 6pm with a break from lunch outside in the sunshine with colleagues. After work I have been cycling, swimming at the beach (15min walk from work), and socialising with the other interns. At the weekends I have had time to explore Lisbon and some surrounding areas.

**Work Projects**

I have helped out with general shared tasks around the lab such as genotyping mice, maintaining cultured cells, and producing stocks of virus. My main project has been working with some different sets of mice, with deletions for some different genes and seeing what effect, if any, the deletions have in responses of the mice to influenza infection. I have been instructed in several new techniques and have learned to handle mice for a variety of experimental purposes. I have also been involved in lab meetings and discussion with my two host labs, and attended the regular seminars put on at the institute.

**Lasting Impressions**

I loved Portugal, and Lisbon. I would definitely like to return to work here.

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**Alistair Leverett**  
**Daily Life**

I lived in the agronomical centre round the corner from the IGC, so could easily get to work in the morning. I enjoyed living communally with the other Oxford interns and was struck by how communal and welcoming the IGC is as an institute. Outside of work I played ultimate frisbee at a club on the beach a few times and went cycling in the mountains in Sintra.

**Work Projects**

I undertook a project looking at the interaction between 2 proteins involved in alternative splicing; scl33 and scl30a. I did germination assays to assess the effect of these genes, in single and double mutants, in tolerance to salt stress. In addition to this I genotyped the plants, looking at both their DNA and mRNA, to check the mutants were actually what I thought they were. Finally I looked at whether each mutant had different isoforms of the others RNA, post splicing, to see how they interact. This meant looking at differences in SCL33 isoforms in the scl30a mutant and vice versa. These projects were my own independent work. I received help and advice from every member of the lab. This hugely increased my enjoyment of this internship as I was able to work autonomously, whilst interacting with a number of different people, at different points in their career.

**Lasting Impressions**

I will take away a sense of the variable cultures of research institutes and even labs within those institutes - and the flexibility and freedom that science can give as a career.
Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência continued...

Joy Sze Yu
Daily Life
The IGC provided accommodation at a residence about 5 minutes walk from the IGC. I usually started my day at about 9:30am and ended a day at about 6/7pm depending on the work I was doing. There wasn’t a strict rule of the working hours so there was a lot of freedom. The canteen at the IGC provided a good variety of food and lunchtime was the time to socialise with other people outside my lab. The Portuguese usually have a break at about 5pm, when people sit outside together to have a beer or eat something. On weekends, the other Oxford interns and I usually go to the beach or outings to different cities to explore.

Work Projects
I worked on several projects during my time at the evolution and development lab in IGC, including the role of Dscam and FoxP genes in immune response of Drosophila. I had received a lot of help from the Post-docs and PhD students from the lab. Since they were all working on different projects, I was able to learn a wide range of techniques and knowledge on evolution and development.

Lasting Impressions
The IGC provides a very friendly environment for young scientists to do research on the areas they are interested in. The Portuguese people there are very helpful and relaxed. The weather is always sunny and nice. It would be great if I could go back to live and work there. This internship has made me consider doing a PhD in science after my degree in Oxford.

Haran Jackson
Daily Life
I got the impression that working hours at the IGC are fairly flexible. It didn’t seem to matter exactly when I came and left, as long as I got the work done. A lot of people went in later and left later, and as I’m not much of a fan of early mornings this suited me well. The institute was about 5 minutes walk from where we were staying. There were 6 Oxford interns in total and we all got on really well. Some evenings we went down to the beach after work (15 minutes walk from the institute) and at the weekends we visited Lisbon and the surrounding area. To anyone undertaking this in-

ternship in future: go to Sintra, it’s incredible. There are a few hundred people at the IGC, all from different academic and cultural backgrounds, making for a really interesting bunch of people. Everyone I met was friendly and seemed happy to be there.

Work Projects
The IGC is a biomedical research institute, and as a Maths student I was assigned to the Population and Conservation Genetics group. The focus of my project was to investigate the production of false bottleneck signals by Li & Durbin’s PSMC algorithm (an algorithm that, given two sample genomes, infers the past effective population size of the population from which the sample is taken). By lucky coincidence, the theory behind my project followed directly on from one of my courses at Oxford and I was able to engage with it fairly quickly. The work was challenging at times but very interesting and rewarding. The support I received from my supervisor and the rest of the group was phenomenal. I was well guided and any questions I had were answered immediately.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my time at the IGC and I would recommend it to anyone unreservedly. I learnt a huge amount of Computational Biology, got a lot of hands-on independent research experience, and had a lot of fun at the same time. My experiences have confirmed my ambitions of postgrad study and I feel like they’ve made that route easier to take.
Michael West

Daily Life
The day to day routine was great. Most people got in to work around 10 and leave by 6, with coffee and lunch and relaxation breaks in between. In general, the lifestyle was very relaxed. There were 6 Oxford interns at the IGC, and we spent a lot of time together, and got along really well. We travelled around Lisbon and the surrounding areas quite a bit. I found a great beach ultimate frisbee community, and attended some training camps and tournaments around Portugal. These trips were the highlights of my summer.

Work Projects
I worked in the Science and Policy group at the IGC. This group is small and quiet at the IGC. I worked on a project analyzing the effects of various economic indicators on public opinion of science, as measured by a series of surveys. Although the people I worked with were very friendly and helpful, the project itself did not have much structure or support.

Lasting Impressions
My lasting impressions are overwhelmingly positive. This internship has confirmed my desire to carry on with further studies and has provided valuable experience in a professional research environment. In addition living in Portugal for two months was incredible fun. For a country so small it is incredibly diverse and beautiful. It is definitely somewhere I would love to go back to.

Jean Vila

Daily Life
Work hours would vary depending on what I was doing but most days work began at ten and would finish around 8 (though quite regularly experiments would go on later into the night). As the facility was a ten minute walk from the accommodation, getting there and back was easy. Out of work I spent time socialising with colleagues in my lab as well as with the other Oxford interns. Quite often there would be social events on the patio of the Institute arranged by either the PhD students or the PostDocs. At weekends we took the opportunity to act like regular tourists - either going to the beach or into the city centre. During the internship I took one slightly longer weekend off to go and visit Porto and the neighbouring Douro valley region (with experiments arranged so that I didn’t lose time at work), as well as a short day trip to Sintra and then to Evora.

Work Projects
I spent the period working on Qorum Sensing in E.coli, as part of a larger programme carried out by the lab I was in. Specifically I was testing whether AI2 deficient mutants might have a competitive fitness advantage when engulfed by macrophages. This was a self contained and self conducted scientific project, with training provided in the first two weeks, after which I mostly conducted the project myself. Colleagues assisted whenever I had problems and would conduct small parts of my experiment for me if it needed machinery which I did not have authorisation to use. All resources needed were provided by the host organisation including lab equipment, protocols, cleaning facilities, media etc.

Lasting Impressions
My lasting impressions are overwhelmingly positive. This internship has confirmed my desire to carry on with further studies and has provided valuable experience in a professional research environment. In addition living in Portugal for two months was incredible fun. For a country so small it is incredibly diverse and beautiful. It is definitely somewhere I would love to go back to.
Connor McCarthy
Daily Life
I settled in easily, and the other employees were incredibly welcoming, hugely engaged and incredibly intelligent. I took the tube and national rail to work, taking around 50 mins one-way. I worked 8 hours a day, including 1 hour for a lunch break, and could work any time I wished, as long as it was for 8 hours. I spent time with another intern, and other employees, and was lucky enough to attend a range of conferences and meetings with politicians and other groups which was diverse, and extremely fulfilling.

Work Projects
I researched and wrote numerous blogs on a range of topics from OECD ageing to housing policies. I also completed research on manifesto promises of the main parties, and compiled a press fact-sheet. I also wrote an Autumn Statement Submission to the Chancellor, compiling a large range of research into a succinct proposal.

Lasting Impressions
The internship... confirmed my career goal of working as an economist.

Aleksandra Blawat
Daily Life
With the funds provided by my research grant I rented a room on the road opposite the location of the internship, which made travelling to work extremely easy! I worked 8 flexible hours Tuesday-Friday. I usually chose to work from about 10am to 6pm with an hour’s break for lunch. On my days off I visited museums with my friends, travelled to Brighton, and explored London.

Work Projects
I worked on two reports. One pertained to the lack of savings vehicles available for young people to save for mortgages. I estimated the costs and benefits of a 'young savers' bond, based on the costs of the pensioner bond announced in the 2014 budget. The second report had to do with estimating the inefficiency generated by museums offering concessions to older people, and the revenue that could be gained by removing these. I received plenty of feedback throughout the process of writing these reports, through written comments from each full time member of staff at the Intergenerational Foundation. These were extremely helpful in improving my reports and helping me simplify complex economic analysis into plain language. I also wrote several blog posts and attended many events as a representative of the organisation.

Lasting Impressions
The internship gave me a good idea of life working and living in London and confirmed my career goal of working as an economist. It has also made me more confident that I can achieve this goal.
Thomas Brookes

Daily Life
Working hours were flexible but I would often arrive at 10.30am and would work at a desk, writing and researching at my personal laptop. Occasionally there would be external events to attend such as report launches, meetings, or internal meetings.

Work Projects
I wrote blogs and factsheets; edited the website; and performed a couple of administrative tasks.

Lasting Impressions
I met a really considerate, thoughtful and talented group of people doing vital work. I feel significantly more informed and engaged on social issues as a direct result of the internship, and inspired to continue research into these areas both recreationally and, I hope, professionally. However, while an ideal future career would be in or around this area, I would prefer a workplace with more personal interaction and less individual screen-based work.
Nicola Adams

Daily Life
I was able to work two/three days a week at home, and used Skype if I had to get in contact with people at the office. On the days I went into the office, I would get there at 9 and leave just after 5, and would do a bit more work on the train to and from Oxford.

Work Projects
I analysed data from participants in the online courses that INASP run, which help researchers in developing countries improve their academic writing skills. I then made several infographics using that data. I met regularly with my supervisor, and everyone in the office helped me if needed.

Lasting Impressions
This internship has helped me figure out my goals for my working life, and has really helped emphasise how important the people you work with are to enjoying a job.

Helena Connors

Daily Life
I got to work for 9am by bus. I then got a drink and had a quick chat with my supervisor about how I was getting on, or about something new for me to research. INASP is a quiet office with people working independently, but I knew that if I needed help I could ask anyone. I then worked until 12.30 and had an hour long lunch break. I had lunch with my supervisor and some other colleagues twice. I then went back to work and finished between 4.30 and 5pm.

Work Projects
I was involved in analysing the feedback of the participants who attended some of the workshops run by INASP and, using this information, made recommendations to INASP about the workshops themselves and the feedback forms.

Lasting Impressions
Everyone at INASP was really friendly and helpful, especially my supervisors. I would definitely consider working for a company like INASP or working in international development in the future. It has confirmed that I would really like to work in a company that has links overseas and where I can make a difference.
**International Strategy Office, University of Oxford**  
*Oxford, UK*  
Luke Harvest, Penultimate, MMath, New College

**Daily Life**  
The working hours were flexible, due to most of the work being just completed by myself. I would get to work on the bus and the day would mostly consist of working on a computer, with the occasional meeting.

**Work Projects**  
During the internship I wrote two statistical reports, one on the performance of undergraduates at Oxford, and one on the predictive validity of admissions tests. The first third of the internship was spent with a senior statistical analyst at the university, getting me up to speed with the statistical software used.

**Lasting Impressions**  
Oxford is a great place to study, work and live and the internship helped confirm that I would enjoy staying in Oxford after graduating.

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**IntoUniversity**  
*Oxford, UK*  
Maeve Sinnott, Finalist, BA History, Keble College

**Daily Life**  
Work hours were 9am to 5.30pm. The organisation is a very socially orientated, comfortable and enjoyable place to work. All the head office staff (as well as the London delivery staff who pop in a lot) were welcoming and very friendly. I received as much support as I needed, but was also given space and time to have real agency over what I was doing. I started travelling to work via tube, but then realised I could easily cycle and work – and in the summer that was lovely.

**Work Projects**  
I was very fortunate in this placement in the sense that I was given a wide range of tasks which gave me a thorough insight into the organisation. I felt challenged and was also given an appropriate and increasing amount of independence in the tasks I was set. From small tasks such as writing up minutes and filling in gift aid forms, to larger tasks such as writing progress reports for funders, conducting funding research, writing corporate case studies for UK universities, as well as conducting a feasibility study for a UK city, I had a great view into the charity’s work.

**Lasting Impressions**  
I am extremely impressed by IntoUniversity – and think that it is one of the best charities I’ve come across. My impression of its value only increased over the two months that I interned there - and that has to be a massive accolade.
results. These were interesting as with more research and extended evaluation of the binding sites of different POM molecules we could potentially find cures to Alzheimer’s (linked to the AchE protein) and HIV. The main work was done in setting up the protein/POM system ready to run it. I had to generate boxes with both the protein and the POM, add solvent and conduct many energy minimisations before the simulation of the interactions could be run on the supercomputer. After the simulation was submitted it would often take up to 3 days to complete just 50 nanoseconds of data!! In this time I would prepare another system. My Professor was extremely kind and helpful through the internship. He greeted me at the airport and took me back to the university and gave me a tour of the area before sorting out my room for me. I have left the internship with some promising simulations that he wishes to investigate further and hopefully produce a paper on the material found in the near future.

Lasting Impressions
I liked Germany as a country, it is very pretty and there are lots of nice places to see. Bremen was the only city (to my knowledge) not to be affected by the war and so it still has lots of old architecture which is very beautiful. This internship has introduced me to computational chemistry which I have not really had the opportunity to do before. I found it both challenging and very interesting. I usually enjoy more practical lab work however this internship has opened my eyes to another potential path which I will definitely consider in the future.
Jacobs University continued...

Sally Bovill

Daily Life
I arrived in Germany late on a Wednesday night, so I had the rest of the week to settle in and was mostly given background information and papers to read before starting work in the lab after the weekend. I lived on campus, ate most of my meals there and the lab building was only a five minute walk from my room. My working hours were normally 9:30am–5:30pm but these hours were flexible and depended on what reactions I had running at the time. After work, I often took the train into the centre of Bremen with another Oxford intern or people I had met at the university. There weren’t any other interns in my group but I gradually met and made friends with other interns, Masters students and PhD students from other groups that I met in the canteen. I was able to buy a Semester Ticket from the university, which meant that I had unlimited train, tram and bus travel in Bremen, and I could also get the train to other nearby cities, such as Hamburg and Hannover, at the weekend.

Work Projects
My internship lasted about six weeks – most of that time was spent in Germany, but I also went to France with the group for a four-day conference during my second week. I worked in an Inorganic lab that specialised in polyoxometalate cluster synthesis. Since I was only in the lab for a short period of time, I was given a few short projects to complete (rather than one longer project). I was initially supervised by a postdoc researcher, who taught me how to synthesise a polyoxometalate cluster known as \(\text{P5W30}\). I then completed a mini-project with him, substituting Na+ for other cations with a similar ionic radius in \(\text{P5W30}\), and I learned how to use a hydrothermal bomb to run these reactions. Any single crystals I synthesised will be analysed using the XRD machine, to determine the crystal structure. During my last two weeks in Germany, I worked with a PhD student, who taught me how to synthesise a Cu15 polyoxometalate cluster. I then worked independently to try and synthesise the manganese equivalent for the first time, varying reaction conditions such as pH and temperature. The group provided glassware and chemicals, and both of my supervisors were good at teaching me new techniques or how to use pieces of equipment that I had not used before. As well as the lab work, I got an insight into other aspects of being a member of a research group. I attended all of the group meetings and presented at one of the meetings. I was the only native English speaker in the group, so I helped some of the group members with their PowerPoint slides, conference speeches and draft papers. One of the papers I edited was accepted into a journal a few days later, so it was great to have made some small contribution to that!

Lasting Impressions
I enjoyed living in Germany and Bremen is a beautiful city. However, the campus was largely empty during the summer holidays, so initially I felt a little isolated as there weren’t many other students around to socialise with. This situation improved with time. I didn’t know much German before coming to Bremen and this wasn’t too much of a problem – it was an international university, so most people spoke English. Although this meant it was easy for me to communicate with others, it also meant that I didn’t learn very much German! I think I would only want to live or work in Germany again if I had the chance to take a German course before going there. I am still unsure about whether I will do a PhD but I have a much better idea now about what it involves and what working in the lab everyday is like.
Julia’s Bicycle
London, UK
Julia Duchesne, MSc Environmental Change and Management, Hertford College

Daily Life
Julie’s Bicycle is a friendly, welcoming workplace above the Bush Theatre in Shepherd’s Bush. I worked in the flexible ‘hotdesking’ workplace 3 days out of 5 and worked remotely for the other 2, in general 9–5:30. Because it was very difficult to find housing for just six weeks (Sept–Oct), I stayed in a series of hostels – although I was also kindly offered a place to stay by several colleagues. I took the tube or walked to work. The atmosphere was hard-working but friendly and I socialized with many of the colleagues, in addition to other friends in London. I was also invited to a series of out-of-town events in Liverpool, Bristol and more. These were fascinating and fun. On the whole, working at JB was a great experience and I was offered the chance to take part in a real variety of interesting events.

Work Projects
While at Julie’s Bicycle, I researched and wrote reports on plans to expand their carbon management tools to include employee engagement and empowerment. This involved research in various areas, as well as meeting with JB staff to talk through ideas. I was supported by a direct supervisor and had access to the JB executive, arts, and carbon teams. I was given support where needed but also just allowed to work independently and take my own initiative.

Lasting Impressions
I’m not yet finished but I really enjoyed living in London and would love to return – a lifetime wouldn’t be enough to take it all in! If I wasn’t heading back to Canada, I would have loved to stay longer. Personally, working at JB has shown me what sort of workplace I’d like to be part of – one as flexible, friendly, and dedicated as JB. Career-wise, I now better appreciate the importance of the creative arts in shaping sustainable change, and the value of sector-specific tools for managing that change.
The letters of May Morris have given me a possible thesis theme, which I am excited to explore further.

**Thomas Wilson**

**Daily Life**

Since I do not live in England I needed to find accommodation and preferred to stay in Oxford, a city I know, rather than in one of the neighbouring villages near to Kelmscott Manor. For the duration of the internship I lived in college accommodation in Oxford, and walked into the centre, where there were regular coaches to Faringdon. From there, I shared a lift with another intern working in the manor (she luckily had a car, which is the only way to access the manor, except by boat). The journey in total took perhaps an hour and a half, which I was happy to undertake for the six week period. Working hours were from 10am to 5.30 pm (but the curators kindly let me leave a little early to catch my bus!). The manor is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays, so the working week was Tuesday to Saturday. On the public open days I was sometimes involved in the team of volunteers who looked after the public, this mostly consisted of invigilating rooms in the manor and answering any questions people had about the house, the objects, or the Morris family. The manor was an informal work environment and the full time members of staff were all sociable, as too were the volunteers. There were two other interns working in the manor at the same time as me and we have all become good friends. The six week project was concluded with a staff vs. volunteer croquet tournament and we three interns then presented our findings. Working in the manor was very sociable and enjoyable.

**Work Projects**

My initial project was to create a large database of photographs and paintings of Kelmscott Manor’s interiors and exteriors, which might be used in the future to create visual displays of how the property’s structure and fabric has changed over time. As part of this research I was able to ‘track down’ the whereabouts of 8 paintings by the Pre-Raphaelite painter and model Marie Stillman, the location of which some scholarly books have dismissed as being ‘unknown’. This project naturally led me to examine the manor’s own archive room in search of images. Being un-catalogued, I then needed to undertake the fascinating job of examining the contents of the archive and establishing a basic catalogue of the original material hidden inside it. The manor was once the summer home of William Morris and was later bought by his wife, Jane, before it was passed to their daughter, May. In the archives I was privileged to find bundles of letters and postcards from May, and two unpublished letters written by William Morris in 1894 on the subject of socialism. Nobody at the manor knew that these existed. Along with these correspondences I came across original vellum legal documents dating from as early as 1677 and a large number of first edition Pre-Raphaelite and socialist pamphlets. This internship gave me a very broad view of working in the museums and heritage sector, and of archive and cataloguing work, as well as some basic conservation. The employers (meaning the property managers/curators) were very flexible in how I worked, which was lucky as finding such amazing material in the archives quickly became the focus of my project, as opposed to tracking down images. As well as working in the manor I spent a week working in the Society of Antiquaries of London, which is in Burlington House. The society has a wonderful collection of manuscripts and objects, numbering well over 40,000 items. The society has been entirely shut to the public until this summer, when the doors were finally open for an exhibition of their portrait collection, where I carried out a number of interviews with the visiting public. These interviews (supposed to take five minutes, but usually developing into forty minute conversations) will be used in applications for heritage funding by the society in the future.

**Lasting Impressions**

I feel extremely privileged to have found the original material in the archives, seeing as William Morris is such an important figure in so many different fields of scholarly work. I also feel very lucky to have been trusted with the quantities of original material I uncovered. The letters of May Morris have given me a possible thesis theme, which I am excited to explore further. This internship has given me a brilliant insight into the museums and galleries sector, giving me experience in the day-to-day running of a heritage property, and also experience in working in conservation and archives. It has encouraged me to consider this career path.
Chloe Gilbert
Daily Life
My average working day was 9.30am-5pm and I commuted daily from Cheltenham to Kelmscott. The day to day work load varied depending on whether it was an open or closed day at the Manor. I settled into the role very quickly, both in terms of working alongside staff and the other interns. The initial month of the internship I spend immersing myself in the daily life of the Manor as well as trying my hand at a variety of tasks, including room stewarding. Towards the end of the six weeks I was really able to use the surveys I had created and engage with the public. This was a hugely engaging and insightful experience.

Work Projects
I was involved with visitor experience and audience analysis research. This enabled me to create a series of surveys/questionnaires for the Manor and to engage with other marketing/PR projects.

Lasting Impressions
Working in a small heritage property which is not run by the National Trust has given me a huge insight into the joys and difficulties of running such an establishment. I am still very keen to explore the heritage sector further.

Sophie Ridley
Daily Life
My days at the Manor varied depending on whether we were open to the public or not. On an open day, I would arrive at 10am, along with the army of volunteers, and chat with them over tea and biscuits whilst checking the rota to see if I would be needed to steward a room. If so, I would head up to the little library to get on with my research until my allotted time. Reading up on the history and contents of the room before heading down, I would make sure I could field inquisitive visitors’ questions. Once in one of the historic rooms the tasks were to ensure the collection’s safety whilst also keeping visitors happy and informed. After a stint in a room I would disappear back to the library to pour over more of the archive material alongside the other interns. Days on which the manor was closed were much quieter, with most of the time given over to research. This was, of course, punctuated with the mandatory 11am tea break led by our lovely housekeeper. Most days also involved little visits to other members of the team to show off some latest exciting find from the archives. Finally, I also did a few days at the head office at Burlington House in London. Here I worked through documents in the beautiful Fellows’ Library. Fortunately, this was ample compensation for having to brave the rush-hour tube, a stark contrast to Kelmscott’s country lanes!

Work Projects
Over the course of my internship I carried out research into ‘the lost treasures of Kelmscott Manor’. This involved finding historic inventories of the property and cross-comparing them to see how items came and went. I also contacted a number of museums and searched in online catalogues for material that had been bequeathed by inhabitants over the years.

Lasting Impressions
Working in a small heritage property which is not run by the National Trust has given me a huge insight into the joys and difficulties of running such an establishment. I am still very keen to explore the heritage sector further.
Dominic Pollard

Daily Life
My work at Kelmscott differed broadly between open days (when the Manor was open to the public) and closed days. On open days I would decide with another intern who was working with me which survey we would be conducting on that day, before printing and distributing them among the visitors. This surveying took a number of different forms, from laying them out on tables in the cafe to standing on the main gate and asking people to complete one as they left. The closed days consisted of writing and developing the surveys, inputting the data collected on open days and, increasingly as I drew close to the end of my time at the Manor, collating and analysing the data, and writing up the report. I would drive to and from the Manor on the Tuesday and Saturday of each week respectively, and during the week I stayed nearby and cycled to and from work each day. The days began around 10am and would go on until anywhere between 5 and 6pm. I quickly got on good terms with many of the hundred or more volunteers who work at the Manor and I enjoyed chatting with them on open days. I would also be called into the Manor to act as a room guide on some open days which gave me the opportunity to develop my knowledge about the house, its history and its former occupants.

Work Projects
At Kelmscott Manor I was tasked with taking up and completing the work begun by another intern, namely an audience research project, the conclusions of which would be utilised in the development of funding applications and future projects at the Manor. The project focused on a range of factors surrounding visitor experience, including the state of onsite facilities, the presentation of the Manor and the quality of the staff. Surveys were carried out over a six week period, and the data collected were brought together in a final report which I compiled. I also set up a mailing list for the Manor to contact those interested in attending future events hosted by Kelmscott, and I helped out at a fundraising auction for the Manor at the headquarters of the Society of Antiquaries in London.

Lasting Impressions
I have recently been developing an interesting in entering the curatorial world, with a historical museum (such as the British Museum or the Ashmolean) being dream goals. The internship at Kelmscott was a wonderful introduction into the world of heritage, museums and historical attractions. Though it also exposed me to the difficulty and turbulence of working in a small historical site, such as funding, staffing and provision of adequate facilities (etc. etc.!), this if anything may prove useful in the long term for getting me thinking about many of the practical concerns of such a working environment. In spite, maybe even because, of this, the enthusiasm and friendliness of all I met at the Manor, not to mention its beautiful surroundings and fascinating history, charmed me and made me very keen to pursue further work in this general area. I would love to work at Kelmscott again (even if only as a volunteer) and, wherever my ambitions take me, I will no doubt return many times in years to come.
Daily Life
I was accommodated in the Nietzsche Archive, a property of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar, about a ten-minute walk from the town centre and my place of work. Although I had no official working hours or set daily routine, I habitually arrived at the Anna Amalia Library at 9.30 and worked until 6.30. I spent most of my time researching my doctoral topic, and the rest working on the assigned project. Occasionally, I attended a special event, such as a presentation by a school group reporting on their cultural findings in Weimar, or a tour of the town’s historical sites. I got to know many of my colleagues well, and made solid friendships with a few of them. I made a couple of friends in the Nietzsche Archive, too. At weekends, I would often meet with my friends from the Stiftung, and even went on a day-trip to Wartburg Castle with them. I tried to make the most of the many cultural events in Weimar. During my stay, I attended a lecture by the acclaimed German philosopher, Peter Sloterdijk, on the intellectual hinterland of the outbreak of the First World War, and an open-air performance of Goethe’s ‘Reineke Fuchs’.

Lasting Impressions
My experience in Weimar was overwhelmingly positive. Everybody I met or worked with was very helpful and obliging, which made settling in easy. My work and surroundings were tailor-made for my thesis, and allowed me to appreciate the environment in which Goethe produced some of his greatest writings. I was very impressed by the Stiftung’s efforts to make Goethe publicly accessible, as well as the rest of Weimar’s rich intellectual and social history, and to organise activities to educate the younger generations. I would definitely recommend this internship to prospective candidates, especially those with an interest in Weimar Classicism and eighteenth-century Germany.

Work Projects
I worked on the project ‘Autorenbibliotheken’, which is being undertaken by the ‘Stiftungen’ of Weimar, Marbach and Wolfenbuttel. The project aims to make details of all the books borrowed by prominent German authors from German libraries available online. The Weimar section is concerned with recording the texts that Goethe borrowed from the Anna Amalia Library, and the context in which he did so. I helped in the latter, by consulting Goethe’s diary entries. I checked whether his entries corresponded with the recorded dates of the books he borrowed, and looked for any comments he made about the texts and links between them. All this I entered into an Excel spreadsheet, which will eventually provide a basis for a publicly available online research facility. In addition to this project, I also wrote a couple of blogs on my experiences in Weimar for the ‘MWW Verbund’ website.
Lasting Impressions
I absolutely loved the internship but I would be reluctant to work in Washington D.C again. I loved New York however, and am very much considering moving there at some point. The internship was truly invaluable in giving me access to the most interesting and intellectually engaging people. I cannot recommend it enough.

Daily Life
Hours were roughly 10am-5pm, but incredibly flexible. I was able to walk to work, which was convenient. Finding housing was stressful however. I socialised with the other interns, and had an incredibly fun time. I also met my supervisor’s daughter and her friends which was fun.

Work Projects
I conducted my own research on American alternative newspapers and I also helped a PhD scholar with their research on feminist art collectives in New York and London in the 1970s.
I wrote the presentation and eventually presented it to the client myself. Throughout this process I had regular meetings with my supervisor who commented on every aspect of my work.

**Daily Life**

On weekdays, I usually got up rather late - around 7.30 - because work did not really start before 9.30 and no one was expected to be at the agency before 9. At ten to 9 I took the metro and arrived at the office around 9.15; most employees turned up around that time to have a cup of tea or coffee, offered by the agency in a large meeting room. We would stand around the table and spend a quarter of an hour talking about work. At 1pm all of France grinds to a halt to have lunch: on most days I would just get a sandwich from a nearby bakery, but sometimes we went for a proper French 'bistro lunch' with my supervisor, account directors, and other colleagues: these meals could take up to two hours, in spite of the one-hour-only lunch break, and might even include a glass of wine. They were excellent opportunities to socialise with colleagues and talk about things outside of work. The start time generally entailed a later end of the working day - I sometimes succeeded to finish everything by 6pm. In those (rare) cases I spent a couple of hours reading in one of the many beautiful parks ('jardins' in French) to wind down after the business of the agency day and enjoying the sun. Late nights were more common though. On Fridays the strategic planning team (in which I interned) would usually go for a drink straight after work; these drinks always turned into rather long and relaxed nights in a Parisian bar. Work and socialising with co-workers thus occupied most of my time during the week; I used the weekends to explore Paris (turning from an intern into a tourist for a couple of hours). Once my Uruguayan co-intern arrived we usually went to visit the main sights together.

**Lasting Impressions**

Paris is a beautiful city at night (with all the lights, etc.) and features some stunning parks and historical sights, but poverty and homelessness are obvious problems. I found Parisians to be generally nice, although I did not like the 'feel' of living in Paris. Whilst I admire many elements of French general culture, it is - generally speaking - not my cup of tea. Would I return to live or work there? Yes - but under certain conditions: I would not want, for example, to spend more than two or three years there. I think it is too early to say whether this experience has affected my career goals; it has certainly made me think of advertising as a possible sector to go into for a couple of years. (Although not for more, as it offers too few prospects in the long run.)

**Work Projects**

In July, I was mainly involved in drafting campaign concepts for Nespresso. My supervisor gave me clearly defined tasks to complete, e.g. 'rework the RTB section to include X, Y and Z'. I also started a copy review for a French Wealth Manager. The directions I was given for this job were rather methodological: 'Use tool A to research ads for firms X, Y, Z, etc.'. From mid-August onwards I spent some time researching trends and innovations in the insurance sector; for this I was directed towards interesting blogs and then largely left to myself, apart from weekly meetings where I had to update my supervisor on what I had found interesting. I also helped my supervisor write a presentation for Diageo, researching images and proof-reading everything that would be sent to the client. In September I spent a lot of time on the copy review I had started in July;
Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions of the Amazon and Mamirauá will firstly be for the immense beauty of the forest and rivers and secondly for the people that I met there. I was lucky enough to meet some amazing people and made a few really good friends, this allowed me to have a great and authentic experience of the Amazon. It has definitely made me want to come back to Brazil, to travel and see other places and maybe even to work.

Daily Life

While in the city my working day was from 8am until 6pm with a long two hour lunch break. The work day was quite relaxed and there weren’t that many mornings when I was in by 8am, instead we tended to work later than 6pm. On the field campaign the days started at roughly 6.30am for breakfast, followed by travel to the plot where work continued until 4pm with a small lunch break. After this, my colleagues and I came back to the field base where we were staying to sort out the samples and data that we had taken that day. This often took us up until bed time but sometimes we had time to relax a bit. One night I went spear fishing with some local guys which was great. While in the city I lived with my supervisor and his wife which was really fun, and my social life revolved around the institute where there were lots of young people. Everyone was really friendly and there were parties, dinners, people going out (to Tefe’s one and very strange club) and things to do almost every other night. Tefe is a very small place and there wasn’t really much to do apart from socializing and exploring the local area. My supervisor had a house in a small local community about 20km from Tefe that we went to at the weekends sometimes. At times there was a fairly significant language barrier and in hindsight learning a bit more Portuguese prior to my arrival would have been wise but I did manage to get by and have a great time in spite of my embarrassingly little Portuguese.

Work Projects

While at Mamirauá I worked with the forest ecology project. Having little previous knowledge of tropical forest ecology I didn’t undertake an individual project but instead helped the team with their projects when and where was needed. The project with which I had most involvement was aimed at compiling an inventory for different one hectare plots of forest so as to gain a greater understanding of different forest environments. Back in the office my tasks included error checking, data formatting, sorting of plant and soil samples, proof reading and making preparations for field campaigns. While in the field (two weeks) I was involved in creating two new plots, my tasks were helping with plot formation, taking of soil and wood samples and the measuring of topography and tree heights. My supervisors were excellent and gave me all the support, training and direction that I needed while I was there.
Work Projects

The work involved preparing stacks of photographed documents for the organisation's online archive. Our supervisor visited daily, gave us the software we needed to do the work, and was very friendly and helpful.

Lasting Impressions

The work gave me a great feel for the kind of research work I am going to partake in for my final year thesis. I learned a lot about 1980s political history and about government. As a general experience, I had a fantastic time and it went incredibly quickly. Our employer was great and we were in the wonderful city of Edinburgh at the ideal time of The Fringe Festival.

Jamie Smith

Daily Life

Me and another intern worked from our accommodation, and would usually work from about 9am into the late afternoon. The hours were variable, however, and we did have enough free time to see a great deal of Edinburgh. I socialised with the other intern who was there at the same time as me - we went to see a number of comedy events.

Work Projects

We were provided with folders of the private papers of individuals closely linked to the Thatcher government - in my case Alan Walters, an economist - and worked to build these into the existing Foundation website. This required a short period of simply preparing the documents, followed by a much longer and more stimulating period during which we worked out which of the documents were important and in what way they were important and how they related to one another. We held discussions on the implications of what we had read with respect to common perceptions of the Thatcher ministry. It provided me with valuable insights into the policy making process.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has made me very well acquainted with Edinburgh, and the lasting impressions of that city are very positive - I would gladly return to live or work there. Studying the career of an economist has indeed confirmed my career goals, and I intend to proceed into further study.

James Heywood

Daily Life

I did the internship with a friend from my college, and we shared the flat we were given by the organisation. We were in Edinburgh for most of August, and so we spent much of our free time going to events at the Fringe Festival. The flat had spare bedrooms so we had friends and siblings come to stay a night with us quite regularly. The work was done on our laptops in the flat and there were no set work hours - it was very flexible and leisurely.
Catherine Hoyle

Daily Life
I found it fairly easy to adjust to working life in New York. There were five other interns at the firm and the office had a very friendly atmosphere. I usually walked to work because I was at my desk from 7:45 to 18:00 most days. I think I managed to have a good ‘work-life balance’ and I really enjoyed exploring New York at the weekends.

Work Projects
I thought my work projects were genuinely interesting and I was given a great deal of useful guidance by my supervisor. I compiled key information from earnings transcripts, thoroughly researched companies of interest and produced a presentation on inflation in the Eurozone.

Lasting Impressions
Overall I had a very positive experience and I enjoyed all aspects of my internship. I feel as though I now have a much better understanding of American culture and I certainly wouldn’t rule out working in the U.S. in the future.

Elliot Bannan

Daily Life
I’d wake up at 6:30am and arrive at the firm by 7:40/45am. Work would finish at 6pm but sometimes earlier on Fridays. There was no lunch break per se. I’d go downstairs and buy food and return to the desk to eat it. What’s notable is that everyone at the firm was very friendly and accommodating. They are relaxed people who appreciate good conversation at the water cooler before returning to focus on work. They took me to a play and a Yankees game, as well as two investment banks for networking. I made friends with the US based interns. The culture at the firm is very professional but friendly and honest.

Work Projects
I completed three projects: two stock presentations to the research team and a larger research project concerning a relevant macroeconomic theme. The two stock presentations required research conducted through the Bloomberg terminal for which I received training. The larger project was less specific and required greater independence. I was free to interpret the requirements for the project as I saw fit. However, I received very helpful feedback from the team whenever I asked for it. The firm does not have a rigorous training program so to speak, as they seek to avoid stifling their employees’ perspectives and thoughts regarding investment opportunities.

Lasting Impressions
It made me appreciate the US more than you can just visiting. Living there for two months gave me a new insight into the country’s working culture. People in the USA value hard work, personal responsibility, freedom, and justice. I could certainly see myself living there at least as a young professional. You certainly learn where you could fit into the industry by doing this internship.
Work Projects

I was involved in two different projects during my time at MSSRF. The first was doing some reading into Family Farming in the Asia Pacific region and the diversity of culinary, cultural and curative plants that were being grown. This was part of a literature review that my supervisor was going to use to form the basis of a paper to be presented at the UN Asia-Pacific Conference on Family Farming. Through this I was also able to attend the conference, which was held in Chennai. The second project, which was my main area of research during my time there, was looking at culinary diversity in three different communities resident in Wayanad district: two Adivasi communities – the Paniya and the Kuruma – and one community of 1960s migrant commercial farmers. All these have different traditional relationships with the land they cultivate, so I was looking at how these relationships influence the food they eat and how their changing access to land over time has influenced their food basket. I was given some support for this in the form of my main co-worker on the project, who acted as my translator, my host mother, who acted as our tribal contact, and another staff member who helped plan and organise parts of the project. However there could have been more support and it did often feel as if we were left to get on with things on our own.

Lasting Impressions

Although at times I didn’t quite know what I was meant to be doing, and there was definitely a period where I wanted to come home, overall I enjoyed my internship. I am going to try and keep in touch with the family that I stayed with and have promised to visit again in two years or so. But this time I think I will come as a tourist! I really want to see more of the south of India and do things that I didn’t have the option to do this time round but I don’t think I could work there long term – I love the UK too much. It has hopefully been useful in shaping my dissertation but it also made me realise that if I want to do any serious fieldwork in the future I will need to learn the local language, as that was a major stumbling block for me. I am still not sure whether research is for me, but I will be continuing correspondence with the organisation as I write up my findings for publication.
Daily Life
In general, I have found Ifakara to be a very comfortable place to be. I work with both Tanzanian and expat staff, and live with an Australian scientist, who is based at the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), which is a research centre for malaria, HIV and WaSH (water, sanitation and hygiene). Work obviously makes up most of my weekly routine, and I tend to be in the office from 9am–5.30pm. Occasionally, I go out to some of the more rural villages, but I'm generally office based. Out of work, I usually socialise with either friends from MSABI or the scientists and doctors based at IHI. More often than not, there's a trip away somewhere at the weekends, normally within Tanzania, although I have just returned from a few days down in Malawi.

Work Projects
I am mainly involved in the implementation of a water kiosk program within the local town. This is part of a wider scheme to provide safe drinking water to the community, and increase access to improved water sources in line with the Millennium Development Goals. This includes restructuring the business model, some procurement, marketing strategy, and writing reports. The support I have received is quite limited, and I am not sure how much value my work has added to the NGO as a whole. Staff have been very willing to explain their work and the concepts behind it, but the tasks available for an intern are limited, due to a lack of experience.

Lasting Impressions
It's hard to say what my lasting impressions are, as I still have a month of my internship to complete. However, I've certainly enjoyed being in Tanzania so far, and would happily return here long term. The people I have met here have made me re-think my focus somewhat – whilst I still want to work in international development, I'm more interested in the research side rather than the implementation. I have found the WaSH work interesting, but I would like to look at tropical diseases and HIV going forward, and am now considering applying for a Masters in Global/Public Health.
Museum of Natural History, Oxford University
Oxford, UK
Naomi Saunders, Finalist, MEarthSc, Worcester College
Grace Manley, 1st Year, MEarthSc, St Edmund Hall
Stephanie Faulkner, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, Wadham College

Naomi Saunders

Daily Life
I walked to work to start at 9am, the Earth Interns would gather together before we rang for entrance. The day lasted until approximately 5.15pm including breaks. The Earth Interns often gathered after work for social activities, and during breaks we met up together to hear each other's progress.

Work Projects
To begin with I focussed mainly on sorting and numbering of specimens which was when I realised the scale and importance of the collection. Once enough progress had been made on that front I began picking out specimens which needed their identities confirmed or discovered as well as those with unidentified associated minerals. In fact it was usually the latter that needed doing. I used the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM or EDX) and the Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) for identification. After the SEM has determined the chemistry more research is needed to match the given chemistry to realistic minerals given our other knowledge of the specimen (physical properties, locality, other associated minerals etc.). The FTIR provided information on the bonds in a mineral and needed to be compared to reference spectra. I became very familiar with the database and kept it updated with the results of my SEM and FTIR work and my conclusions.

Grace Manley

Daily Life
The internship was based at the Museum of Natural History in the centre of Oxford. I was fortunate enough to stay in college for the duration of the internship, meaning that my commute was just a ten minute walk. The internship was 36.5 hours a week, which worked out as 9 to 5 from Monday to Friday. I found it very refreshing to spend time in Oxford during the vacation, as it was possible to do things I often didn't have time to during term time! The museum had many other interns working during the summer, and we took the opportunity to socialise in the evenings and weekends. I also spent my free time doing sports such as running, swimming and Ultimate frisbee.

Work Projects
My internship involved the study of extinction risk in microfossils known as planktonic foraminifera: unicellular organisms which lived in the upper layer of the ocean which create a hard shell (known as a test) about the size of a grain of sand. This study required me to process deep sea sediments which had been drilled up from the bottom of the ocean by washing them over a sieve and subsequently drying them in an oven. I then learned to identify and pick different species under the microscope based on the shape of their tests. This was definitely the most challenging part, though luckily my supervisor was on hand to help with some of the more difficult species!

I have gained innumerable skills both transferable and specific to working with rock/mineral specimens.

Lasting Impressions
The experience was remarkable. Everybody in the museum was incredibly friendly and helpful, and we, the interns, were made to feel very welcome. This was particularly shown in the willingness of the members of staff to give tours of their own departments/collections. These gave us a much wider experience of the museum than would otherwise have been possible and were a fantastic opportunity for discovering the other hidden treasures of the museum, outside of the departments we work in directly. The mineralogy department is full of fabulous specimens and we were welcome to explore a little in between our work. It’s a fabulous resource for identification as well using comparisons with specimens in the collection to support a possible identification. It’s been great to hear about some of the researchers that use the collection and their different fields. It’s good to see the efforts that go into making the collections accessible for researchers and visitors alike. I have enjoyed my internship enormously and I would recommend the museum and its internship schemes to anybody!

Grace Manley

Daily Life
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Lasting Impressions
Overall my internship was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and I feel as if the skills that I have learned – such as the careful handling of microfossils – will undoubtedly come in useful in the future. I will certainly return to the museum during term time to look at some of the displays I didn’t get a chance to see during the internship. I really valued the opportunity to get a taste for scientific research in the field of micropalaeontology, and now feel much more informed about pursuing a career in research.

Stephanie Faulkner
Daily Life
I worked 9am til 5pm, Monday–Friday, and as I was based in Oxford I stayed in college accommodation. I already knew 2 interns working in another department of the museum, but I met a lot of new people from other colleges and subjects and we socialized together outside of working hours. I settled in fairly quickly, although I was a bit nervous about entering a new workplace where I knew very few people.

Work Projects
I was involved in writing a palaeontology research paper. My tasks were identifying specimens and compiling data on the fossil composition of rocks collected from a certain site. This data was then used in a paper on Ordovician biodiversity. I was also involved in preparing some of these specimens and accessioning them into the museum collection.

I really valued the opportunity to get a taste for scientific research in the field of micropalaeontology

Lasting Impressions
I enjoyed my internship, and it has broadened my mind to the different career options available. While it hasn’t necessarily made me more inclined to aim for a career in research I have learnt more about the variety of jobs available in museums– the internship made me think about career options I hadn’t previously considered.
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment  
Utrecht, Netherlands
Jeffrey Yu, Penultimate, MEng, St Anne’s College

Daily Life
I lived in the city centre of Utrecht, which was 20 minutes away from work by bike. The hours were very flexible, as long as the 40 hours of work were met. In the city, it was easy to meet the students from Utrecht University, many of whom were from international backgrounds too. We often just relaxed in some of the cafes or bars along the picturesque canals. Weekend travelling was also convenient in such a small country.

Work Projects
The project was on estimating the susceptibility to influenza of the Dutch population over 40 years, by using MCMC methods. Common tasks included: reading literature, programming, testing and report writing. Plenty of guidance and support was given from the supervisors, with short meetings every few days.

Lasting Impressions
The Netherlands gave me an image of healthy lifestyles and good work-life balance. Working here is still an open option. However, even though they speak impeccable English, learning Dutch would be quite necessary in the long run. The internship has given me perspective of doing research in the different setting of a government institute. It has also shown me that these interdisciplinary fields give flexible career choices.

National Trust
Henley-on-Thames, UK
Lydia Cooper, 2nd Year, BA English Language and Literature, Jesus College

Daily Life
I worked three days a week, commuting from London, and got on really well with both the volunteers and National Trust workers. I would often conduct my research sitting at a table in the mansion, which meant I could chat to visitors about the history of the house as I worked. My colleagues were all lovely and I will definitely stay in touch with them.

Work Projects
I was encouraged to immerse myself in the history of the National Trust property I was working at, reading through the archives as well as interacting with visitors. I picked out interesting themes from my research to formulate potential exhibition topics and then looked into these further. The House Manager was very friendly and helpful, pointing out useful material that I could begin with.

Lasting Impressions
My internship gave me a greater understanding of heritage properties in rural Oxfordshire, and I would definitely be interested in visiting or working at others (e.g. Basildon, Stowe, Blenheim). The TORCH workshop conducted by Oliver Cox for the research interns at various properties was also extremely helpful. The experience has enforced my desire to work in heritage after graduation.
Isabella Bengoechea

Daily Life
I walked to work from my guesthouse as it was just down the road. There were hardly any westerners where I was so although it was initially quite lonely as not many people spoke to me, the family in the guesthouse were incredibly welcoming and friendly. I also got to know friends of the people I was working with, who kindly showed me around and introduced me to the city and the culture. I worked 9am–5pm but it was pretty casual and if I really wanted to see something on a certain day, that was generally fine, as long as all the work got done.

Work Projects
I was mainly producing content for a new travel website the company was setting up which involved extensive research on particular countries and regions, including traditional cuisine, culture, customs as well as wildlife and famous sites. I received a lot of support and instruction on the type of content required and the tone of the company. I was also taught useful skills like writing for SEO and how to write shareable content. I also did day-to-day tasks such as helping interview new clients for the business by testing their English skills, as well as reading over English documents and helping some of the staff with the language. I received a great deal of support making sure I was OK with the work.

Lasting Impressions
I would definitely like to go back to India to see more of the country, as most of my time was based solely in Jodhpur. Although I liked the city, it was very traditional and not the most cosmopolitan place. Also being a blonde female by myself, I couldn’t really get around without sticking out like a sore thumb. I wouldn’t feel comfortable living or working there permanently, but it was definitely worth doing the internship. I feel my writing for online platforms has greatly improved and I hope this will stand me in good stead to get a job in media.
Natural Mystic continued...

Miranda Lee

Daily Life
I remember arriving in a mid-monsoon downpour at Jodhpur airport, before being very kindly transported under a sea of umbrellas to the terminal. After this somewhat dramatic start, I was driven to the office (through roads which were pretty much cesspools of litter and swimming cattle with the floods, hoards of children piled into tuktuk:s or sodden on bikes, carefree passers-by barefoot and amazingly bright coloured bazaars, spice shops and sari boutiques) where I was introduced to the team at the office before being dropped at my accommodation. The guesthouse was fortuitously a mere 1 minute walk away from the office, so getting to work and back every day couldn’t have been easier. The normal working day lasted from 9:30 until 5:30 with an hour’s lunch break. The office thankfully has AC and so provided some much-appreciated daily relief from the external heat! After work, I would normally spend time with the other intern and the family at the guesthouse, either watching movies, eating dinner up on the rooftop terrace, or going out for drinks/food or to the cinema. At other times, we would head to the market for some shopping, go and watch the numerous festival celebrations which would occur very often during my time there. Some of my fondest memories however include going for dinner with local Indian families, whether colleagues from work or other local Jodhpur friends we made out and about. By far the best way to learn about Rajasthani food and culture, I was also touched by their generosity and warm welcome; I was given a saree, some Indian dresses and a whole array of gifts and Indian delights.

Work Projects
During my internship I undertook a wide range of both administrative and more creative assignments. The core role of my position was writing a series of ‘content tile’ articles for the Natural Mystic upcoming travel blog, as well as selecting inspiring photos to accompany each article. In addition, I was in charge of managing the company’s social media pages, making regular updates and searching for new branches of audiences, as well as working to keep already-existing ones hooked. I also helped to proofread and edit a selection of itineraries for both trips and parties the company was organising for its clients. Aside from these principal projects, I gave English lessons, assisted with international correspondence, created photo presentations in bids to book venues and locations, and helped to create the company’s seasonal newsletters.

Lasting Impressions
The cultural differences in India can be found on so many levels, but this was part of the charm of staying there for a prolonged period of time. The pace is generally much slower, people tend to be more open and giving, and the street life much more vibrant and bustling. There was of course the different take on cleanliness and hygiene, with piles of rubbish on the roads, a distinct lack of toilet paper, and undrinkable tap water, however these differences I very quickly discarded as totally minor, and learnt to adapt to this new lifestyle. The contrast in mealtimes was something I particularly appreciated - there was something very comforting and homely about all sitting together on the floor and sharing an array of local dishes. I am not sure I would return to live or work in Jodhpur, feeling now that I have thoroughly cracked the area, but perhaps would like to explore slightly bigger cities such as Mumbai. It has definitely given me an unforgettable flavour of Indian life, both within a family and professional environment. What’s more, it has helped me to shape more clearly my future career aspirations, with a stronger interest now in writing and social media channels.
Naval History and Heritage Command
Washington D.C, USA
David Cowan, 2nd Year, BA History, University College
Bridie Thompson, 2nd Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Worcester College
Nicola Adams, 1st Year, BA French and Arabic, St Hugh's College
Graham Atkins, Penultimate, BA History and Politics, Magdalen College
Fern Johnson, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, St Hilda's College
Miriam Mahmoud, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, St Catherine's College
Siddharth Venkataramakrishnan, 1st Year, BA English Language & Literature, Pembroke College
Andreea Mihut, Finalist, BA English Language & Literature, St Hugh's College
Jeremy Libre, Finalist, MPhys, Oriel College

David Cowan

Daily Life
During the working week an average day meant waking up at 7am to catch the Metro to my internship by 7:30. I stayed in a room at George Washington University, an experience which I would recommend for its location (very central, and no need to change Metro lines going to work) if possibly nothing else. Typically I would arrive at work around 8am, never leaving the office later than 4pm. My working day usually involved a coffee break and lunch in the cafeteria with the other interns working in my branch, most of whom were also from Oxford. Every fortnight or so all the interns from the various branches gathered together for a field trip to a sight around the city: through these I visited Arlington National Cemetery (the resting place of the American military), Hillwood Estate (the house of a socialite, filled with jewellery and china) and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Special field trips were organised for interns in our branch to the Annapolis Naval Academy and to the Pentagon, and these suggest some of the unique opportunities offered by an internship of this sort. Outside of work I tried to visit as many museums, galleries and monuments as I could. On one memorable weekend my roommates and I drove to Mount Vernon, George Washington's house and estate. I enjoyed eating meals at various American restaurants and fast food chains already famous to me. Although there were several weekends where I stayed around the city I wanted to visit other areas on the East Coast too, so spent one weekend in New York and another in Baltimore, both of which were fairly easy to reach by public transport. There, I repeated what I had tried to accomplish in D.C. – to get a sense of each city’s history and culture.

Work Projects
I worked in the Ships Histories branch of the Naval History and Heritage Command, mainly on a long term project on the process of ship acquisition since 1945. This mainly concerns the relationship between the Navy and the U.S. government, but also encompasses wider discussions about foreign policy, industrial relations, and the economy. At the start of my internship I was assigned a number of nuclear powered submarines to research, a task which took around four weeks to complete. The bulk of my research involved reading Congressional testimony, but I was also able to read professional naval journals and contemporary newspaper coverage of acquisition. For my final two weeks I wrote up my research into a short (5000 words long) written project, which will form the basis for the introduction to a longer article authored by one of the branch’s historians. Early on in my internship I spent one day working in the Navy’s archives, conducting and inventory of their collection of historic weapons. Throughout my internship I had short daily meetings with my supervisor, as well as longer weekly discussions of our progress.

Top Tips
1. Book everything as early as you can: most importantly your visa, but also try and sort out flights (for me, prices kept going up and up) and accommodation as soon as possible.
2. Bring a raincoat or an umbrella. Having heard so much about the famous D.C. heat I naively assumed that rain would not be a problem.
3. Get out of D.C. at least once. Although there is so much to do in the city, one of my favourite days was a weekend trip to George Washington’s estate, Mount Vernon. I found it quite easy to build city sightseeing around the hours of the internship during the week and would recommend doing the same then exploring the area around the city at weekends. Arlington, Annapolis and Baltimore are relatively close by and fairly easily accessible by public transport.
4. Don’t be put off by naval history! Although I had studied American history at Oxford most interns weren’t history students and there are so many different ‘paths’ at this internship, not all strictly historical.
5. Stand right on the Metro; walk on the left.

Lasting Impressions
My internship has been one of the greatest opportunities offered to me at Oxford, a formative experience personally, academically and professionally. I left my internship with a more positive impression of the United States and offers to visit my American roommates if I ever returned – I am sure that I will return (though probably not to D.C. in summer again) if not for work, then to travel across the rest of the country. My internship confirmed what I had suspected already: that I would want to graduate into further study in History through a postgraduate degree. Having spent some time conducting historical research I now feel better prepared for this.

Andreea Mihut, Finalist, BA English Language & Literature, St Hugh's College
Jeremy Libre, Finalist, MPhys, Oriel College

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Naval History and Heritage Command continued...

Bridie Thompson
Daily Life
I normally left my apartment at 8 in the morning and took the metro to the Navy Yard. Washington's metro system is very clean and efficient, except on the weekends when the city undertakes building works and thousands of tourists flood into DC. I normally worked from 9–4 with an hour for lunch. Our work days were not too fast paced, and I never felt overworked or rushed. I used the weekends to explore Washington DC—the city has so many free museums and parks that it was very easy to spend 5 whole weekends just in the city itself and see something new each time. There were lots of other interns at the Navy Yard and we would meet up after work and at the weekend. I also hung out in the evenings and at the weekend with the girls I shared my apartment with—we even all went to a baseball game together.

Work Projects
The museum was working on developing a new exhibition about the relationship through the centuries of the American and French navies. Each of the interns was given a particular time period to research within this wider topic, with the ultimate goal being to produce a series of information panels which would then hopefully be used in the eventual exhibition. My time period was 1793–1819, and I was researching the Quasi-War and the Barbary pirates. Apart from giving us our initial research topics, our supervisors were very hands off, we were expected to undertake independent research and set our own deadlines and goals. On the one hand this was a positive experience because I think it accurately reflected what it would be like to work in this career sector in the future. On the other hand, it could sometimes feel like our work was lacking direction.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my internship. It has slightly changed my career goals—I've realised that I don't really want to work in the side of museum and heritage work which involves developing exhibitions and delivering them to the public and would perhaps rather undertake further graduate studies in order to become a specialist in one topic. However, I absolutely loved Washington DC. What was really nice was having the chance to truly live in the city rather than just being there as a tourist.

Top Tips
1. Do read the Internship Programme Yearbook. Even after getting an internship placement, it's always useful to read about the experiences of previous interns. Not only can it give you a general idea about what to expect from the internship, you might also find some helpful tips about finding your own accommodation, transport links and other practicalities.
2. Do carry out some research before you jet off. Not just the normal touristy stuff, but get on Google Maps and find out where the nearest food shops, pharmacies and bus stops are.
3. Do get familiar with your commute before the first day of work; how long will it take? How much will it cost? Where are the stops? It'll save you a lot of stress on that nervous first morning.
4. Do bring stationery. A packet of pens, a couple of pencils and a notebook. Simple yet invaluable, they're something that's easy to forget to pack.
5. And most importantly don't be afraid to ask for help. Whether it's asking for advice on how to get going on your project, the best places to go out in the evening or how to work the air/con in your flat so that the climate is no longer subarctic, your internship experience will be infinitesimally more enjoyable if you ask questions.

Nicola Adams
Daily Life
I lived in Dupont Circle. It took about 45 mins each way to get to the Navy Yard by metro. I would generally work from 8.30–4.00, but the working hours were very flexible. Once a fortnight there were compulsory field trips as part of the J1 visa, but these happen on a weekday so at the weekends I would explore DC a bit more.

Work Projects
Due to the fact that I was there for a relatively short time (only four weeks), I was not able to undertake a full research and writing project. In general I would help my supervisor with his research, by looking for relevant material in old congressional hearings or navy archives.

Lasting Impressions
This was a really great opportunity to live and work in Washington. I think I would like to return to work there, though the weather did get unbearably hot from time to time! It has confirmed to me that I am interested in a career as a civil servant.

Top Tips
1. Bring a jumper as the office has really strong air-con.
2. Aim to come for a minimum of six weeks to get the most out of it.
3. Try and research a bit about how the US navy works & how congress operates.
4. Tours for some things (such as the White House) have to be booked quite far in advance, so aim to book before leaving.
5. Be prepared to work on your own with minimal supervision.
Naval History and Heritage Command continued...

Graham Atkins

Daily Life
On an average day I would wake up around 6.30am, get out of the hostel by 7.10am, and then get to work just before 8am on the metro line - a hugely convenient way to get anywhere in DC. The hostel I was staying in, Loftstel, was a two-minute walk from a nearby metro station, so the commute was never all that long. After a few hours researching in the morning, I would normally break for an early lunch with the other research interns before working a bit more slowly in the afternoon, and leaving any time between 3 and 4, usually earlier on Fridays. I found I had plenty of time to go to museums, art galleries, outdoor film screenings, or any of the other numerous free things there are to do in DC. Aside from all the very tourist-type activities, DC also has a great music scene and a lot of excellent places to eat - there are a lot of particularly good Ethiopian and Lebanese restaurants. It’s also easy to travel outside of DC without much hassle - there is a convenient bus to New York, which makes for a great weekend trip, and there are lots of other interesting historic sites nearby like Mount Vernon and Monticello. Most of the time I either socialised with other interns or friends at the hostel - it’s easy to see a lot of DC after work on the weekdays, so I went on quite a few day trips with friends on the weekend to places like Rock Creek Park and Georgetown. There is also an excellent - and free - ice cream festival in July which is definitely worth checking out if you get the chance.

Work Projects
As I was working in the research department of the Command, I was given a lot of freedom and essentially allowed to define my own project within post-1945 aircraft acquisition. After spending the first week or so figuring out exactly what I wanted to research, and working out where I would have to go to find the resources, I would have meetings every few days with my supervisor so that he understood what I was doing. The majority of my time was spent searching through congressional records, reports, and archival materials to find relevant evidence and piece together a history of the economic, political, and strategic aspects of the acquisition of a single plane, although I also spent time studying existing secondary-source histories of the acquisition of the plane, and I spent my final week writing up an article on the particular plane I studied. For the most part, I found my supervisors were friendly and helpful, and the level of independence given was refreshing – I was largely allowed to define my own goals.

Lasting Impressions
Getting to stay in DC for 7 weeks was a great experience, and I would thoroughly recommend the internship to anyone interested in getting experience of historical research. DC has so many attractions that it’s almost impossible to run out of things to see, and it’s a lot of fun to live in. I would definitely return to DC to live or work; albeit probably not at the hostel I stayed at. Loftstel is a nice place, but it gets crowded quickly (you’ll probably share a room with 7 other people), and you need to book quite a long time in advance to get a bed cheaply. Overall, undertaking this internship has opened me up to doing further research and postgraduate study, although probably not in military or naval history.

Top Tips
1. Don’t worry about not having a background in naval history. (Almost) all other interns have no background in it either, and you’ll probably get a good grounding within a week. Definitely don’t let this put you off applying!
2. Take loads of shorts and t-shirts. DC is very hot and humid during the summer, and you won’t want lots of layers outside. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are also not a bad idea.
3. That said...take a few hoodies and jumpers too. The air-conditioning in DC makes it quite chilly in cinemas, libraries, and the like. This one especially applies to anyone applying for the research or library internships - it’s surprising how cold the NHHC Library is!
4. Buy a metro pass once in DC! It only costs $2 and it will save you $1 every trip so it is definitely worth it - the Metro is probably the easiest and cheapest way to get across the city, so you will inevitably end up using it a lot.
5. Do the Mount Vernon bike trail if you go. It’s a beautiful route that goes alongside the Potomac river, and goes into Virginia. Perfect way to get out of the city for a day!

Fern Johnson

Daily Life
I would wake up at around 6am, as did several of my roommates, who were also interns in D.C., in the hostel where I was living. The journey to work would take about 35 minutes, though conveniently my accommodation was only a few minutes from the nearest station, and the journey was easy to figure out when I first arrived. I would arrive at work at around 8am, check in with my supervisor, and start working on my projects. I was able to sit in the library reference section itself, rather than in the back, which was nice as I was able to sit with other interns working on their own projects. At midday I would go for lunch with the other interns, some days I brought my own lunch, other days I would buy lunch in the food court, which had tasty, but not very healthy options! Generally I would finish work at 3.30pm. I worked an earlier shift than usual because the library closed at 4pm, but this worked out well because I was able to visit museums or explore D.C. in the evenings, which is what I spent most weekends doing as well. There was always something to do, and many events and attractions were free. Every fortnight we were also given a day off to go on an intern field trip, so we were given plenty of chances to soak up the culture in D.C. I also spent time relaxing in the hostel common area keeping in touch with my friends and family back home, or socialising with the other residents. One of the advantages of living in a hostel was being able to meet people outside of my internship, though I was also able to make friends with the other interns.

Work Projects
For most of the time I was interning in the Command’s Library, under the supervision of the reference librarian, I worked with documents relating to the history of Naval libraries. These included photographs, articles and correspondence, spanning most of the 20th century. I described and organised each document, in the aim of beginning producing a collection that can later be added to the libraries’ reference collection. I also worked on updating a bibliography of books on Africa, and assisting the librarian in answering reference questions sent in my members of the public. Once I had been given my tasks usually I would then work independently, though I would regularly update my supervisor on my progress, and he was available to answer my questions if I had any doubts.
Naval History and Heritage Command continued...

**Lasting Impressions**

Overall my internship was a fantastic cultural experience – I feel like I really got to know D.C., and enjoyed living there. I would now have the confidence to live in the US, or another country in the future, whereas before I would have been much more hesitant. I’m uncertain if I would want to work in D.C. again, but I would like to visit, and would be open to working in the US if the opportunity arose. Although I enjoyed the work that I did, I decided do not want to pursue a career in library science, at least not in the near future – and as that is was I was hoping to decide from my internship experience, I still feel that it was very worthwhile. It was very interesting to be immersed in an unfamiliar subject (Naval History), and I’ve definitely gained an appreciation of it, especially after having been studying science for two years. I would recommend this internship to students of any subject, it isn’t only worthwhile for history students.

**Top Tips**

1. Prepare for warm weather, as D.C is very hot in the summer. However, all the Command’s buildings are air conditioned and can get very cold, so also bring a few jumpers or other layers.
2. You’ll have to find your own accommodation, so do some careful research – look for places close to Metro stops and in other convenient locations. Long-term accommodation for interns, in hostels or university accommodation will probably be the best option.
3. Organize your visa application as soon as you can – because you are working for the Navy you won’t have to pay for it, but this means you’ll have to get an appointment at the US embassy through a different system than you normally would. Interns who applied fairly late, e.g. early in the summer, had difficulties getting appointments in time.
4. When budgeting for your trip, make sure to make allowances for the costs of using the Metro – though it is fairly cheap and good value, you will need to use it most days, and it will be one of your main expenses. Learning how to use and navigate the metro will be essential, but is straightforward and can be quickly picked up when you arrive.
5. Don’t worry about having to do background research on Naval history – you aren’t expected to do any.

**Miriam Mahmoud**

**Daily Life**

I would usually get up around 6am and would leave the house around 7am so that I would get to the Navy Yard around 8am (sometimes this wasn’t a great time to arrive since the national anthem is played every morning at 8 and you have to stand and listen when this happens). Together with a group of other interns I worked in the Navy Library and we’d spend the morning each doing our own research. We’d then have lunch in the Navy Yard food court around noon and go back to work around 1pm. Most people usually left between 3 and 4 in the afternoon and since I was staying with a friend and used to go to high school in Washington, DC, I spent my afternoons catching up with old friends. As part of the programme we went on intern field trips, for example to the National Zoo, to museums, or to see some of DC’s exquisite private art collections. These trips were very enjoyable and a lot of the time we would end up all spending the afternoon together.

**Work Projects**

At the Naval History and Heritage Command, I was working on Navy Acquisitions History and was researching a drone the Navy used in the late 1950s and 1960s. As part of this research I spent some time in the Navy Archives and conducted phone interviews with people who had to do with the drone while it was being used by the Navy. I also used Congressional Hearings and Magazines for my research. I compiled what I had found into a 6000 word article that I am still editing and which will hopefully be published in due time. My supervisor usually stopped by at least once a day to answer any questions any of us might have, and in weekly team meetings we all discussed what we had been doing over the last week.

**Lasting Impressions**

DC is a great place to work even though it does get very hot and humid in the summer months. I am not sure I want to live and work in the US later, but it is definitely something I would consider doing. I really enjoyed my experience at the Navy and am grateful I was given this opportunity.
Siddharth Venkataramakrishnan
Daily Life
After arriving two days before the internship started and having met two other Oxford interns at the hostel, I began work on Monday. We worked from 9am till 4:30pm in the office, with an hour for lunch. I learnt much from the work in terms of teamwork, as the project I worked on would often be useful to other team members. The programme allowed us to further socialise with them via field trips which were extremely enjoyable.

Work Projects
I worked with handling assemblies and designed captions for an upcoming exhibit. I was also tasked with producing press releases for the museum.

Lasting Impressions
The internship was not directly useful it might seem, but I realise just how fantastic this was. I have learnt to write press releases, worked with spreadsheets, researched for captions, and helped out with front desk duties. I must admit, DC feels like a non living city - half tourist, half worker - but I would certainly go back to the Navy Yard. The camaraderie amidst the interns has taught me so much about working together.

Top Tips
1. Dress sensibly. DC is boiling hot in summer, and wearing a suit everyday is madness. Although it is worth dressing smartly throughout, remember that the walk from the Metro to the Navy Yard is poorly shaded (and that the rest of the city is equally hot.) Bring lots of sun screen too!
2. Read up on some Naval History before you arrive – particularly if you will be in the museum. It means that a lot of the things you see will be a lot more interesting, but also, if you’re in the museum, you’ll almost be guaranteed to meet at tourists at some point. Whether escorting them off base or just answering questions, it is always having a basic knowledge of events.
3. Take advantage of DC! The city is practically configured for tourists, so make use of this. All Smithsonian institutes are free, as is the Capitol Building, but there are plenty of smaller sites to visit too. Of course, the National Museum of the United States is yours to explore too!
4. Map out your routes beforehand if you can in the interest of safety. Although you will probably be fine, try and stick to better known areas and keep a close eye on your belongings and surroundings.
5. Don’t be too tense about how serious the NHHC will be. Everyone, staff and interns alike, are hugely helpful and friendly and the atmosphere is far more laid back than I had worried it would be.

Andreea Mihut
Daily Life
Accommodation in DC is not easy to find, and I had to move to a different place halfway through my internship; both places were very nice. I usually walked to work, but the metro was also very handy. My work schedule was from 9–5 every day, but the hours were flexible and colleagues were very understanding about unexpected situations which cut into that time. There were several interns there at any given point, which made the atmosphere very comfortable and fun. As we got to know each other better, we began to socialize outside of work as well. In my free time I explored DC and environs.

Work Projects
I worked on an upcoming museum exhibit about the relationship between the American and the French navies. My time period was the Cold War and afterwards, giving me insight into current international relations and into photographic research. From my work I developed a museum script, which was proofread by a curator. I also had very helpful and interesting conversations with curators that helped me with research topics. Besides this main project I also worked on many smaller ones: assisting at a wreath-laying ceremony, doing a museum inventory, initiating public outreach, etc.

Lasting Impressions
There were many parts of DC that I liked but the overall sense was that I would only like to live there temporarily. I would definitely return to work and even live somewhere else in the U.S. though. An aspect of the internship that really helped me was that research was never done just for its own sake, and seeing its practical use was very rewarding. It reignited my interest in research careers (not necessarily museum work - the skills are highly transferrable) and confirmed that the people one works with and the atmosphere are just as important as the work itself.

Top Tips
1. Naval History and Heritage Command continued...
Jeremy Libre

Daily Life
I would normally wake up at 7am, and after eating breakfast and getting ready, would walk fifteen minutes to Union Station. From there, I’d pay a dollar to take the Circulator bus all the way to the Navy Yard (it even drops you right outside the gate!), and arrive at work at 9am. This worked out quite a bit cheaper than the metro for me. At the museum, the interns share a cozy office, but we all had individual projects to work on independently. At lunch we’d typically head to the cafeteria or sit outside in the sun if weather permitted. After lunch it was back to the office for the afternoon to carry on with work. Occasionally our supervisors would come in and ask for one or two of us to help out with any miscellaneous tasks involved with the daily running of the museum; one common task was to escort customers off the premises once they had finished their visit (the museum is situated within the secure Washington Navy Yard facility). It keeps you on your toes! After work I would rarely have a free evening, simply because I was so keen to get involved in DC life and hated to turn down an opportunity. I formed a total of three different rock bands and played gigs in local bars. I also joined a soccer team in a local league for young professionals. I chose to stay here for a total of four and a half months, and this really allowed me to get under the surface of the city and become an active member of the community. DC has so much to offer a young professional, especially during the summer; walking around in the evening it was rare to not stumble across some sort of free concert, and the locals are very warm and friendly. I’ve been fortunate to spend time with some truly wonderful people here. My advice to anyone coming here is to really make the most of the opportunities and don’t turn down an invitation! If I found myself with free time on the weekend I would either catch up with errands I had been putting off, or take myself hiking, kayaking, or exploring the city and further afield. There are plenty of beautiful places to hike, my favourite being Rock Creek Park, and Georgetown is absolutely gorgeous too. It should also be said that Washington itself is a beautiful city; that the monuments are absolutely breathtaking, and many of the museums are worth a visit. There is a palpable feeling of history all along the National Mall, and a huge deal of respect is paid to the country’s past. This internship has proved ideal for someone like me, as the structure of the work and the nature of the J-1 visa encourage cultural participation. I also had plenty of time to travel, including a field trip to Baltimore and a weekend in New York. Between spending time with flatmates, bandmates, interns and one or two old friends I was glad to enjoy an active social life. I shared an apartment with six other guys, which was admittedly a daunting prospect (especially being the only Brit!), but they all turned out to be very nice and great fun to be around, and enthusiastically introduced me to aspects of American culture that I would not have discovered myself. On my free evenings there would always be someone around with whom I could watch ‘Jeopardy!’ or just hang out.

Work Projects
I was given a variety of projects to work on. My first task was to uncover First World War US Navy telegrams relating to important events in the conflict, which could be reproduced and used as visual aids in an exhibit. This task took me to the National Archives, where I learned hands-on how to conduct archival research using microfilms and handling hundred-year-old documents! Back at the museum, after a few weeks, I was assigned a research project looking into the shipbuilding in colonial America, a task that involved a great deal of reading and independent study.

Lasting Impressions
The internship has been of tremendous value to me. I have learned a lot about my role as an Englishman in the wider sphere of global society, and I have a greater appreciation of how well-connected the world has become. Meeting a huge variety of people from different backgrounds has certainly boosted my confidence. I am pleased to come away from this internship with a network of people with whom I hope to stay in touch and visit or host in the future. The experience has also opened my eyes to the possibility of living in another country. Before undertaking this internship I felt certain that I would always want to live in the UK, but now I am not so sure! America certainly has a lot to offer. Although I remain fairly sure that my home will always be in the UK, I would think twice before declining an opportunity to come back and work here again. There’s a big wide world out there, and up to now I hadn’t really appreciated just how many opportunities are waiting. I should also say that my time here has been tremendous fun! There have been ups and downs, of course, and for someone who has lived in England their entire life, to leave home and family behind for four months was more difficult than I thought it would be. In retrospect I should have prepared myself a little more for how tough it proved to be to leave everything behind for nearly half a year all at once. But quite simply America has been wonderful to me, I’ve had a blast, and am very glad to have had this experience.

Before undertaking this internship I felt certain that I would always want to live in the UK, but now I am not so sure!
Daily Life
I lived in the accommodation of the nearby university. It was a 20 minute walk to work and back each day. Out of work hours, I socialised with colleagues, went to the local cinema and theatre etc. The office director and I went to Sydney together one weekend.

Work Projects
During the first six weeks, I worked on data analysis for an upcoming major report and I started preliminary research on Australia’s highly cited researchers. During the latter six weeks I moved to the communications team. There, I wrote seven speeches for The Chief Scientist.

Lasting Impressions
My most lasting memories I have of the internship are undoubtedly the people I worked with – how warm and welcoming they all were and how easily I felt like part of the office from the start. If I returned to work in Australia, I think I’d prefer to work somewhere like Sydney rather than Canberra. The internship has focussed my original desire to work in politics or the civil service to wanting to work in communications.
Oghma Partners LLP
London, UK
Ralph Eliot, Penultimate, MMath, Exeter College

Daily Life
I cycled to work, arriving just before 9am. I worked on financial research and recent M&A for clients (Turnover/EBITDA/Net assets/debt) until company lunch at 1pm. I arrived back at 3pm and built slides on European IPO activity until 7pm, then met friends for drinks and cycled home.

Work Projects
The majority of my work was contributing to client presentations with industry and client specific research. I also built and updated industry databases and some minor administration all administrated by colleagues there.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed it, the environment was excellent, the hours were manageable and the work/life balance worked well. I would certainly consider returning to work there after this internship.

The environment was excellent, the hours were manageable and the work/life balance worked well.
Reuben Harding

Daily Life

In the morning at 8.30am, I get the OIST shuttle bus from just outside my accommodation to the main campus, which is about a 45 minute walk away. I typically leave work at 5.30pm, and during the day I take a 45 minute to 1 hour lunch break. Outside of work I enjoy hanging out with the other interns. Weekday evenings are usually fairly quiet, but we try to fill the weekends with as much as possible. I recently went scuba diving for the first time. Indeed, the sea and the beaches feature heavily in my experience of Okinawa.

Work Projects

I have been working on propagating short duration (~70fs) laser pulses through an optical fibre. We aim to develop the knowledge required to implement spatial and temporal control over the release of dopamine in a mouse brain by using laser pulses to disrupt liposomes loaded with dopamine.

Lasting Impressions

I have come to regard Okinawa very favourably. It is hard for me to draw any conclusions about Japan generally as we have been told that Okinawa is very different to the rest of Japan. Okinawa is certainly very different to the UK, but what I have found most striking is actually an underlying similarity. What would most concern me about living and working in Okinawa is the lack of opportunities and activities besides those directly hosted by OIST. OIST itself is a fantastic work environment, however, and working here has definitely reinforced my desire to carry on with postgraduate study.

Rustin Nourshargh

Daily Life

The shuttle bus taking us to and from our apartments came at 8.30am and picked us up in the evening at 5.40pm so most people worked around these times. It was not unusual to stay late out of choice if you were making progress and leaving early on slower days was also perfectly acceptable. Everyone here is highly self-motivated and it was infectious. The interns were all housed in an apartment block off campus and it was a short (15 minute) shuttle bus from OIST. The apartments were comfortable and were only 100 metres from the beach. All of the interns were in the same building and this made it easy for us to meet up and do things. On the weekends I went scuba diving and snorkelling, and went on the OIST organised excursions.

Work Projects

I worked for 8 weeks in the Quantum Dynamics unit under the supervision of the group’s leader. I worked with a group of three postdoc researchers to prepare a new cryogenic set up from scratch and start an experiment on the behaviour of super-fluid helium. I was given a lot of responsibility for difficult technical tasks but I was also given the training to carry them out. I was able to take possession of all parts of the experiment and spent enough time on it to get a good understanding of what I was doing. OIST gave me 6 lessons in Japanese language and these were very useful and made day to day life in Japan much easier. OIST organised several excursions that I went on and these were really good. We visited the aquarium, a cave system in the middle of the rain forest, the capital city and two Japanese castles. In addition to all of that OIST also made rental cars available to all of the interns who had international driving licences. We were able to borrow these cars for only the cost of the fuel we used. As transport was one of the most difficult and expensive parts of touring Okinawa these cars were very helpful.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed the time I spent in Okinawa. Japan is a beautiful country and I had a lot of fun. My supervisor was always available to answer my questions and I experienced the full range of activities that come with a job as a research scientist. I would definitely like to return to Japan and Okinawa in the future and would definitely consider doing a PhD at OIST. This internship has confirmed my desire to apply for a PhD at the end of my undergraduate course.

Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology
Okinawa, Japan

Rustin Nourshargh, 2nd Year, MPhys, St John’s College
Reuben Harding, Finalist, MPhys, Wadham College
Alan Miscampbell, Penultimate, MPhys, Trinity College
Okinawa Institute continued...

Alan Miscampbell

Daily Life
Due to a lack of housing on the relatively new campus, the majority of summer interns were based in an apartment block not far from the campus. Walking would take around 45 minutes, but a shuttle bus ran at set times every weekday to get people to work and there were electric bikes and cars available for hire (International Driving Permit recommended for future interns). At weekends we were normally able to get out and explore the island by car or by bus and some events were arranged by the Institute. Interns are given a lot of benefits, so along with free flights, free accommodation and an allowance of 2400¥ per day that wasn't taxed, we were also able to use facilities, including the gym, free of charge.

Work Projects
I was working in the Quantum Systems Unit, running computer simulations for my work. The basis of my project was to look at the evolution of a distribution function during a quantum walk process, and try and quantify the departure from the classical random walk. The unit had a policy of giving interns freedom to find their own way, and with guidance from my supervisor I was left largely to my own devices to figure out how to use Matlab and to do the necessary background reading to understand my project. This gave me a much better insight into what life in modern scientific research is actually like, particularly working in a unit that included nationals of Ireland, Germany, Spain, Belgium, India, Australia and South Korea, with the Institute itself being based in Japan!

Lasting Impressions
Okinawa is a beautiful island with plenty to see and do. The Institute is a great place to work, and their PhD programme will certainly appeal to some undergraduates. After a week travelling the Japanese mainland after finishing my internship, I would certainly hope to return to the country again, whether for a short period of work or simply to travel. My aims to work in physics research have definitely strengthened following my experiences and I would recommend internships there to my fellow students.
Daily Life
I worked from 9am to 5.30pm with an hour lunch break. I spent most of the day at a desk working on a computer. Sometimes I attended meetings or training days. I worked with the R&D team (5 other people - much older than me). There was one other intern who was 23 from Sweden who had been there since February. Because the internship was in Oxford and there are few students around in the summer I went home to Bristol on weekends.

Work Projects
I worked on literature reviews for DOP submissions, product tasters, marketing via social media, statistical analysis and shadowed training days.

Lasting Impressions
It has given me an insight into the world of work. It was helpful in that it taught me what areas I perform best in and enjoy most. As there are very few students in Oxford during the summer and there was only one other intern I found social life quite dull but Oxford is a great city and I would certainly consider working here.
Amy Clarke

Daily Life
I lived in a shared house with another Oxford intern about half an hour away from the school by metro, near to Shibuya where there was plenty to do during the day when we weren't working. I would say that the most challenging aspect of daily life in Japan is the commute. Even though the metro ride itself wasn't actually very long, imagine the rush hour in London and treble that!! In general we worked from 8.30am to 4 or 5pm depending on whether we had planned the lessons for the following day. We worked Monday till Friday, though we had the occasional day off during the week, meaning that we were able to take day trips to Hakone, Nikko, and even a spa day courtesy of the school!! We were not short of free time and we were extremely lucky in that the school is conveniently located, so it was easy to go for dinner or drinks centrally after work. I was a little intimidated on the first day because we were expected to introduce ourselves (preferably in Japanese!!) to the rest of the teachers in the staff room with a microphone. Thankfully though it quickly became easier to adjust to Tokyo life, and anytime we found things a little tricky, we would shrug it off with a commonly used phrase in Japan: ‘shouganai’ (‘oh well / it can’t be helped!’). Another point worth making is everything in Japan is intended to make everyday living as convenient as possible, whether it’s through their ubiquitous 24-hour ‘convenience stores’, ‘capsule hotels’ (we stayed in one for the experience!) or the vending machines selling cold drinks at every street corner. This definitely made things easier and meant that we spent most of our time out and about rather than in the shared house.

Work Projects
During the month that I spent at Otsuma School, I taught about 40 hours in total, either by myself, assisted by another English teacher, or together with the second intern from Oxford. Otsuma Gakuin is a girls’ only private school in central Tokyo and has an adjoining women’s university. For the most part we taught at the secondary school, though we were also able to teach a few classes at university level. Our role was getting the students to speak as much as possible during our lessons, which was easier said than done, but on the positive side, we never had any discipline problems ever. One of the English teachers at Otsuma helped us a lot when it came to settling in and lesson planning, and often observed our lessons and gave us useful feedback at the end. Everyone who worked at the school was extremely friendly and welcoming, and all wished us a pleasant stay in Japan. Although I have been to Japan before, this time around I felt extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to be in Japan in a professional capacity.

Lasting Impressions
I can honestly say that the internship not only fulfilled, but exceeded my initial expectations. I am now definitely considering spending some time working in Japan. The culture definitely takes some getting used to, but I think in the right work environment you can feel completely at home too. So I can say that working at Otsuma has given me a real insight into what it might be like to work in Japan, or as an English teacher abroad in general. Though I can’t say I’m certain about what I’m going to do for a career, the internship has definitely pointed me in the right direction!!

Calypso Blaj

Daily Life
I do not feel it would be hyperbolic to say that the care with which I was treated was simply exceptional. Our co-ordinator frequently checked-in to see how our lesson-planning was coming along, gave brilliant feedback after the initial observations, invited us to meet the other teachers in social settings, and was always on-hand to make sure we were ok. The headmistress too, met us regularly to ensure that all was going smoothly, and even presented us with tickets to a spa towards the end! And above all, the students were simply second to none. They picked up new ideas very quickly, which all things considered was not an easy thing to do when I had to explain the idea of a “weekend,” without realising that this entailed first of all teaching what the days of the week even are.

Work Projects
The other intern and I were given the freedom to devise lesson plans in whichever area we chose, provided that the emphasis was on oral practice. The ages of our students ranged from 11 to 18, with some classes being up to a few hours long, so our work was always meticulously planned in advance to make the classes as interactive, flexible and entertaining as possible. Hands down, our best idea was to use print-outs of cartoon characters which we assigned to each student and used in games to work on subjects such as daily routine, physical appearance, diet and exercise, and hobbies.

Lasting Impressions
I can’t wait to go back to Japan ASAP!! I also had the opportunity to travel during my internship, visiting the volcanic region of Hakone and profiting from the onsen (hot springs), seeing the temples of Nikko and Kamakura, and of course Kyoto too. Every region of Japan that I visited was visually and emotionally stunning in a way that I cannot quite articulate, and being able to witness Japanese culture first-hand was an experience which nothing other than real-life immersion can truly give. I cannot thank the Keble Association enough for supporting me, as well as Otsuma Gakuin for their outstanding hospitality. The insight that I have gained into teaching abroad as well as in Japanese culture thanks to this internship has been, without question, one of my most enriching and dynamic experiences to date.

Otsuma Gakuin University and School
Tokyo, Japan
Amy Clarke, Penultimate, BA Modern Languages (French), Keble College
Calypso Blaj, Penultimate, BA Modern Languages (French), Keble College
Overseas Development Institute
London, UK
Janita Bartell, MSc Sociology, St Hugh’s College

Daily Life
I was lucky to find accommodation in London very close to work, so I was able to cycle to the office in less than 10 minutes. I usually worked from 9:30am to 5:30pm. In general, office hours were very flexible as long as I got the work done. After work and on the weekends I spent most of my time exploring the city and socializing with my flatmates.

Work Projects
I built a database of publications on markets in humanitarian crisis. The broader question behind this undertaking is whether humanitarian relief can rely on the functioning of local markets in crisis situations, which makes cash transfer to the affected population a viable solution, or in kind help is needed. Apart from gathering resources, I developed a tagging system for the online library and scrutinized different options for building and hosting the website.

Lasting Impressions
Although I can imagine working in research in the future, I feel that development policy research in a London office is a bit too far away from the field/reality for me at the moment. Nevertheless, I can imagine working in this field sometime in the future.

Oxford ASPIRE (Museum of Natural History)
Oxford, UK
Emily Giles, 2nd Year, BA History, Queen’s College

Daily Life
There were lots of things to do in my internship so what I did one week varied greatly from the next. I would cycle to the office in the Museum of Natural History first thing and I usually did some work in the office if I didn’t have any meetings or other scheduled work. Office work might entail updating spreadsheets and looking at the data or other forms of research. For several of the weeks I would spend three or four hours during the day going out in the museum talking to visitors, gathering information and opinions on WiFi, touchable exhibits and authenticity. I got involved in projects very early on and so I settled in easily. My hours were around 9:30am–5pm, though this varied according to what I had on each day. There were also some one–off events such as training days which I was lucky enough to attend on subjects such as copyright and the Ashmolean’s audience strategy. I got to know a lot of the other museum staff members and interns during my time as there was a very friendly staff room, but of course the ones I got to know best were the wonderful members of the ASPIRE team.

Work Projects
I was based in the ASPIRE office in the Museum of Natural History but worked across the Oxford museums and enjoyed working on projects which were very relevant to their development and expansion. This included collating data for the implementation of new public WiFi, looking at school attendance to the museums and working on the development and trialling of new exhibits for the Museum of Natural History. I also blogged, produced graphics and interviewed visitors during my time there. My office was very friendly and my supervisor and co–workers always made sure I had a variety of things to do and that I settled in well.

Lasting Impressions
I loved working in Oxford and in the museum environment. It’s such a friendly and enthusiastic sector and I would really love to be able to remain involved with it. I was able to see lots of different roles which I had not previously been aware of and I hope that if vacancies arise in similar positions I would be able to consider applying.
I really enjoyed working in Oxford and being here as a non-student, and I feel like I would actually like to live and work here in the future. It was also interesting to learn a lot about the city through the project of Open Doors. I was very interested in the heritage work of the Preservation Trust, and although I do not think that that specifically was for me, the internship was really useful in clarifying what I enjoy doing in terms of practical processes. I loved coordinating activities with schools, and actually working with young people. I also learned what I am less keen on - as I am not a perfectionist, I found fiddling with the website details for hours unexciting (though necessary), and similarly was uninspired by preparing the venue packs for each participating venue. So although I am still not completely clear about what I want to do it was really helpful.

Daily Life

I usually arrived at 9.30am and left around 5pm, with a break at lunch- although lunch was often a super busy time, so we would eat at our desks, and also when I was going in and out of schools I sometimes had to be places a bit earlier. However OPT were really flexible and happy for me to leave early if for example I had to travel on a Friday or something. Since there were only 4 in the team it was easy to settle in quickly, and everyone was friendly- there were lots of food-based afternoons and I consumed huge amounts of cheesy puffs, as well as cream cakes appearing at every opportunity! There was one other intern who was older than me, but arrived on the same day, so it was good that there was someone in a similar position. I also felt really involved in the team generally. I was invited to a book launch, as well as to the launch of Oxford Open Doors which was at the Natural History Museum, and was full of really interesting people from across Oxford. Being in Oxford was weird from a non-student perspective, but nice socially because quite a few of my friends were around from university so it wasn’t lonely.

Work Projects

I worked for Oxford Preservation Trust in the run-up to their headline event, Oxford Open Doors. This is an annual event held in Oxford and visited by approx 20,000 people, 70% from Oxford and Oxfordshire, and now in its 7th year. There were three main facets to my role; first, I was involved in the general administration of the event, as there is only a small team in the office (of 4), and only one of them had it as their primary focus, the others all working on other projects at the same time. So this was helping to keep the website up-to-date, actually developing the website, running booking for events, responding to calls and queries from the public and keeping on top of the Twitter account. Second, I was running outreach activities, which I felt was the most rewarding and interesting element of the internship. I produced a special family-friendly ‘passport’ to the event, and went into primary schools to do assemblies to promote it, and so I spent some time setting up these assemblies as well as preparing all the materials for them. In addition I helped the Director to run a day at a further education college with their Travel and Tourism students, leading them on a project centred on Oxford Open Doors & its appeal to 16-25 year olds. This tied into the final element of my work, working on surveying and data for Open Doors, and its success in engaging various sectors of the community. It was clear that 16-25 year olds were one of the least engaged groups, and so as well as being an education day about the importance of heritage and the role of Open Doors, the work we did with the college provided me with survey feedback which was useful. The Assistant Director was the person directly in charge of me, and she was very helpful. I felt there was so much going on it was sometimes difficult to get answers to questions or not feel that I was interrupting something important, so there was a lot of learning on the job, but that was fine by me. Everyone was really helpful, and for my own two projects, outreach and surveying, I felt like I was given the right balance of support and independence, and I really enjoyed it. I also felt that I learnt a lot from all the other organisations we interacted with – those that were running Open Doors events, as well as the schools I visited, and this was a really beneficial element of the internship for me, learning more about the wider sector.
Oxford University Estates Department
Oxford, UK
Matilda Rhode, Finalist, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Oriel College

Daily Life
I worked 9-5 initially and was then able to push all my hours into four days thanks to the flexibility of my bosses. I cycled to work most days which only took fifteen minutes so was very convenient. I made friends primarily with the people I was working with but didn't get to know many others in the office although it was a very large one. The internship was in Oxford and followed my degree so I was very comfortable in the city that I already knew well.

Work Projects
I worked to help amend and fill in missing data for a new online map of the university buildings. This involved collecting and inputting various forms of data including photographs. I was paid for my hours and also received some paid holiday.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my internship for several reasons. The people I worked with were great in many respects, they were friendly, interesting and my bosses were flexible and understanding when I needed them to be. I enjoyed the project I worked on because the results of my work were quite tangible.
Anya Green
Daily Life
While I did not work closely with other interns, the team I worked with helped me to integrate as if I were a regular employee rather than a temporary intern, which helped me to settle in quickly. We had frequent team meetings and a team lunch during my 8 week placement. My hours were regular 9-5 and my transport to work was easy given the central location of the office. Outside of office hours I was free to pursue other activities, which was a particular benefit of being placed in London, and the wages were generous which allowed me to make the most of my time there.

Work Projects
My responsibilities and tasks in Portfolio and Project Delivery were varied and exciting, with my contributions going on to be part of presentations delivered to Pearson Technology employees around the world. My colleagues in Pearson Technology were helpful and supportive throughout, assisting in improving a number of professional skills that will be of great value in my future career.

Lasting Impressions
It was a great experience to work in a central London location, and the atmosphere at Pearson was exactly what I would have hoped for, professional yet relaxed. It is a shame Pearson do not have a graduate scheme or a clear route for university graduates to join the company as it was a very enjoyable place to work and somewhere that could benefit from a graduate intake.
Alexander Robertson

Daily Life
I worked 9-5 and lived at home as the internship was in London. I got the tube to work though sometimes walked home. As I was working in my home town I made less of an effort to socialize with other employees as I predominantly spent my free time with friends from home.

Work Projects
I was not working on any specific projects as I was working for the VP of Portfolio Management. However I learnt many new and transferable skills including programming for the first time in both JavaScript and VBA.

Lasting Impressions
I already live in London and this internship has not affected my opinion of the city. However it has greatly increased my enthusiasm for working in technology in some role, which prior to this internship I had not considered.
Perm State University
Perm, Russia

Sebastian Siersted, 2nd Year, MBioChem (Molecular and Cellular), St Edmund Hall
Gemma Wardle, 2nd Year, MEarthSc, St Edmund Hall
Guy Paxman, Penultimate, MEarthSc, St Edmund Hall
Jams Jills, Penultimate, MPhysPhil (Physics and Philosophy), Brasenose College
Mohid Khan, 1st Year, MEarthSc, Exeter College
Helen Owen, 2nd Year, MChem, Trinity College
Diana Avadanii, 1st Year, MEarthSc, University College
Matthew Brady, 1st Year, MEarthSc, St Peter’s College
Jacob Forshaw, 1st Year, MEarthSc, Worcester College
Sarah Payne, Penultimate, MEarthSc, Worcester College
Hiu Fung Kevin Lee, 1st Year, MChem, St Peter’s College
Rebecca Shutt, 2nd Year, MChem, Queen’s College
Bethan Gregory, Penultimate, MEarthSc, St Hugh’s College

to use the university’s microscopes and other equipment, as well as rooms within the department to work.

Lasting Impressions
The lasting impression of the internship is of the Siberia field trip, this was a great experience and I would like to go back to Siberia again but this time to eastern Siberia.

Guy Paxman
Daily Life
One of the best aspects of this internship was that there was no regular ‘daily routine’. Over the course of the 8 weeks, I was able to participate in a number of different activities and tasks. While we were based at Perm State University, I and other participants were actually outside of Perm for half of the internship. We spent about a month on trips to Siberia, the Urals, and other locations. When in Perm, we settled into our accommodation quickly, but were off to Siberia within three days! After Siberia, we spent the next two weeks in a more regular routine at the university. The Geology Faculty was a ten-minute walk from the hostel, and the interns typically worked from 10 to 5. Outside of work, we socialised with the other Oxford students and the Russian student volunteers who helped us a lot at the beginning of the internship with moving in, sorting out money and internet, and other ‘essential’ details. We played basketball, football and volleyball, and taught the Russians some of the basics behind rugby. We commonly cooked as a group in the hostel in the evenings. In the Urals we stayed in a field centre, and met students from other countries, including Italy and China. Activities such as rafting, volleyball, tug-of-war, football, and song and dance were organised for us. Around Perm, we were taken on tours of the city, visiting its most famous attractions, as well as the university campus, and a visit to see Swan Lake at the ballet theatre.
Perm State University continued...

Work Projects
The first two weeks of the internship comprised a field trip to south-central Siberia, which we reached after a two-day train journey. While in Siberia, we examined a wide range of mineral deposits, including iron, molybdenum, copper, coal, inorganic bitumen, silver, gold, marble and bentonite. This included panning for placer gold deposits in Siberian rivers. Upon returning to Perm State University, we were instructed in the analytical techniques involved in examining the gold particles we collected in Siberia. We then compiled a report based on the gold analysed. During this period, we also looked into the environmental geochemistry of a potash deposit in Perm Krai, and undertook some basic Russian language lessons. Another project was a trip to the Urals, where we investigated the zoology, botany, geology and hydrology of the Perduraliey nature reserve, in which we stayed for 9 days. This was followed by a four-day rafting trip along a 50km stretch of the Usva river, again in Perm Krai. Our last week involved finishing the reports on the Siberia gold investigation and Potash geochemistry. We received a great deal of support from the host organisation (Perm State University).

Lasting Impressions
A lasting impression for me was the sheer enormity and cultural diversity of Russia. The difference between Perm and Khakassia and Tuva (near the Mongolia border) in Siberia was striking, and it was hard to envisage how these places could be within the same country. Russia also possesses a blend of western and eastern cultures and attitudes, which are manifested in the architecture, people and infrastructure. Russia has some incredible natural scenery – in places almost completely unspoilt by human intervention, which is a very rare thing to see in the UK. However, attitudes towards the environment are quite concerning, and Russia has a large problem with waste pollution. It was clear that, at the highest level, there is a lack of regard for the environment, and that economic growth is placed at a priority. This was apparent at the mines we visited in Siberia, and showed me that the blessing of a rich mineral wealth, as is possessed by Russia, comes with a great responsibility towards the citizens and the natural environment. I don’t feel that I would want to live or work in Russia, but I would be more than ready to return (global politics permitting). In terms of my ambitions for later life, I can say that I have a much greater awareness of the processes and considerations that go into the running of mineral mines. This will be very useful if I choose to enter industrial geology as a career in the future. The more research-based part of the internship, involving the gold from Siberia, was very rewarding and enjoyable. The fieldwork, laboratory work and the actual process of writing a research report were all valuable experiences, and lead me to believe that the geological research environment is one in which I can thrive, as well as have a lot of fun.

Top Tips
1. Try to bring some rubles with you from the UK if you can get a decent exchange rate, but you will be able to take out rubles using your card at the ATM machines in the university. There is a small charge from your bank for using your card abroad, and you can minimise this by taking out more money at a time. The geologists found that around £200-£250 was enough to cover all our costs while in Russia (food during field trips is paid for). Avoid travellers’ cheques, these are very inconvenient.
2. Try to keep the hostel as clean as possible to avoid unwanted pests (i.e. cockroaches). You should also avoid touching stray dogs, which are quite common.
3. Try to make sure the fruit and dairy products you buy in the supermarket are as fresh as possible, as the quality control in Russia isn’t particularly rigorous. You can buy pretty much everything you need at the nearby supermarkets.
4. It’s not a bad idea to carry a small pocket-size hand sanitizer around with you. Soap is often absent in places of need.
5. Bringing a basic Russian phrasebook would be handy.

James Wills
Daily Life
Because of the nature of the geology internship we never stayed more than two weeks in one place! I settled in quickly thanks to the wonderful student helpers who helped me and the other interns navigate daily tasks in Russian. We almost immediately set off for Siberia on a two day train journey on the trans-Siberian railway – something which I have for a long time wanted to do and which more than surpassed my expectations. A typical day on the field trip was quite long. We were up at 7am and were on excursion until 6 or 7pm. The two weeks we spent in Perm immediately after Siberia were spent analysing our samples in the lab and writing our paper. I started at 9am and did 1.5 hrs of physics before joining the geologists in the lab. We left at around 4pm. We then spent the rest of the day socialising with Russian students, shopping for and cooking dinner. Later on in the internship we experienced a typical Russian holiday – rafting. We spent four days on the river. It was enormous fun but quite hard work.
Work Projects
The first project was a two week geological field trip to Siberia where I learned about mineral exploration and exploitation. This consisted of visiting a number of mines of various mineral deposits including coal, gold, molybdenum and iron. A major activity during the trip was panning for gold in various rivers across southeast Siberia. We took these samples back to the lab where we analysed the surface texture and chemical composition and measured their sizes. We used this information to determine the likely origin of the gold samples. These results were written up in a paper. We also took part in two ecological and environmental excursions. In the first we investigated the effect of the waste of potash mining on the environment (one day trip) and in the second we learnt about the geo-ecological problems of Preduralia (one week). The latter included zoological, hydrological, geological and petrological excursions and masterclasses. It was very good for me to do something a bit different to my degree subject (physics and philosophy). I have learnt that I am extremely interested in many different things! I also took a two week long course in hydrodynamics and convective instability with the physics department of Perm State University. This was extremely interesting and fortuitous because, despite doing a physics degree, this was one of the papers I opted not to study (I had to make choices and one can’t do everything) so this topic was new physics for me which I enjoyed very much and has been a very valuable part of my physics education.

Work Projects
I was involved in a 2 week excursion to SE Siberia where I visited a variety of mines and panned for gold. As well as this was a week-long environmental project looking into the sustainability of a natural reserve in Perm Krai. The research work involved collecting samples of gold in Siberia, and analysing morphology and composition to determine providence. The equipment was provided by the host organisation.

Lasting Impressions
I enjoyed Russia, it was interesting to see the lifestyles and experiences of Russian students. Visiting Siberia and panning for gold will be a lasting memory. There are some amazing regions of natural beauty in Russia. I would consider working there in the oil or gas industry, as industry in Russia has shown that it does care about its environmental impact to some degree.

Helen Owen
Daily Life
I stayed in student accommodation on campus with other interns and spent a few hours a day in the lab, four days a week. After our labs we would discuss the mechanisms involved in a research paper we were given the previous day with our supervisor, as well as the mechanisms involved in that day’s step of the synthesis. On Mondays we each gave a short presentation on an area of organic synthesis that we had been told to research, with Wednesdays being a library day to search online for papers. In the evenings and weekends we spent time with the other interns and the Russian student volunteers, who helped us settle in and looked after us throughout the internship. We also had lots of field trips and excursions during the internship, as well as evening activities in the city with the volunteers. In Perm we had tours of the city, went bowling and clubbing, and went to the ballet to see a performance of Swan Lake. During the summer school in Preduralie we went hiking and rafting, and the rafting/camping trip in the Ural mountains was really fun.
Perm State University continued...

Work Projects
My and the other interns' main project was to perform a multi-step synthesis of a target compound, with supervision, over the course of the internship. We also made individual presentations every week about different areas of organic synthesis, using information from research papers; and discussed the mechanisms used in the research papers we were given after labs.

Lasting Impressions
I definitely enjoyed my internship and my time in Russia immensely. I've met and made friends with lots of new people, and had a great experience in a country which I may not have visited otherwise. The work was interesting (especially the discussions of the different research papers), and I feel that I've improved my organic chemistry and presentation skills over my time there. I feel that more time spent in the lab would have been beneficial, as well as being given more independent and challenging responsibilities in the lab; but overall I enjoyed the work and the environment, and I had an excellent supervisor.

Diana Avadanii

Daily Life
Our hosts took good care of our accommodation and helped all the interns settle in. For all the period of the internship we had someone from the International Department at PSU that took care of our schedule, problems or any other queries. We received Russian Language classes and a couple of PSU students volunteered to show us the city and they helped us a lot during the summer. The working hours were the standard ones, with a lunch break in the middle. We have been involved in traditional activities, city tours and ballet in Perm, which was one of the highlights of our time outside work.

Work Projects
The internship covered both fieldwork and laboratory work. The fieldwork took place in Siberia, where we visited various mines and panned for gold. During the two weeks we saw three different types of gold deposits and more than 8 mines where we learnt about industrial processes. Back at Perm State University we analyzed the samples that we collected in Siberia using an Electron Scanning Microscope. We interpreted the data collected and tried to find a relationship between shape and chemical composition of the gold grains and their provenance and travelling distance. On top of this project we were involved in different activities (day trips, summer school) where we studied the ecology and geography of the Ural mountains. All these activities had an academic supervisor from Perm State University and a translator.

Lasting Impressions
I enjoyed travelling in Russia and everyone in Perm was welcoming and kind. They put a lot of effort and personal time to make us feel at home. For this reason I had a wonderful time and I am glad I enjoyed their traditions and food. I would be happy to return to Russia and Perm for further projects, travelling or short time working. The internship was very useful from a career point of view, as it was a good insight into mining. I have more knowledge about the industry now and this helps me to plan my career path better.

Top Tips
1. Make sure you have everything you need for the fieldwork (be ready for all kinds of weather), but if you find out you need an item on the last minute, don't panic, everything can be bought in Perm (we bought Wellington boots for a very good price and I advise you to do the same as there is no point carrying them from home)
2. Buy your plane tickets in advance and pay attention to the visa availability. Leave some time for travelling in Russia as it is a wonderful country and you'll have a student card that will allow you to get a student fee reduction in all of the museums.
3. Learn some basic Russian before going. Some basic words, especially the polite form ones will open many doors for you and they are not difficult at all. Also, if you learn the alphabet you'll be able to read street signs, names and labels.
4. Pay attention to your weight allowance at the company you are flying with. Leave some room for rocks and other souvenirs you'll buy from there.
5. Be open and try as many traditional things as you can. Russia has a wonderful culture and lots of interesting traditions. Everyone I met was kind and helpful, so don't be afraid to interact or to ask for help.
Perm State University continued...

Matthew Brady

Daily Life
I and other interns socialised with geology students as well as our volunteers from the PSU International Relations Department. The geologists, when not in the field, stayed in a flat where we had a toilet and a shower. Our kitchen was shared by more people and lacked an oven, which was a little inconvenient. To no fault of the university, the water was switched off for a total of about a week whilst we were in the flat so that repairs could be made to the pipes. Usually, when we weren’t in the field, we worked from 10am until 6pm with an hour and a half for lunch. Our accommodation was about a 15 minute walk from the department so we walked to the department every day.

Work Projects
We wrote a project entitled ‘Compositional studies and provenance of placer gold in the Kuznetskiy Alatau and Western Sayan Mountains, south-central Siberia’. In it we examined the possible prov-enance of various gold placer deposits by examining their chemical composition and surface texture.

Lasting Impressions
It has made me want to continue my study of Russian, since everyone we met was incredibly friendly and welcoming. It has also made me consider working in Russia later, after my degree.

Jacob Forshaw

Daily Life
Days on the internship varied depending on where you were and what was planned for the day. When in Perm we would start work in the university at 10am and finish at 5pm with some time to get lunch in the University canteen included. However, on the field trips we would typically start earlier and finish later in the day. We had plenty of time to cook for ourselves of an evening as well as meet up with Russian friends we had made in Perm to go for a walk or drink. When on the field camps we would have sports or other competitions in the evening as well as time to socialise.

Work Projects
Shortly after arriving in Perm we boarded a 48 hour train to South-east Siberia where we spent two weeks on a geological field trip with other Russian students. Here we gained an appreciation of the geology and culture of the areas of Khakassia and Tuva. This involved visiting many active mines, historical museums and panning for gold in various rivers. After this we spent one week sorting the samples of material we had collected and then using an SEM to analyse the gold grains found. In the next week we wrote a paper detailing the differences of gold we had found in Siberia. At the beginning of August we travelled to Preduralie where we lived in wooden huts for a week, taking part in ecological studies of the area during the day with Russian, Italian and Chinese students. We also participated in 4 days of rafting along the Oosva River before returning to Perm to complete our scientific paper as well as visit a borehole as part of a day trip.

Lasting Impressions
Perm, its surrounding areas and Siberia are fantastic places to visit for both geological and cultural regions. I never imagined I would visit Russia and now can see myself going back in the near future to visit friends I made on the internship. Having toured several active mines, I have gained an insight into their operation and I may now consider pursuing a career within this industry.

Top Tips
1. Get your visa application submitted as early as possible
2. Book your flights as soon as you receive your invitation from Lyudmila
3. Go to the Banya (Russian Sauna) at every opportunity
4. Pack light when you go on the longer field trips (e.g. Siberia) as everyone washes their clothes in the lakes/rivers
5. The Russian students are very keen to get to know you, so take every opportunity to interact with them in and around Perm, to find out what Russian life is really like.
Perm State University continued...

Sarah Payne
Daily Life
Daily life was great. When I and the other interns were in the field (about 4 weeks in total) we camped and had long days (9–6 out of camp), but the evenings were still relaxed and enjoyable, socialising with a large group of Russian geologists. In Perm we stayed in student accommodation. The university was only a 10 minute walk away. Work hours varied. We were in the university most days and often from 10–5, but the atmosphere was very relaxed and after an Oxford exam term on some days it felt like we weren’t doing much at all! In the evenings we met up with some students who spoke English and were tasked with settling us in. We saw these students most days, played games, went to the pub and got told more about what it’s actually like to study in Russia. We also met up with the other Oxford students on this internship. I also was allowed to join a Russian badminton team that trained in the university, which was an incredible experience. I was even allowed to skip a day of internship to play in a tournament with them!

Work Projects
The internship involved a two week trip to Siberia, visiting mines throughout the region and working with Russian students. Translation was done by geologists from Tomsk and Perm Universities. We learnt practical techniques and saw a lot of sites which just would not be possible elsewhere in the world. Also included was a one week ecological summer school at Preduralie which involved multiple excursions focused on preserving the region with students from many nationalities. This was followed by write-up and analysis of samples collected in Siberia. For this we were introduced to lots of new equipment, e.g. SEM. We also visited a potash mining waste pile, collected samples and then analysed the data. This was followed by a report on pollution. A lecturer supervised us throughout the project. There were a few other day trips, e.g. visiting a local oil company head quarters, processing plants and rigs. We were also given 10 hours of Russian lessons to aid living there.

Lasting Impressions
I very much enjoyed living in Russia. The people were lovely and Siberia in particular was beautiful. Without the internship I definitely couldn’t have got so much out of a visit to Russia (for one few people speak English). I definitely hope to return at some point and to meet up with some of the friends I made out there. One of the projects introduced me to a career role I hadn’t properly considered before, and it’s a job I shall be looking into using this experience to support my application.

Hiu Fung Kevin Lee
Daily Life
Normally the interns worked 4 days a week, 2–3 hours a day. We were split into 2 groups of 2 and 3 which rotated: one would come in the morning, one in the afternoon. We stayed in the university so getting to work wasn’t an issue. We went out and socialised with some international affairs students from Perm who could speak English, and they helped us with issues such as translating and recommending places. We went to a nature reserve for a week, then went rafting for 4 days. The activities there were mostly relevant to the earth scientists, but it was still a lot of fun.

Work Projects
We worked through a synthesis route devised by our supervising professor, noting all methodology and yields.

Lasting Impressions
Russia is a large country. I feel I could understand more of its culture if I knew more of the language, but we were only given the absolute basics. The experience reinforced my positive impression of Russian people: strength and self-sufficiency are highly valued. I thought people were really nice, although they didn’t know English and I didn’t know Russian. For this reason I won’t be living or working in Russia. The internship was a really light workload, and the professor supervised us most of the time, and I learned some new techniques, but I don’t know whether I like doing research more or less because we were basically just following instructions.

Top Tips
1. Take pounds and exchange for roubles when you arrive.
2. Take some books/ebooks
3. Think about travelling after the internship when you book your return flight.
4. If nothing else, learn to read the Russian alphabet before you go.
5. Take some souvenirs to exchange with people, e.g Oxford pens/t-shirts, everyone is very friendly!
Perm State University continued...

Bethan Gregory
Daily Life
Daily life varied quite a bit during the internship – you could start the day by waking up in the student hostel, or a log cabin, or a tent! While in Perm, we spent time in the university during weekdays, which was a fifteen minute walk from our hostel, but when we were on trips outside Perm, we carried out a wide variety of activities. Russian students who volunteered to show us round Perm quickly became friends who we spent a lot of time with outside work hours, and who helped us to experience more of a normal Russian student life. Highlights of the internship were the two-week trip to Siberia, the rafting trip, and a visit to the Russian ballet in our last week.

Work Projects
The internship began with a field trip to Siberia with a group of Russian geology students, which was an amazing experience. This involved visiting different types of mine to understand more about how they operated, panning for gold, and examining some outcrops. Back in Perm we focused on the gold particles we had collected to write a report on our findings. Later in the internship we spent a week attending an international ecological summer school at the university’s field camp, followed by a four-day rafting trip looking at the tourism potential of the Ural Mountains.

Lasting Impressions
I have very positive lasting impressions about the internship - I really enjoyed meeting the people and experiencing life for a fairly substantial period of time in another country. I would like to return at some point and feel that if I did, I would be warmly welcomed back by the people we met.

Top Tips
1. Bring insect bite cream, walking trousers and an unlocked phone (to get a Russian SIM)
2. Buy a water filter between you as the tap water isn’t drinkable
3. If you want to start learning Russian before you go, start with the Russian alphabet
4. Don’t apply for your VISA at the last minute
5. If you’ve got a hobby/ want to find a church etc., ask the organisers or Russian students about it, as they might be able to sort something out and it’s a fun way to get to know people and have a fuller Russian experience. Also, if there’s a problem, just ask someone – they’re really helpful and friendly people!

Rebecca Shutt
Daily Life
The interns were accommodated in university owned accommodation on campus, so it was easy to walk to and from the department. We were shown where to buy food and mainly cooked as a group to lower living costs. Russian students studying international relations at Perm State University volunteered to look after us and help us settle in, showing us around the city and socialising with us. We had access to the university gym and so often went there to exercise. We ate out a few times with the other interns, and also went to the pub. The Russian students showed us good places to go. The host organisation organised various excursions for us: tours of the city, trips to the ballet, museum, Luk oil extraction site and headquarters, and helped us in organising further travel at the end of the internship if we wished.

Work Projects
We spent 3 hours maximum in the lab daily (Mon-Fri) in groups of 2 or 3, working through a predesigned synthetic pathway. The laboratory techniques would be mostly familiar with a student who had finished their First Year of Chemistry at Oxford. We were under constant supervision while in the lab. In the evenings each lab group was assigned a paper to read through and work out certain mechanisms on, which we discussed with our supervisor the next day. Each week we were assigned a chemical topic to give a presentation on, of about 10 minutes, referencing 5–7 papers. This we presented to the rest of the interns and our supervisor in a weekly seminar. We were taught 10 hours of Russian Language to arm us with basics to get through life in Perm. We were involved in a geochemical mini-project which analysed data of an area of land polluted by a waste salt pile and slurry, for which we wrote up the results of our analysis in a report. We also went on an ecological Summer School which showed us the surrounding countryside in Perm Krai and while here we went on zoological, botanical, and geological excursions. On these we were taught a little about the plants and animals characteristic of the ecosystem of the area, and discussed and searched for fossils characteristic of the Permian Period.

Lasting Impressions
It wasn’t as work intense as I expected, and I don’t think it gave me a true representation of what chemical research would be like, but I found the internship academically beneficial and it was nice to have enough time to explore the new surroundings and meet new people. At first I was a little worried about travelling in Russia, but the internship diffused this as everyone was very nice and helpful. The city seemed very safe. I fully enjoyed myself and am not sure I would go back, but have made lasting connections with the people and the University there which I value.
Lasting Impressions
I had an excellent time working at the Pitt Rivers Museum; everyone was really friendly and supportive. I would definitely consider returning to work here in the future. My mentor agreed to write me a reference for my job applications, and generously allowed me time off to attend interviews. As a result, I am now happily settled into a job in a school archive in London.

Daily Life
I would arrive at 9.20 to start at 9.30, and I would be free to go anytime after 5pm. There was a friendly tea-room, where I had the opportunity to socialise with museum staff during breaks.

Work Projects
I catalogued and described a collection of contemporary postcards. I scanned postcards and optimised the images where necessary - so that the images could be part of the museum's catalogue. I wrote a blog post on the project, which is now up on the Pitt Rivers Blog. Initially, I received full training - then for the rest of my internship, there was always someone present to ask if I had any difficulties.

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Lasting Impressions
It was great to get a chance to work on a professional production; I would definitely consider doing it again. Hong Kong was active and vibrant, though I probably wouldn't choose to live there for an extended period of time. My career goals remain unchanged for the most part.

Daily Life
Since the project was an opera, my working hours were different each day. Almost every day involved hard work, and often towards the end working from 9am to 11pm. I socialised with the cast and crew, and their friends. In my free time I explored the island and the surrounding monasteries, went for hikes and checked out some cool parts of the city.

Work Projects
I was given tasks and responsibilities in various areas, including sourcing props from the markets around Hong Kong, making a drinks sales strategy, accounting for drink and ticket sales, some musical input, photography, designing programmes and posters and communicating with sponsors and affiliated parties.
A fantastic summer opportunity, whether you plan to work in the non-profit sector or not.

**Zuzanna Bien**

**Daily Life**

Living and working in the centre of New York was a fantastic opportunity to experience the city life. The interns’ office space was located in the same building as our accommodation, so daily commute was not an issue. Project Rousseau provided us with travel cards giving us access to all public transport in the city. New York in summer is full of free attractions, such as film screenings in parks, free museum passes, concerts etc., which we took full advantage of during our stay. We also often had a chance to attend events such as baseball games or philharmonic concerts, the tickets to which were provided for us by our employer. On weekends, we often took part in events organised by Project Rousseau, such as SAT classes, volunteering hours, or field trips to various New York attractions. We mainly socialised within our intern group, and we definitely made friendships which will outlast the duration of this internship.

**Work Projects**

My work included a variety of projects and tasks. Some common themes involved partnership establishment and strengthening, extracurricular programming, academic programming, and administrative issues. Project Rousseau supported me throughout the process, providing detailed assignment sheets describing each of the tasks, and support was available to me while carrying out my tasks. The feedback on my work was almost immediate, and the weekly meetings with Project Rousseau’s founder ensured that all of our questions and concerns were promptly answered.

**Lasting Impressions**

Over the course of the internship, I was reassured that my dream is to one day live and work in NYC. Although it is very different from Europe in various respects, I really hope that I will have a chance to return to America one day. Although I might not necessarily want to work for the non-profit sector for the rest of my life, interning with Project Rousseau opened my eyes to many future career possibilities, as well as to social issues which I feel I might want to address through my work in the future. Overall, my impression could not be more positive - I enjoyed every minute of my internship, and I would definitely recommend it to next year’s applicants as a fantastic summer opportunity, whether you plan to work in the non-profit sector or not.

**Di Fei Wong**

**Daily Life**

With the assistance of Project Rousseau, the interns applied for and secured accommodation in New York with International House New York (I-House). For the first month of our six-week internship, I-House’s cafeteria offered meals three times a day. Most days would involve us working from 9 am to 4 pm in the study or common areas of I-House which was a convenient 30 second commute from the cafeteria. On some days our work involved travelling to different locations in New York which was not a hassle at all given the efficient subway service. During the last two weeks of our internship the meal service at I-House closed due to the annual cafeteria closure and the interns dispersed all over New York to fill our bellies. Given that we worked in New York we were naturally spoilt for choice. Post-work hours, we were free to explore The City That Never Sleeps, and living in New York comes with its associated perks: baseball and (American!) football games, concerts, museum visits and more. We were invited to volunteer at a local nursing home during some weekends – an opportunity I found to be immensely fulfilling.

**Work Projects**

I assisted the organisation with research and grant applications for unrestricted and restricted funding (funding for specific uses/activities). From time to time I was tasked with research on potential opportunities for the charity’s expansion and improvements to its current programmes. Each intern was given the option of running his or her own personal project. My personal project involved visualising the charity in 2017 and conceptualising a path towards this future. I was given unfiltered access to anyone in the organisation for interviews and data collection and this aided greatly in the production of my final report for Project Rousseau. I was given the freedom in approaching tasks and projects and I worked closely with the founder and President during the entire internship. He went above and beyond in ensuring that all our professional and personal needs were met during this internship.

**Project Rousseau**

**New York, USA**

Zuzanna Bien, 2nd Year, BA Experimental Psychology, Corpus Christi College
Di Fei Wong, Finalist, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Harris Manchester College
Simone Vibert, Finalist, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, St Hilda’s College
Fraser Eccles, 2nd Year, BA Geography, Christ Church College
Project Rousseau continued...

Lasting Impressions
Working with Project Rousseau this summer has been thoroughly enjoyable and inspirational. When I first applied for the internship, nothing in my mind could have imagined the wide range of experiences and possibilities that this summer would offer. The exceptional latitude encouraged in problem solving gave us the chance not only to shine in our particular areas of expertise but also to hone our lesser-practiced skills. Our work was meaningful; since we were in direct contact with Project Rousseau’s President, our recommendations and output will result in immediate and visible changes to a growing charity. Having spent six weeks with Project Rousseau, I am convinced that the organisation has found itself in a position of unparalleled potential and I fully expect to hear great news about their progress in the years to come. If the opportunity arises, I would gladly consider working in both the non-profit sector and New York.

Simone Vibert

Daily Life
The internship was a little different from most because the organisation does not currently have a permanent office (at least, it didn’t in summer 2014!). Therefore, although I had set hours to work (9am-4pm) it was up to me where I did my work, as all I needed was my laptop. Sometimes I worked from my room at International House, university-style accommodation for people coming from all over the world to study or intern in New York over the summer. Other times I went out and took advantage of the numerous public spaces on offer in the city – the David Rubenstein atrium at the Lincoln Center became one of my favourite haunts. I socialised a lot with the other Oxford interns, but I also enjoyed meeting others living at International House, and exploring the city’s restaurants and bars with them. Outside of work, I was also able to go to lots of sports matches and cultural events for free, as a guest of Project Rousseau – sitting in prime seats at the New York Yankees is an experience I won’t forget in a hurry! Aside from that, one of my favourite things to do in New York was to get an iced coffee and take my book down to Central Park, one of my favourite places in the city – there are so many different parts of the park to explore, and it was a bit of an oasis when I felt the need to escape from the manic pace of Manhattan life!

Work Projects
During the internship I took on a wide range of projects. For example, one day I could be designing the curriculum for a new program being introduced by Project Rousseau. The next day I could be doing something completely different, such as conducting some research in support of a fundraising bid. I was also encouraged to share my thoughts regarding the overall direction and strategy of the organisation – something interns rarely have the opportunity to do! I saw the diversity of projects as a real strength of the internship: trying out so many different tasks gave me a real insight into what I want to do as a job. Also, I discussed my projects with the organisation on a regular basis, and as the internship went on I was able to select projects which developed the particular skills I was interested in.

Lasting Impressions
I'm so glad I was able to intern with Project Rousseau. Living in New York has been a dream: it's a great city, with so many free events and attractions to take advantage of in the summer – I can see myself coming back to visit one day! I've also experienced things that I wouldn't have been able to had I not interned with Project Rousseau: visiting the White House in Washington, receiving first class tickets to the Yankees and to the Philharmonic, and so on. The work itself has been great too: I've been able to complete a diverse range of projects, and I've been able to make a real contribution to the organisation and its future plans. The experience is proving invaluable career-wise too – I am currently job-hunting, and the internship has given me plenty to talk about in my applications.

Fraser Eccles

Daily Life
The internship was a fantastic experience with some fantastic colleagues. Thanks to having met the other three OUIP interns, and our boss at Project Rousseau before leaving Oxford we settled in immediately. Working hours left plenty of time to enjoy New York, including a never ending onslaught of once-in-a-lifetime experiences: suite tickets to the baseball, concerts in Central Park, restaurants...

Work Projects
I worked on a range of projects from teaching to grant-writing to research.

Lasting Impressions
Most of all, looking back, I consider myself extraordinarily lucky to have been able to participate in such a generous scheme, and to have contributed to the growth of such a unique charity.
**Qobuz**
Paris, France
Flora Henderson, 2nd Year, BA French and German, Exeter College

**Daily Life**
I worked from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Out of work I took advantage of what Paris has to offer, going to galleries, seeing friends etc. I got to work by bus. I socialised with people from work and out of work. It was very easy to settle in – everyone at work was lovely.

**Work Projects**
I worked on translations from French, German and English, and writing subtitles for French, German and English. I was involved in benchmarking competitors, creating newsletters, writing articles for the website and creating playlists.

**Lasting Impressions**
It made me love Paris and really appreciate the people who live there. I would definitely return! The internship increased my interest in the music industry, and it is a sector that I would like to work in later.

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**Queen’s Nursing Institute**
London, UK
Joanna Boughtflower, Penultimate, BA Cell and Systems Biology, Lady Margaret Hall

**Daily Life**
I lived at home during my internship which I think really helped to take some of the stress off, as when I got home I could relax. I commuted to work by train every day, taking about 1 hour to 1.5 hours each way depending on delays. I worked from 9.30 to 4.30pm with an hour for lunch, but I often stayed slightly later, although this was my own choice, as I felt no pressure to work longer than my hours. I ate lunch with colleagues from my office every day.

**Work Projects**
My time was mainly divided between two projects – one was updating the company database, and the second was policy work with the Homeless Health Project. On the database, I emailed or telephoned people to update their information, it gave me some great experience with communicating in a professional environment. On the homeless health project, I undertook a variety of tasks including data analysis from a survey, the production of evidence based reports and profiles, a blog for the department of health website, and an article for a nursing magazine. I also attended conferences, meetings and shadowed homeless health professionals. My organisation was incredibly supportive – on several opportunities they offered me the chance to undertake tasks which would raise my own profile in the health sector. They always made sure that I understood what I was doing, that I was accompanied to meetings and events, and I always felt I could ask for help if needed.

**Lasting Impressions**
I had an absolutely brilliant time at my internship. I felt valued as a member of the team, and I was constantly given interesting tasks that built my skill level. I was lucky enough to have lots of exposure to the health sector and it has confirmed that I would like to pursue a career in public health. I would love to work for the organisation if possible but they are a very small office, with only 12 staff so opportunities do not arise very often. However, the CEO has put me in touch with lots of similar organisations who may have places.

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I was lucky enough to have lots of exposure to the health sector and it has confirmed that I would like to pursue a career in public health.
Anatoly Smirnov

Daily Life
I settled in quickly, and easily got used to the 9 to 5 working hours. My part required knowledge of Java and SQL, and even though I had zero knowledge in the beginning of the internship, I quickly taught myself to an appropriate level.

Work Projects
I was assigned quite an ambitious project - building a system that monitors online news and extracts reputation scores for companies, organisations and people. The project was immensely interesting, hence I feel very lucky to have been assigned it: the majority of other interns did less engaging work. It helped that the company provided interns with quite substantial freedom: although I received constant help and suggestions from my supervisor and colleagues, I felt that I was steering the direction of the project. If I needed to read research papers or learn a complex topic that was necessary for further development of the project, I was always trusted not to waste time even if I didn't show any concrete results for weeks, which also added to the enjoyment of the internship. (Of course, my progress was measured overall - I was accountable for what I was doing - but I was also trusted.)

Lasting Impressions
This internship was eye-opening for me and helped me understand what skills I need to develop to work in the IT industry.

Tadas Krisciunas

Daily Life
Interns were expected to be quite independent. The first day I came to work, I had to wait for about an hour before everyone else started to gather. I learned that the office hours are slightly different to what I'm used to, and work starts at 10. Then I noticed that my desk didn't have a chair, and that one of the other interns was constructing a freshly bought Ikea chair, which turned out to be mine. I quickly jumped to help her. Later on I also had to install the operating system on my work laptop and configure all the software I would need myself. Although this might seem like a rough start, actually it’s illustrative of the quite positively relaxed atmosphere in the company. It wasn't discouraged to chat, even from one's desk, if you felt like you needed a short break; also, everyone was always ready to answer any technical question you had. The office frequently had lunch together, and we also had company-paid dinner in some nice restaurant once a month. The staff was very international with people from Lebanon, Algeria, China, Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Portugal, Britain, which allowed us to have, for example, the International Dumpling day, where every employee was encouraged to bring his/her national dumplings (apparently, every culture in the world has one.) Overall, interns were trusted to be able to work and be productive independently, without too much supervision, and the office environment was relatively friendly. The only disadvantage was that the office environment was often too noisy to do work which requires more concentration, e.g. reading research papers. Nevertheless, I was allowed to sometimes do that from home.

Work Projects
I was working on developing an emerging trend detection algorithm, which was very interesting and challenging. The rest of the team were very friendly and helpful throughout the project.

Lasting Impressions
This internship was eye-opening for me and helped me understand what skills I need to develop to work in the IT industry.

RolBAC Ltd
London, UK
Anatoly Smirnov, 2nd Year, MEng, St John's College
Tadas Krisciunas, 2nd Year, MMathPhil (Mathematics and Philosophy), St Hugh's College

The internship allowed me to see first-hand how one could build real positive social impact into the design of software.
Royal Forestry Society
Banbury, UK
Ross-William Hendron, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, St Peter’s College

Daily Life
I would drive from Oxford to Banbury for a 9am start, then settle into my desk and work on a project e.g. transferring/updating content on the website. The team would eat a packed lunch together around 1pm and then take a walk around the expansive grounds to get some fresh air. Then I would finish up my day’s work and was encouraged to leave at 5pm. Occasionally the routine would change if I was helping with a woodland walk, taking photos of the woods or assisting for an awards event. I was encouraged to work in the office 3 days a week, with the rest of the time divided between working out of the office in Oxford and continuing my undergraduate research project in the Zoology department.

Work Projects
Most of my time was spent creating an online database of the organisation’s quarterly journal and filling their new website with content. I also helped with the running of events and creation of a stock photo gallery. Everyone was very friendly and worked in close proximity to each other, with questions being encouraged.

Lasting Impressions
Situated within vast swathes of countryside the office was very picturesque, but commuting by car was not particularly entertaining, so I think in future I would hope to work somewhere accessible by public transport. It was enlightening to learn about how small charities operate, and confirmed that I would in fact like to do more study before finding a job.
Tamsyn Woodman

Daily Life
I was provided with accommodation onsite, so generally I woke up at 8am ready to start work at 9am setting up for groups that would be in that day for trails in the woods, activities etc. Generally I either worked with the youth side of the project, or mostly the family engagement side. Activities ranged from trails around the woods, to building campfires, a few evening badger watches on residential trips, building fairy houses, or even beach trips. The groups were very varied and so the work varied according to the age/type of group. Some quieter days I worked on the Birthday Party Project - creating a ‘pin the tail on the fox’, advertising, etc. Hours were generally 9am until 3-4pm. Leading up to the open day, I was working a 6 day week from around 9am until probably about 6pm. Hours varied massively and pretty much depended on what groups are in. Outside of work, I did a bit of sightseeing in the local area such as going to the beach or further along the coast. I played mini golf a few times and went to the pub a bit too. I mostly socialised with the other intern, and a Spanish vet who also lived on site, who introduced me to a lot of people. Overall it was great hours and lots of fun!

Work Projects
I worked on the Hastings Wild Things Programme - working with young families, schools, youth groups and young offenders from in and around Hastings. The programme involved getting participants to connect with the natural environment and enjoy being in and around it. I received support from managers who introduced me into the programme and invited me to sessions with them. I undertook a separate independent project creating a birthday party box at the woodland. I put together entertainment and picnic boxes for parents to provide to children, colleagues supported by helping me to order items via the organisation system, and giving recommendations of local places to advertise etc. The Open day on August 10th was the biggest day of the year, so I had two projects myself. The theme was ‘nocturnal wildlife and the magical woods’ so I built a ‘Narnia’ area in the woodland, decorated it, and sorted out related activities. I also created a ‘nocturnal world’ in the classroom, featuring a giant badger sett and areas to discover using UV pens and torches. The staff supported me by helping to create certain things and clearing an area in the forest for Narnia.

Lasting Impressions
It has been an absolutely amazing 7 weeks, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. Moments that stand out: releasing seagulls onto a beach who had never flown properly before; one child telling me how much he loved animals and how nice they are; the beach trip we did with a young family group. I have never been this far east in the country before but love it! I’ve been looking for jobs in the area for when I finish university as its a great location to live. The experience has definitely confirmed that I want to work in education but not teach. I was planning on moving to London to work after graduating, but working here has changed my mind entirely - there is no way I could spend all day behind a desk in a city after spending 7 weeks romping around in wellies making campfires. I want to be working partly outside and definitely with people!!

Nicholas Williams

Daily Life
The team I have been involved with have all been fantastic and an absolute pleasure to work alongside. Mallydams has been a very welcoming place in which to work and live and I have found it easy to socialise with my colleagues. My working hours have been fairly flexible and self-determined which has allowed me to experience and observe a wide variety of the activities that occur on site.

Work Projects
I have been able to undertake evaluative and theoretical research into outdoor education, indulge my passion for photography, publicise the organisation on social media and gather case studies of visitor experiences through interviews and questionnaires.

Lasting Impressions
East Sussex is not a part of the country I had visited before and now I greatly regret everything I must have missed! Stunning scenic beauty, incredibly hospitable people, and an atmosphere of care and compassion towards the natural environment has made this a highly memorable and rewarding experience. It has confirmed my feeling that helping the wild places of the world, and the animals that reside in them, is what I would like to commit my future to. I would love to return to this part of the country in the future and continue to help the extraordinary and genuinely inspiring people I have met along the way.
Shiv Nadar Foundation  
Uttar Pradesh, India

Tomos Rees, 2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Hertford College
Duncan Webb, 2nd Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Worcester College
Chloe Brooks, 2nd Year, BA Biological Sciences, Christ Church College

**Tomos Rees**

**Daily Life**
I got up at 6.15am. That sounds early, but everyone else at the school got up at 5am, so I was seen as very lazy. I normally started teaching at 7.30am. The day was normally haphazard – a class here and there, working on devising lesson plans and creating the database, spending time with the children, going for a walk into the village. The school day finished at 6pm, after that we would normally spend time with the children. There were a number of other interns there from around the world, the biggest contributor being Oxford. On a weekly basis we normally left the campus to go on trips – Taj Mahal, Lucknow, Delhi.

**Work Projects**
Not easy to summarise! I started off teaching history and political science to a class of 40 sixteen-year-olds. However there was some confusion since the school (along with myself) though we were meant to teach while the Head Office was not expecting this. There was therefore a week where I had no real job at all. After this was resolved, I was given a range of worthwhile tasks including advising on UK universities and creating a database of additional material and lesson plans.

**Lasting Impressions**
My overarching impression has to be how fantastic and inspirational the children were, which sounds very trite but is hard to describe any other way. Truly fantastic children taken from arguably some of the most disadvantaged backgrounds in the world and thriving and aiming very high. India is a mind-boggling place of contrasts. I loved it. I would definitely go back, and the Foundation has asked me to return next year.

**Duncan Webb**

**Daily Life**
I lived in a flat with the 6 other interns from England and the US, which was really great fun. We would each teach about 2 or 3 classes every school day, then play sports with the students in the afternoon/evening, have dinner in the canteen and then go and hang out with the kids in their hostels until about 10pm, talking about life at home and what studying in the West is like. Everything was based on one large campus area, so travel to and from places was easy. About 3 times during my stay of a month we left this campus to travel around a bit more - visiting Delhi, Agra (and the Taj Mahal) and one other smaller area.

**Work Projects**
I taught Physics to Yr 10 and 11 students (classes of 30 people), and taught French classes and extra Maths sessions to a smaller group. I also set up and ran a debating group with Yr 13 students. I performed data analysis of the school's exam results.

**Lasting Impressions**
I greatly enjoyed teaching full classes and I am certainly considering teaching as a career option now.
Chloe Brooks

Daily Life
My typical working day at the school involved an early start at 7am, although this wasn’t as bad as the students who had to get up at 5am. In the mornings I usually taught lessons, and did planning. In the afternoons I helped with extra-curricular activities, or simply just spent time talking to the students. In the evenings we often got the chance to go round to one of the teacher’s house for dinner, which gave an insight into Indian culture. Trips to the local city Lucknow were often organised for us on the weekends, or even once to Agra to see the majestic Taj Mahal. When working at the strategy office at corporate towers my day followed a more 9-5 routine, this provided a nice way to round off the internship.

Work Projects
During my internship I ran a Dragons’ Den style entrepreneurial competition with the students. When they came up with ideas for social enterprises all by themselves, without any prompts from me, I was pleasantly surprised. For me this was a highlight of my internship, as I could see that all the students wanted to use the education and opportunities that they were benefiting from in order to give back to their communities. Although the work we expected to be doing and what we actually ended up doing differed, all of the staff bent over backwards to welcome us, help us out, and to look after us.

Lasting Impressions
India was somewhere I had always wanted to visit, and I am so thankful that I got the opportunity. It was fascinating to visit Mumbai, Delhi, and also truly rural India. Even though I have travelled quite extensively, the level of poverty I saw in rural India was shocking, and made a lasting impression on me. Gender issues in India feature a lot in the UK media and it was interesting to hear their perspective. Due to safety reasons I don’t think I could ever live in India, but I definitely would like to return in the future.
Society of Malawi
Blantyre, Malawi
Alexandra Letcher, MSc African Studies, Jesus College

Daily Life
Working at the Society of Malawi was a wonderful work day- it never felt like a 9-5 job! I usually got up around 6:30 or 7 (depending on where I was staying) and walked through Blantyre Market (a great way to start the day, with music blaring and stall owners setting up for the day) to the library. The library assistant and I would unroll the ‘Library Open’ sign at around 8:45 and then I would retire to the archives to get on with cataloguing while he worked in the library. After lunch we would switch and I would welcome visitors and get on with other projects in the library. We would close up at around 4:30, at which time I would head home. It is incredibly easy to meet people in Blantyre and I made some wonderful friends. It’s difficult to do things after dark but there are lots of restaurants and bars around. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we went to aerobics class at the College of Medicine gym. The best time to do things was at the weekend, when groups of us would head out of the city and travel to one of the many beautiful places in its surrounds: Zomba plateau, Lake Malawi, wildlife parks...there were endless possibilities. I think I managed to do something exciting every weekend!

Work Projects
I worked on a variety of projects during my time at the Society of Malawi. The number and range of visitors meant that there was rarely a dull day and often I was busy with helping visitors or researchers with finding resources. I also spent a lot of time cataloguing the collections, reorganising the archives, and digitalising the map collection which was in a fragile state. One of the most interesting projects I was involved in was establishing the Society of Malawi’s presence on Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons, which entailed uploading some of the photographs in the extensive photo archives and researching information that could accompany them (such as slavery, ivory trade, urban history etc).

Lasting Impressions
Malawi has a very special place in my heart. By week two, I had decided that I wanted to work in Blantyre and started applying for jobs to stay here. It is a wonderful country. Everyone is so generous and welcoming that it immediately felt like home. The Malawian sunsets, in particular, I will never forget.
Sony Corporation  
Tokyo, Japan  
Ioana Jecan, Penultimate, BA Oriental Studies (Japanese), St Hilda’s College

Daily Life
I lived ten minutes away by train from the office. I would wake up at 7.30, get there for 8.30 and have breakfast in the cafeteria. Work would start at 9 and finish at 5.30. I always had lunch with my colleagues - that was the highlight as they’re amazing people and we had so much fun joking about my weekend adventures. I lived in Tokyo so during the weekends or even in the evenings I would go explore the city but also the surrounding places. It was great!!

Work Projects
I was in charge of researching the corporate universities of other companies and then had to write up a report with observations, recommendations and specific questions that Sony should ask when benchmarking with other companies. For my second project I had to come up with ideas for a site aimed at the Sales and Marketing employees worldwide.

Lasting Impressions
I had been to Japan before for a year, studying at a Japanese university, as part of my course. However, this was different not only because I lived in a different city, but also because I experienced Japan as a working adult. The people I socialised with and the things we talked about changed. I think this was an eye opening experience, as it helped me further define what I expect out of a job and what I would or wouldn't like to do in the future.
Eleanor Bland
Daily Life
There were two of us interns working on the same project, and so we lived together onsite for the duration of the internship. This meant that it was easy for us to settle in together, and also meant that we always had someone to socialise with in the evenings. We worked mostly from 9-5, although sometimes had to stay later at work depending on what we were working on. Out of work hours, we could go for walks around the gardens, go into Buckingham or even go into Oxford or London at weekends.

Work Projects
I and my fellow Oxford intern were responsible for designing, producing and launching a new leaflet about one of the 18th-century owners of Stowe House, Lord Cobham. We received support from both of the host organisations, Stowe House and the National Trust, in terms of providing feedback and guidance from the drafts of the leaflet. They also gave us the opportunity to be part of other ongoing projects at the organisations.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed the internship, and it has greatly helped me in terms of furthering my research interests. It has confirmed that I am interesting in pursuing research, but with a potential public-facing focus. Although I would not necessarily like to work for a similar organisation, I would like to do research for an organisation like the National Trust or Stowe House. It also provided a really valuable insight into working for an organisation and as part of a team for a couple of months; I felt very settled in and like I was an important part of the team there.

Alice Holohan
Daily Life
Another intern and I were lucky enough to be able to live on site at Stowe. This was a real privilege, as we essentially had the grounds to ourselves every evening, and we got to know Stowe really well. Our colleagues were incredibly welcoming and friendly, and we settled at Stowe really quickly. The House Custodian (our line manager at the Preservation Trust) was particularly brilliant and made us feel very at home. Lunch was provided for us every day, which provided a great chance for us to get to know the team we were working in. Because Stowe is a relatively remote location, I was concerned that the internship experience could potentially be a rather lonely one. However, I got on so well with my intern colleague that in actual fact this was not the case at all, and I know we will stay in touch for a long time.

Work Projects
Stowe is looked after by two organisations - the Stowe House Preservation Trust (which owns the house) and the National Trust (which looks after the gardens). Myself and the other intern worked for both organisations to research and produce a leaflet about Lord Cobham, one of the eighteenth-century owners of Stowe. At the beginning of the internship, we spent most of our time researching both the content of the leaflet and our target audience. We needed to make sure the leaflet was aimed at the right level for visitors to Stowe, and was a useful (and sustainable) venture for the Preservation Trust and the National Trust. We spent most of our research time in the library of the house, which has just been the focus of a £6.5 million restoration project - the gilded ceiling was spectacular! Towards the end of the internship, we were more focussed on the design elements. Neither of us had a background in design, so at times this was challenging. However, it was really fun, and we learnt such a lot that I am sure will come in useful in the future. The project was exciting in many ways, not least because it was the first leaflet ever produced which linked the house and gardens. As well as producing the leaflet, we had the opportunity to discover more about working in the heritage sector through working with and shadowing people such as the House Custodian, Visitor Experience Manager, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Education Officer. This provided an incredibly valuable insight into a competitive sector.

Lasting Impressions
The internship at Stowe was an incredible, and valuable, experience, and I realise I am very lucky to have had this opportunity. It has made me realise that I want to pursue a career in the heritage sector, and has given me skills and information that will help in the pursuit of this goal. Stowe is a really wonderful place, and it has been a privilege to get an insight into how this very interesting and important property works. I know I will stay in touch with many of the people I met over the summer, and I would like to thank the Stowe House Preservation Trust, the National Trust and the Thames Valley Country House Partnership for providing this opportunity.
Tanglin Trust School
Singapore
Christopher Williamson, 2nd Year, MMath, St Edmund Hall

Daily Life
I would normally arrive at 7:15am (early start!) in preparation for the arrival of the students at 7:45am, having received a lift from my hosts. It was relatively easy to settle in - the rest of the careers staff were very friendly and sociable, and it helped that most of them were also new to the school and just as disorientated as me and the other interns. The day would end at 4pm and most days I would take the train back home; occasionally we would go somewhere in the evening after school as there was plenty to see at night (1-Altitude’s rooftop bar and the Gardens by the Bay being highlights), and we socialised with two other members of staff who were about our age. On the weekends we’d travel a bit further; two weekends were filled by Jurong Bird Park, the Zoo and the Night Safari which I’d recommend to anyone, and I also spent one weekend in Bangkok having booked a last minute flight. After the internship I travelled through Malaysia for 3 days which was a really interesting contrast to Singapore.

Work Projects
Our main responsibility was to help with the Oxbridge applications process: based in the careers department, we read personal statements, ran lunchtime talks and gave advice to prospective applicants. However we were also able to contribute to school life in other ways - for me, this involved regularly helping out in maths lessons, running academic lunchtime lectures and clubs, and helping the music department in composition lessons and in the Jazz Festival which was taking place at the school. Both the music and maths departments were very helpful in providing lesson timetables and assisting with the organisation of lunchtime events, and the teachers were very accommodating.

Lasting Impressions
I loved Singapore and I’d love to go back; if it wasn’t for the climate I could probably live there permanently (constant 32 degree heat and humidity were quite draining). It’s an incredibly clean, safe and well-organised city, the food is great, the people are wonderful and it’s an ideal hub for further travel in south-east Asia. The internship definitely made me think seriously about going into education as I really enjoyed helping out in maths lessons and running my lunchtime lecture.
Thames Festival Trust
London, UK
Sasha Ward, 2nd Year, BA History, Somerville College
Julienne Orcullo, MSt Women's Studies, Exeter College

Sasha Ward
Daily Life
During my internship, I primarily worked 10am to 6pm on weekdays. My offices were at the Oxo Tower Wharf on the South Bank, a fantastic location! Outside of work, I spent much of my time doing academic work (as a finalist). However, I spent time socialising with my Oxford friends also based in London. Also, once the festival kicked off in September, there were a few events a week held by the festival such as drinks receptions and VIP events. These gave me the chance to socialise with my colleagues and fellow interns outside of the office environment, as well as meet the sponsors and trustees of the Thames Festival Trust. Through these events and receptions which TFT kindly invited me to, I grew to feel as though I was truly a part of the organisation. Another highlight was an opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and meet an MP, as I delivered a bottle of water from the source of the Thames there! On the final day of my internship, I attended a conference with delegates from ‘river cities’ across Europe in Twickenham – a varied experience indeed.

Work Projects
I worked as a Marketing and Media Relations Intern with the Thames Festival Trust, the organisation running the Totally Thames Festival. During my time with TFT, I undertook a variety of projects, varying according to the stage at which the festival’s organisation was at. For the first few weeks of my internship, my role largely involved assisting in the production of the Totally Thames printed programme prior to going to print (i.e. sub-editing and checking the accuracy of information). In addition, I worked with a Content Management System to publish and edit web pages for individual Totally Thames events, consistent with the programme. Also under the umbrella of Marketing, and the project from which I drew the most satisfaction, was writing and putting together the Totally Thames weekly e-newsletter (to be distributed to thousands of recipients). This allowed me to write creative copy, which is something I enjoy greatly, and make a tangible contribution to the Totally Thames Marketing campaign. For two weeks of the internship, during the absence of the employee responsible for the festival’s social media output, I was placed in charge of TT’s facebook, twitter and eventbrite pages which, again, gave me a significant level of responsibility. Throughout, I was fully supported in these tasks by the Marketing Manager, and was confident to ask questions if I got stuck. On the ‘Media Relations’ side of my role, I was responsible for logging the media coverage the festival gained, compiling a book of press cuttings. In addition, I was given responsibility for gaining PR coverage from local newspapers for one specific event – The Source to Sea River Relay. In this task, I was fully supported by both the PR professional working with Totally Thames, and the project manager responsible for the relay itself. During the festival, I continued to work on these projects, in addition to getting more involved with the actual events. This involved some weekend work, assisting with the running of events including an outdoor music festival (Blue Ribbon Village).

Lasting Impressions
I will take many warm memories from my time at the Thames Festival Trust. As a member of a small team, I really felt valued and included in both a professional and social sense. Prior to my internship, I was feeling somewhat lost in terms of settling on a career path. Whilst I am unsure whether Marketing and/or PR is the path I will take, I have gone away with new ideas relating to the type of organisation I would like to work for (I had not given much thought to NPOs beforehand) and have gained a lot from learning about the career paths of others I worked with.

Julienne Orcullo
Daily Life
I had a relaxed 10–6 work schedule, and found local accommodation so was free to walk to work and wander a bit before 10. The location is stunning, I never missed an opportunity to sit by the Thames and take in the skyline, crowds of people, relatively fresh air. The office is very friendly and welcoming but small so I socialised outside of the office, taking opportunities to see London with non-Londoner friends (from Oxford, school etc).

Work Projects
I took part in regular social media management, as well as writing – copywriting, and image collation for the printed programme. I was involved in digital media management and content writing including creating a custom Google map for Festival events. Other administrative duties were filing, editing and tabulating. The Communications Manager and all office colleagues were supportive and encouraging about my development even if it was for a short period.

Lasting Impressions
It was a great experience for gaining insight into the London Arts world. Working on over 100 events, drawing maps etc, I got an overview of London’s cultural landscape in a way that may not have been so broad had it not been rigorously drilled by the administrative side of the internship. As a result, I’m keen to work in London in the near future in an arts administration capacity if the opportunity arises. I now also realise the creative work of arts marketing departments and am more open to pursuing opportunities in that path.
The International School
Bangalore, India
Timothy Leung, 1st Year, MMath, Balliol College

Daily Life
I lived on school campus so there was no need for a commute to work. Breakfast started early at 7:15am and then lessons take place from 8:00am till 3:10pm. Once the school day ended, I was free to make use of the school facilities including the pool and sports grounds. In the afternoon sometimes I would play piano or badminton or go to the nearby shopping mall with others. After dinner, I would just relax for a bit and get an early night to prepare for the early start. On weekends, I was able to go on day trips or weekend trips with the other interns and teachers. We went to Mysore one weekend and Hampi on another, which were really fantastic opportunities to see India and also to experience Indian trains.

Work Projects
I worked with classes from Grade 5 primary up to Grade 12 International Baccalaureate, mainly in Maths and also a few Chinese lessons. In the beginning it was mainly observation and helping students with their problems, and then later on I planned and did a supervised lesson with Grade 11. Along with the other two interns, we did an Oxbridge presentation to Grade 12s and I also conducted mock interviews with the applicants and analysed their personal statements.

Lasting Impressions
Overall, I really enjoyed my internship at TISB. India is a beautiful place out of the cities but a bit too crowded and manic inside. I would definitely consider working in India in the future though. Although the internship has confirmed that I do enjoy teaching very much, I have decided that I will not go into teaching until much later in my life.
Hebe Stanton
Daily Life
I mostly worked 9am-5:30pm during the week, unless there were events or projects that meant I needed to stay later or work weekends (in which case I was usually given time off in lieu). I walked to work every day, which was a nice way to lift my spirits as I walked through the city in the morning and the evening. Everyone was friendly and kind, although the museum is very busy so socialising, especially during the day, wasn’t really an option! Luckily I had friends in the city, so I mostly visited them in the evenings. Staff always ensured that I had a lunch break, and that I wasn’t working too many hours, although they were always happy to let me work more if I wanted to.

Work Projects
I researched mailing lists, worked on social media, supervised children’s workshops, gained shop experience, helped behind the scenes at museum events and worked on increasing student engagement at the museum. The museum office staff were occasionally erratic in their support of bigger projects, but they were helpful and willing to share expertise – for example I was taken to a City Council meeting by the Marketing manager.

Lasting Impressions
I go to university in Oxford, so I already knew the city well. It’s given me an opportunity to see what it’s like to live in the city without being at the university - I now love it more than ever! I’d definitely like to live/work here later in life. The internship as a whole has been really helpful in working out what kind of career I want – it turns out that I actually really like working with people, which I would never have expected before.

Anna Zanetti
Daily Life
The atmosphere at the Story Museum is simply wonderful. It was really easy to settle in, and all the staff were really warm in welcoming all the interns. The working hours were 9.30am-5.30pm, although I wanted to take some time to study and revise during my internship, therefore I ended up studying before and after work. I had a nice time with the other interns, and it was nice to share thoughts and impressions with somebody, as well as having lunch together.

Work Projects
Being interested in the curatorial aspect of the placement, I had the invaluable chance to take part in meetings, in which I could see how an exhibition takes shape. I must say I was not given any substantial work projects, but mine was more a collaboration and a day-to-day task placement.

Lasting Impressions
The experience I had as an intern was truly invaluable for me. Having been in the UK for two years now, I felt I was completely missing out on the working side of British life. It was very important for me to experience office life first hand, and to get an insight into what it could mean to work here. I was surprised by the enjoyment I got from working with everyday things, as opposed to studying and writing essays, which is undoubtedly more theoretical an occupation. I would never have had the chance to find out this had I not done this experience.

Ella Hingley
Daily Life
I worked roughly 8 hours a day, arriving between 9 and 9.30am, and leaving between 5.30 and 6pm. For most of my internship, I was staying just outside Oxford and getting the train in. I spent a week commuting from my home in London, using the Oxford Tube. It was easy to settle in as I started on the same day as another intern, and everyone was very friendly and supportive.

Work Projects
I was involved in a wide variety of projects; providing general administrative assistance to the Story Museum team, helping with school workshops and evening events, and also occasionally working in the cafe and shop downstairs. I was given training so that I could do all of these jobs properly, and was provided with all of the materials that I needed. The workload was so varied that it is difficult to pick out only a few projects.

Lasting Impressions
Working at the Story Museum has confirmed my ambitions to work in a museum or for an arts charity. I cannot imagine myself returning to work in Oxford, however, as having gone to university in the city I would like the chance to live somewhere else in the future.
Tinderbox Working Capital
Abingdon, UK
Daniel Heasman, 2nd Year, MPhys, Hertford College

Daily Life
My work hours were 9am-5pm. As I was working with a start-up company every day was different and there was no set routine I could get myself into. I stayed in Oxford and socialised with many of the students coming back to help with the international programs at my college.

Work Projects
I was involved in sales, bringing in new customers, developing the marketing process of the product and improving the website and powerpoint materials.

Lasting Impressions
This was a great experience. I got a taste of the real world, working in a business park was extremely exciting and has given me more insight into deciding my career path.
Kameliya Belcheva

Daily Life
Settling in was easy. Knowing German is not needed because everyone in Munich speaks English. (This was slightly bad for me. I wanted to practice German, but whenever somebody heard my bad grammar, they switched to English immediately.) Finding accommodation in Munich is harder than it is in other cities, so it is good to start looking early. TNG has flexible time, and 40 hours per week are required (we were allowed to transfer them between weeks as well). Public transport has good coverage, so getting to work was easy. I socialised mainly with my colleagues and with my flat mates, since I didn’t know anybody else in the city.

Work Projects
My project was alongside another intern to develop a proof of concept REST web service in Java using Drools as a business rule engine. I received continuous support throughout the project. TNG provided two supervisors for my project, which was great because there was always someone to turn to, even when one of them was on holiday. Before joining, I knew very little about Java (only some basic algorithm syntax), and in two months I have expanded my knowledge and skills enormously.

Lasting Impressions
Throughout my internship, I couldn’t believe that such a great company could even exist. People I met as well as the management are very friendly. They trust you to be your best and treat people well. There are no unnecessary rules or bureaucracy. The company organises many nice events like tech days twice a month (a company-wide conference), a visit to the Oktoberfest, Summer Retreat in the Austrian Alps. It is an amazing place to go if you want to develop without getting caught up in small organisational stuff.

Thomas Weatherby

Daily Life
I found accommodation using AirBnB, and I worked a 40 hour week. The trip to work is about 40 mins trip each way using the S-Bahn in Munich. I socialised with my co-workers and the other interns, invited friends from the UK to stay with me as well as my girlfriend who is already in Germany.

Work Projects
I was involved in setting up a central logging server and analysing log statements using LogStash, ElasticSearch and Kibana Using Atlasboard to present figures and graphs.

Lasting Impressions
I very much enjoyed working on my language skills and interpersonal skills in German. I would (and am planning to) return to Germany to do a Masters and PhD. I’ve realised I would not enjoy working in an office/for a company. This internship has confirmed my wish to go into research.
Verity Stone  
**Daily Life**  
I took public transport to work, and normally arrived at about 10:30am. I and the other intern worked until about 4pm, although this varied a bit. We would usually spend the first part of the day dealing with correspondence before moving on to whatever project we were working on at the time. Whilst here I have joined a rowing club and I row and socialise with them three times a week. I have also been invited to dinner and the theatre a few times with my boss and his friends and family. Additionally I have also spent a lot of time with the other intern, we have travelled around BC quite a lot on the weekends and been on day trips on our days off. We normally only worked 4 days a week.

**Work Projects**  
I was involved in the editing of one chapter book, due for release in Fall 2015, the proofreading of several other books due for release in a few months time and the marketing and publicity for several recent releases. I have also been working on a translation project with a Cuban author, whose book will probably be released within the next two or three years. I also spent a fair amount of time updating the website and dealing with the everyday running of the business. My boss was involved in all of the projects, overseeing the work that I did but also allowing me a certain amount of independence to get on with things on my own.

**Lasting Impressions**  
The internship gave me a really good insight into the publishing industry and life in Vancouver. The city itself is nice, but it lacks the culture and style of European cities. The really impressive thing about Vancouver is its surroundings. The islands and mountains in British Columbia are amazing and I would definitely consider coming back to live or work here, but probably only on a short term basis. It has been a really good experience. Although I am still unsure about whether I want to go into a career in the publishing industry, I would definitely be open to it.

Jessica Denny  
**Daily Life**  
Vancouver is a great city, and is very active. I would often jog or something before work, because work didn’t start until around 10. I borrowed a friend’s bike which was definitely the best way to get around town, although the transport links are also very good. Life in the office is very laid back, sometimes my supervisor might not get in until 10:30 or 11. We would check his emails and keep on top of current projects. Often this would be editing manuscripts, other times the day would be taken up by emails, rights, publicity, website etc. Sometimes I brought lunch in with me, but there are plenty of nice spots (although tourist prices) on Granville island. We would normally finish around 4pm. Then I used to explore the area, or go to yoga classes etc in the evenings. Summer is hectic so there is always something to do, particularly if you are the outdoorsy type. I would recommend getting into yoga, climbing etc. We had one day off a week and would often go hiking. Weekends tended to be taken up with camping, hiking, climbing etc. People are very friendly and inclusive, but sometimes it is hard to join on the big trips if you don’t have a car.

**Work Projects**  
I worked very closely with the Manager of the business, which meant I got an insight into all aspects of publishing, including some marketing and publicity work, and some rights work. The main focus was editorial work. The other intern and I really worked as a team, having fairly equal input on all editorial projects.

**Lasting Impressions**  
It is a beautiful area. I very much thought about not coming home, but don’t have the right visa at the moment! I would like to live here at some point in the future. I’m not sure I want to go into publishing but am going to try for some work in literary agencies when I get home. It was certainly great to find out more about the industry.
Nancy Payne

Daily Life

Our group consisted of 9 undergraduates and one postgrad student. Two of us were Oxford students, two from Taiwan, the rest from Tsinghua. I was lucky in my group as the students all spoke good English and only occasionally lapsed into Chinese, so we were a very close group and settled together quickly. It really struck me how friendly, inclusive and helpful everyone was right from the start. It certainly made the long days go by quicker, and the homesickness/adjusting to China easier to cope with. To get to the placement we got a train from Beijing to Chengdu (24 hours), had a day there, then a 7 hour train to Yibin city. It was a lot of travelling but a really good way to see many parts of China. Luckily we were also near some ‘touristy’ bits, like the pandas and the Stone Forest, where we visited at weekends. We moved to Xingwen city after several days and lived in a hotel ten minutes walk from the school (although would have stayed in the school dorms if there was space). We stayed in the school most of the day and ate all our meals there, though did try out the local food too. We were also free to wander the city in our spare time. It surprised me how good the students’ vocabulary and written English was, compared to their speaking and listening skills. So this is what we mainly focused on, teaching methods and skills rather than particular things, as time was short. We had a karaoke night out with our group and were invited to several dinners with both the teachers at the school and some members of the local government, so we were kept very busy! But again, it is a side of China I never would have been able to experience otherwise. It is probably worth noting that ‘rural’ China is not countryside! We were working in cities all the time, if smaller and less developed than major cities. All the schools were well equipped and most even had touch screen white boards, which I was not expecting.

Work Projects

My work was teaching English in rural China and had two main parts. I gave several short speeches to lecture halls of students (and in one case a football pitch, as the lecture hall was too small!) about life and study in England - Oxford in particular. These were translated into Chinese by one of the Tsinghua students I worked with. I also taught 40 minute lessons up to four times a day, so the overall workload was quite small. This meant there was a lot of time for lesson preparation and extra classroom time, as I did not get to teach every class and many students wanted to talk to me at least once! The support was very informal and once we’d left Tsinghua after a day of lectures on teaching, we mainly supported each other (even though few of us had ever taught before). However, if we needed help, it was always readily available.

Top Tips

1. Get a VPN on your phone or laptop beforehand. This means you can access google as well as all emails (Gmail is blocked in China) and many other websites. As many of the teaching placements will require you to give presentations (if they have the equipment, which many high schools do), being able to use the internet properly is extremely useful.
2. You can get some VPN services for free (e.g. Spotflux on my iPod worked fine) or pay (I’ve been using WiTopia, a very cheap and well-supported service, for the past two months).
3. Get a map of Tsinghua campus in advance so you are able to get around. These are hard to find without Google!
4. Befriend the Chinese students in your group. They are nearly all incredibly shy and very nervous about making mistakes in English, and some barely talk at all to start with. Make an effort by asking lots of questions about their lives, education, family, etc. They will be very curious too, believe me! If they seem very shy, ask them to teach you some Chinese. It’s good fun but a difficult language and if they see you struggling, they will feel much less self conscious about making mistakes in English.

Lasting Impressions

I wish there was more I could do. The internship felt very short but at the end I was exhausted. However, we had so little time at the school and it was hard to leave knowing that little would have changed. Many of the students work insanely long hours and don’t seem to spend much time on things they enjoy. During my time there I tried to give them the idea that school can actually be fun and not all about rote learning, and you can also succeed academically as well as doing other things with your life, like sports and other hobbies. Most seemed unconvinced! I would return to the area to do more informal teaching, and I feel teaching is something that will stay with me as an interest, but likely not abroad. The experience has made me want to try and influence their schooling experience positively. For example, I will try and set up a small pen pal scheme so some students can be exposed to a little more of the world and practise their English with a native speaker.
The initial adjustment was eased by a brilliant team of students from Tsinghua University who led the programme. Working with a team of different students from across China made the experience very enjoyable, as we all bounced off each other and learnt to teach together. Early starts were common and we would walk to the High School in the morning. There would be several lessons taught in pairs throughout the day. Evenings involved lots of long dinners and some socialising or sports activities with the local students.

Work Projects

My team and I were based in Qinyang, Henan Province, China. We were teaching in local High Schools for several weeks, this was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The scheme is organised by Tsinghua University who provided training and information.

Lasting Impressions

I’m very glad that I participated in the programme. China was very different to how I’d expected, and whilst I’d really like to visit again, I’d like to see other areas of the country rather than visit the same area, and I don’t think that it’s somewhere I’d be able to live.

Top Tips

1. Be aware that some people may pretend to be English students/teachers in order to practise speaking English with you.
2. Bring a small mirror and a padlock, and maybe an extra battery pack for your phone. You’ll probably get an overnight train at some point and the padlock will give you a bit of extra security. The dorm room and bathrooms might not have mirrors (our only one was in the school itself). A bottle capable of holding boiling water is also handy but you can buy them there very cheaply.
3. Have cash on you ready to exchange at the airport. My debit card wasn’t accepted at any of the airport’s ATMs (I still don’t know why) so I had to borrow money from my team leader until we got to Beijing.
4. You will probably get asked for a lot of photos when you are out sightseeing, and even more so when alone- if you are someone who might find this disconcerting it would be a good idea to go with someone else.
5. Learn a few basic Mandarin phrases before you arrive - they’ll go a long way! Outside of university students there is very little English spoken.

5. Most parts of China will be hot but not unbearably so. T-shirts and shorts will be fine. Few places seem to have any worries about dress code, but in schools you are acting as a teacher – be respectful! You will also be the only English person many people in rural areas will ever meet.

Evangeline Howarth

Daily Life

We stayed in the school dormitories, as students were on summer holidays and the ones we were teaching had come back just for us. Settling in was really easy as all of the Tsinghua students (and the teacher) were absolutely lovely, and very friendly. They all spoke very good English, and so although it wasn’t as easy as with native English speakers (needing to slow down my normal speech and avoid colloquialisms, for example), I was still able to socialise with the Chinese students. We would walk across the playground to get to school, and work from about 8am to 5pm, but with a huge 3 hour lunch break in the middle which I definitely wasn’t expecting. Everyone had a nap after lunch, and after dinner we’d discuss the day’s lessons, and plan for the day ahead.

Work Projects

A group of eight students from Tsinghua, plus a teacher from Tsinghua and me, travelled to a small town in north-east China to teach for two weeks. All kinds of subjects were covered by the group, from maths and history to more inspirational lessons aimed at getting the kids to continue their education and appreciate China’s culture. I taught English, with one of the Tsinghua students assisting me by translating when necessary.

Lasting Impressions

I’m very glad that I participated in the programme. China was very different to how I’d expected, and whilst I’d really like to visit again, I’d like to see other areas of the country rather than visit the same area, and I don’t think that it’s somewhere I’d be able to live.

Alan Aberdeen

Daily Life

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Work Projects

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Lasting Impressions

Lasting impressions are overall positive. I enjoyed working in China mostly because of the people I got to meet and develop friendships with. I would like to return to travel and see different areas, the country is vast and the culture diverse so there is much more to experience! The real experience of teaching and working in a classroom is valuable, and it will definitely contribute to further choices.

Top Tips

1. Be aware that some people may pretend to be English students/teachers in order to practise speaking English with you.
2. Bring a small mirror and a padlock, and maybe an extra battery pack for your phone. You’ll probably get an overnight train at some point and the padlock will give you a bit of extra security. The dorm room and bathrooms might not have mirrors (our only one was in the school itself). A bottle capable of holding boiling water is also handy but you can buy them there very cheaply.
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4. You will probably get asked for a lot of photos when you are out sightseeing, and even more so when alone- if you are someone who might find this disconcerting it would be a good idea to go with someone else.
5. Learn a few basic Mandarin phrases before you arrive - they’ll go a long way! Outside of university students there is very little English spoken.
Alex Shavick

Daily Life

Typically I taught 2 lessons per day and these were in the early morning, so I got up had breakfast and then went straight to the classroom. It was usually too hot to be outside at midday so I spent a lot of time with the other Chinese interns in my dorm after lunch, generally chatting and playing card games. On more rare occasions we went into the town with the president of the school to eat out (always a treat!). We had a 9pm curfew so these excursions were usually short. In the late evening most interns were preparing lesson plans or filling in feedback forms so this was a chance to reflect on the day’s teaching. I really got on with my other teammates though there was certainly a language barrier which most evident at dinner (when everyone was together). Really everyone at dinner wants to chat to each other freely so of course everyone is speaking Chinese and my level was too limited to understand what was going on. I often felt a little ‘out of it’ at these occasions but generally everyone was lovely to me and we got on well. Though there wasn’t a lot of freedom to leave the school there was certainly a lot of free time, which meant sometimes the days dragged a little. I was generally happy with the setup though and socialized with all the Chinese interns.

Work Projects

The assignment was to teach around twenty 50 minute lessons in two weeks. I had free choice of what I wanted to teach and I chose to teach English, as it’s a very useful skill for Chinese children and they may not have received much pronunciation/speaking based teaching. I had the opportunity to teach grades 7, 8 and 9 of the junior high school which I greatly appreciated as the increasing standard of English among the older children added more of a challenge to my lesson planning and spiced up my schedule. I taught 6 different grade 7 classes so many of the lessons were repeated although this was a good opportunity to tweak and improve lesson plans (or scrap some altogether). A lot of my teaching method utilised English games in order to encourage speaking participation and keep the lesson fresh. Many of these methods came from my own knowledge having attained a TEFL certificate prior to the internship. We also filled in an official diary, teaching feedback for every lesson and detailed lesson plans as well as an overall summary, which took quite a bit of time. In terms of support Tsinghua University was very generous. They provided a full day of relevant training lectures including a very useful morning session on English teaching methods. In the rural location the other interns from Tsinghua acted as teaching assistants for every lesson which allowed me to undertake more challenging activities with the kids which I could not have otherwise explained. Tsinghua also paid for accommodation, food and travel.

Katherine Hickson

Daily Life

Lessons began early- around 7 or 8 am and the teaching finished at around 5pm, although the students continued studying until around 10pm! I was constantly amongst my team as it would have been extremely difficult to get by without speaking any Chinese. In the evenings we generally prepared lessons for the next day, but would often go out for dinner and did have some time off, during which we went rafting and visited some of the nomadic huts in the grasslands.

Work Projects

The programme was divided into two halves; the first was spent in 2 primary schools and a middle school in Duolun County, Inner Mongolia and the second in Wuqiang, Hebei Province. Throughout the programme, I taught a variety of English lessons, ranging from cultural and language insights into the royal family, education
and famous sights in England to role plays, conversational practise, songs, and games. It seems that the most useful element I could bring to the lessons was the opportunity to practise oral English and correct pronunciation. The lack of spoken English in ordinary lessons soon became quite apparent as many of the children were unable to hold a comprehensible conversation beyond basic greetings in the two primary schools in Inner Mongolia and the middle school in Hebei Province. It seems that constraints on the opportunities available for English teachers to practise their spoken English limit the extent to which English is used in conversational forms in most lessons. English teachers often expressed a desire to improve their English in the middle schools, but this did not seem to be the case in the Schangduhe primary school because the examination system, which revolves solely around written English, does not require oral skills. We were informed that a mere two minutes out of a 40 minute lesson are typically used to practise spoken English and conversation. The learning system is based upon a series of English language books and the teaching programme is strictly centred around these. It seems that there is very little opportunity for students to extend their learning beyond this, use their imagination or express their own opinions. As a result, the students were often shy and unwilling to ask questions. In my opinion, one of the main benefits of the programme was to expose students and teachers to a different, more open and more interactive learning style which required students to think for themselves and practise spoken English.

Lasting Impressions
The SSLP programme is certainly something I will not forget in a hurry. From a volunteer’s perspective, it has been a truly insightful experience and I hope it has been enjoyable and beneficial to all of the staff and pupils who have been involved. The people we have encountered have generally been extremely hospitable and welcoming, and the children eager to learn. The other volunteers on the trip have also been indispensable friends, as well as helping me to overcome the language barrier which would otherwise have been next to impossible! My only regret is that we had very little time to get to know the children in each school in Inner Mongolia.

Caitlin Turner
Daily Life
The first few days of the programme were spent in Beijing on the Tsinghua campus. The accommodation was great (air con is a must in China, it turns out) and the food was amazing (and, crucially, free). Everyone was really friendly — getting to know a group of people and exploring Beijing (and Beijing’s bar scene) was one of the best parts of this first part of the trip. The trip to the Great Wall was also excellent. There’s nothing like climbing about 3 million steps in 38 degree heat to create bonds of friendship, and the views were out of this world. There were also lectures to attend, which were helpful to varying degrees. The lecture about ‘How to teach English’ was a godsend, primarily because it gave me some much needed confidence. We also met up with our teams during these first few days, having several meetings about the weeks to come. Being the only non-Mandarin speaker in our group, I found being with my team tough at first. Whilst I still feel that this has been the hardest part of the programme for me (yes, even counting the toilet situation), it has been nowhere near as bad as I was expecting. My teammates have all been lovely and made a lot of effort to translate for me, and there have just been infrequent bursts of frustration, rather than a prolonged sense of isolation. When we eventually arrived in our ‘rural location’, Mengcheng county (following an enjoyable overnight train), it was not what I had been expecting. Though I had not been anticipating ‘teepees’ (unlike one person in the promotional video we watched), I was expecting something a bit more rural than what seems, to me, like a fairly big city (if still under the process of construction). Nonetheless, it was clearly not a wealthy area, though the accommodation we stayed in surpassed expectations. Our days took on a particular routine. Breakfast was around 7am-8am; morning classes were 8am-11am; lunch around 11.40am; afternoon classes were 3pm-6pm; dinner was 6.40pm. After dinner and in our free time there wasn’t a huge amount to do: we usually spent our evenings playing cards, chatting, watching terrible (or fantastic, depending on your perspective) Korean dramas, or going on excursions to the supermarkets (admittedly, this was exciting, Chinese supermarkets are really cool). It didn’t really matter that there wasn’t much to do, though, because we all got on really well and we were always very tired from a combination of the heat, the early mornings and the teaching.

Work Projects
I ended up teaching 8 classes to middle school English teachers, 2 to middle school children, and 8 to high school students. Being able to plan these lessons at home would definitely have made the first week less difficult. I was extremely nervous about teaching. I’d had zero experience and felt really unprepared. However, the teaching ended up being both enjoyable and rewarding. I taught a wide variety of ages – teachers, middle school and high school – and all the students were brilliant. The teachers, first of all, seemed really interested in British culture, so this is what I ended up focusing my lessons on. They were all really respectful and most of them were clearly really keen to learn. Their level of English was, however, much lower than I was expecting – probably around the same level as the high school students.
Tsinghua University continued...

The middle school students were extremely shy, which made the lessons slightly difficult – the introduction of a ball encouraged participation. Their level of English was extremely basic. The middle school was also the worst conditions we encountered, I feel, though potentially not as bad as I'd imagined it could have been. Finally, the high school students were, in my opinion, the most rewarding to teach. The students also seemed to really enjoy learning, and the classes (usually with over 100 students in) were all very lively, which created a really good teaching atmosphere. The students were really pretty good at English and the school was in good condition – perhaps my only quibble, therefore, would be that there might have been schools which needed the extra help more. Nevertheless, I really did feel all the students got something out of our teaching, and that was a great feeling.

Lasting Impressions
Overall, it has been a brilliant experience and I am very glad I chose to take part. What have I gained from the trip? Firstly, the teaching has given me a sense of personal achievement, both at actually contributing positively to the student's education, and at overcoming a personal challenge. I also feel I have experienced the 'real China' – I have become accustomed to the food, the mannerisms, the customs, and all the many, many differences between China and Britain. Experiencing these differences is always fascinating, both for going some way to understanding others' lives and viewing my own life through a different lens. Lastly, I have found good friends in many people in the programme, without whom the trip no doubt would have been far less enjoyable. Therefore, I would completely encourage anyone to apply, especially if you want to gain a newfound appreciation for flushing toilets!

Top Tips
A tip to future participants: bring a laptop if you can, and if you end up doing all your lesson plans the night before your classes, don't worry, you are not alone.

Alex Hawkins-Hooker

Daily Life
The working day is 09.00 - 16.00 with a two-hour break for lunch. Lunch is available for free from any of the university's many excellent canteens, which provide a fantastic introduction to all sorts of Chinese cuisine. I usually had lunch with my teaching part-

ners, and, as the camp progressed, with my students, which was a great chance to get to know them outside of the classroom. The students were extremely enthusiastic to share their culture, food, and language with the international volunteers, and in the last two weeks took us out on a few occasions into Beijing for sightseeing, food, and karaoke. Because of the size of the camp, this internship provides plenty of chances to socialise - with students, volunteers from Tsinghua and Hong Kong, and international volunteers from several UK and US universities. There was something to do at every free moment: I tended to spend free evenings sightseeing in Beijing or eating and drinking in the lively bar and restaurant district 15 minutes walk from campus. I met some great people and got a really interesting insight into student life in China, all of which made for a really enjoyable 3 weeks.

Work Projects
The English Summer Camp is a 3-week camp aimed at improving first year Tsinghua students’ confidence in speaking English. It’s a massive camp, with around 2000 students and several hundred international volunteers and teachers. As an international volunteer, your main daily responsibility is planning and delivering two hour-long conversation classes between 10.00 and 12.00. You get a 2 hour lunch break between 12.00 and 14.00, and are required to help organize afternoon activities that have been planned in advance (e.g. singing and drama competitions) between 14.00 and 16.00. Overall it’s a fairly light workload, although lesson planning is demanding and you won’t be offered much support in the form of training or suggestions from the University on this - it would be helpful to have a think about it before arriving in China to free up time in the afternoons and evenings in Beijing. I didn't do this but still had plenty of free time almost every evening to see Beijing, socialise with other foreign volunteers, and watch the World Cup with local students.

Lasting Impressions
Tsinghua University is on a massive campus that provides a sheltered bubble from the swarms of people in Beijing (and all other major Chinese cities). I found it to be a great starting point for a couple of months of travelling around China.
Tsinghua University continued...

Beth Hibbert

Daily Life
I stayed in student accommodation in Tsinghua University with about 100 volunteers from universities in England, the USA and Canada. It was easy to make friends as we spent all our time together and everyone was roughly the same age. We arrived a few days prior to starting work in the camp and this time was used to make friends, get settled, rent bikes and see sights. On a normal day I would cycle to the teaching building for 9am, sit through a lecture given to my class of 54 students by a native English speaker, usually on some aspect of western culture. Afterwards I would take half of the class to another room and take a 45 minute class, usually on some aspect of my life and try to lead the class in activities that involved speaking and communicating in English. I would then repeat this lesson with the other half of the class. At 11.30 we stopped for lunch and I would go either with other volunteers or with students to one of the many canteens on campus for lunch. The food at Tsinghua is delicious and you never run out of choice. After lunch I returned to my accommodation to relax and chat with other volunteers, or to nap because afternoon class doesn’t begin till 2pm. Class ended at 4pm and after that I often went into central Beijing with other foreign volunteers to do some sightseeing, shop at markets and eat Chinese food. Sometimes we also drank at nearby bars and went to local clubs.

Work Projects
I taught English to first year students at Tsinghua University as part of a summer camp. This involved working through themes and grammar with groups of about 25 for two 45 minute sessions in the morning. This involved preparing and presenting PowerPoint presentations and trying to involve the students in discussions, activities and games so they could practice their English. In the afternoon I assisted the students dubbing English movies, learning and singing English songs (which was a lot of fun), preparing English plays and writing English speeches. I was assisting a teacher in the afternoon along with another volunteer and teaching alongside the other volunteer in the morning. Tsinghua university staff explained these tasks to all the volunteers prior to the camp, and were available throughout to assist us.

Lasting Impressions
I wasn’t sure what to expect when going to Tsinghua, but it is easily one of the most valuable and rewarding things I have ever done. I made great friends with other foreign volunteers and my students and am still in contact with many of them and even travelled around China after the end of the internship with two people I had met during it. I don’t feel the need to come back to China after being here for 7 weeks, it is too busy and massive. The length of the internship was good though because it left me time to travel in Asia afterwards, which I wanted to do. Participating in the internship has taught me that I don’t want to be a teacher but would like to work with children, maybe one to one, because this has given me the opportunity to work closely with the children and seemed to benefit them more than working in a large classroom. I still love Asia and am eager to travel there more.

Kathryn Smith

Daily Life
As there were 100 foreign volunteers it was very easy to settle in and make friends. There were volunteers from England, America, Canada and Australia. We worked Monday to Friday from 9–4 with quite a long lunch break which we would usually spend eating with our students. The university gave us a meal card to use at the cafeterias across the campus. In the evenings and at weekends there was plenty of time for sightseeing and socializing. The university organised a trip to the Great Wall but in our free time we were allowed to explore Beijing at our leisure. Along with some of the other volunteers I visited many of the sights in Beijing, including the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the art district, the zoo, the Lama Temple, the Summer Palace and Tiananmen Square. On an average evening I would either go out with some of the other volunteers or meet up with some of our students. They were all very friendly and many were keen to show us around and take us out for dinner and karaoke bars. On a weekday evening I would also have to make time to meet up with my work partner to ensure we were set for the lesson the following day.
William Ip

Daily Life

I woke up early every day to cycle to classroom. Morning lecture (9am) led by a foreign teacher was followed by oral classes which we led. We were given complete freedom in how we led these classes, choosing to focus on certain aspects of Western culture and comparing with Chinese culture. After a short lunch break, from midday to 2pm, (and afternoon nap) the afternoon was dedicated to more interactive activities such as singing, speech and drama competitions. Class ended at 4pm but there were a wealth of extra classes afterwards made to give students more opportunity to practice their English and immerse themselves in western culture.

Work Projects
Teaching English to freshmen at Tsinghua, organising singing, drama and speech competitions. All staff at Tsinghua were extremely helpful and gave us support when needed.

Lasting Impressions
The experience really made me open my eyes to the multitude of opportunities available to me. I would really consider teaching as a future profession and maybe even teaching in China.

Top Tips
1. Bring comfortable clothing, Beijing is swelteringly hot in July and the internship is very busy. Trainers are a good idea because we cycled everywhere on campus, sun-screen is also a necessity.
2. Bring a few souvenirs from home - the students really appreciate it. The students at Tsinghua are unbelievably friendly and easy to teach, their faces really do light up when they see raw enthusiasm and they treasure everything that is given to them.
3. Learn all the student’s names, this is tricky considering you are teaching about 50 Tsinghua students and many of them go by their Chinese name but it makes a big difference.
4. Be open minded, Beijing can seem alien in terms of scale and culture in general, but don’t let this put you off.
5. Make the most of every minute of the experience – this is truly a fantastic opportunity so cherish every moment of it. All the people I met were fantastically friendly, foreign teachers, other volunteers and students alike so really make the most of it! (Try to avoid taking too many afternoon naps...)

Tsinghua University continued...
Tsinghua University continued...

Jennifer Chan

Daily Life
I worked from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. In terms of transport, I would always cycle to the teaching building, which took about 7 minutes from the dorm. After I finished work, I would travel out into the city and go sightseeing with some friends from the University of Chicago, the University of Exeter and Melbourne University.

Work Projects
I worked on writing and editing the campus newsletter, giving lectures to first-year undergraduates and drafting lesson plans. The host organisation provided adequate resources and support for all projects.

Lasting Impressions
I really enjoyed my experience, as it gave me much insight into how different the Chinese higher education system compared to the ones in the West. This internship has reinforced my desire to be involved in education in the future career plans. I’d also gladly consider taking up more related offers in China.

Felicia Cucuta

Daily Life
07:30 - Wake up, shower and have breakfast in my room before cycling for about 10 minutes to the teaching building. 08:45 – Prepare for the lecture (check the computer, the power point presentation etc.) 09:00 – 09:50 – Lecture (music, cinema, multilingualism) 10:00 – 10:45 - English Class (travelling, sports, culture etc.) 10:50 – 11:35 – English Class 11:45 – 14:00 – Lunch break with other teachers or with my students 14.00- 14:50 – Movie dubbing / Drama 15.00 – 16.00 – Singing competition / Speech competition 16.30 / 17:00 - Cycle back to the accommodation block with some of the other teachers and volunteers, discussing our plans for the evening along the way. We went to a tea house and to the pearl market, and visited the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Opera House, the hutongs etc. The University also took us on a trip to the Great Wall (Mutianyu).

Work Projects
Tsinghua University organises a three week English summer camp for its first year undergraduates, involving 2200 Chinese students and around 150 English-speaking teachers and volunteers. Though most of the students have been learning English since primary school, they have had very little opportunity to practice their spoken English. The majority have never travelled outside of China, so my main objective as a teacher was to introduce Chinese students to western culture by organising interactive lessons which also aimed to improve their speaking skills. One teacher, two foreign volunteers and two Chinese volunteers were assigned to a class of 54 students. As well as teaching lessons, we also had to help the students prepare for the camp singing, speech, movie dubbing and drama competitions. My daily schedule started with a morning lecture for city-level class from 9.00 until 9.50 (I chose to talk about English soundtracks in week 1, British cinema in week 2, and UK multilingualism in week 3). From 10:00 until 10:45 I taught an Oral English Class of 27 students, then from 10:50 11:35 Oral English Class, again 27 students. At 14:00 until 14:50 I led various activities such as Movie dubbing (Week 1) and Drama appreciation and performance (Weeks 2 and 3).The last lesson was from 15:00 until 16:00 which involved Singing Competition Practice and Speech Competition Practice in Weeks 1-2, and in Week 3 Drama appreciation and performance. Before the camp started we were given an induction, as well as some training. My students were extremely intelligent, but very shy: the first group was rather quiet and I had to push my students out of their comfort zone, while the second group was very chatty and it was really easy to work with them. My coordinator kept in touch on a regular basis during the summer camp and my absolutely brilliant Chinese volunteers were very helpful in case of communication problems during classes. As a teacher I was provided with accommodation and meals on the university campus, was picked up from Beijing airport and received a stipend.

I really loved the internship and made some amazing friends from across the world!
Tsinghua University continued...

language barrier was the most significant one.

Thanks to my Eastern-European origins, I found out that I have a lot in common with my Chinese students and volunteers and was able to adapt quite easily. The whole experience was inspirational and I am very keen to return to China in the near future to continue exploring this fascinating country.

Top Tips

1. Make sure you get a VPN (Oxford Uni) before you go to Beijing (it’s very useful if you want to use youtube for one of your classes or if you simply want to check facebook).
2. Exchange some yuan (£100 - 200 worth) before you fly to China (you will get the first stipend after one week and a half, so it’s great if you have some cash; you also need to pay the deposit when you check in.)
3. Have about 10 lessons + activities prepared (when you’re in Beijing you don’t have enough time to prepare everything, so it’s great if you can prepare at least half of the lessons before you leave for China)
4. Make friends with the students from the HQ: they’re absolutely lovely and keen on learning English and making friends with the foreign teachers. They will help you with everything you need - from buying a second hand bike to visiting the Forbidden City.
5. Bring some souvenirs / presents: the people you will meet in China are overwhelmingly friendly and they will give you presents (from fans and chopsticks to baking biscuits that look like you :) ), so it’s great to have something to offer them in return for their kindness.

Work Projects

I worked as a Teacher as part of a three-week English Speaking Summer Camp held at Tsinghua University predominantly for students of Tsinghua who had just finished their first year of study. As a teacher I was put in charge of 50 students and a teaching team of two English-speaking undergraduates or ‘Foreign Volunteers’. Mine were from Clemson University USA and Exeter University, UK. As a team we also had two ‘Tsinghua Volunteers’, students with good English skills who helped us in class and two volunteers from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The whole camp comprised 2200 students with approximately 130 foreign teachers and volunteers supported by a management team, media group, competition groups and games group. Students are separated into classes by university subject and ability level, wearing coloured T-Shirts which indicate their ability! My class was the lowest ability, Purple, which presented significant challenges. However, most were very keen and really got involved in lessons. While most students had quite high levels of reading and writing English they often struggled with speaking. Over the three weeks I delivered three lectures, repeating each one to five different classes. My topics were ‘A Cappella: From Madrigals to Mandopop’, ‘Oxford University: Busting the Myths’ and ‘Climate Change and Diet’. Lessons involved oral English exercises in the form of group work, games and debates. The emphasis was on being creative and speaking as much as possible. During afternoons we supported students who participated in whole-camp initiatives. 16.00- Games, cultural classes/language classes, sight-seeing, socialising. Teachers and Foreign Volunteers were accommodated in the Foreign students’ dormitories on campus. The campus itself resembled a small town, complete with shops, athletics tracks, swimming pool, concert hall, cinema, water-lily garden and sixteen canteens. Food was both good quality and affordable, a canteen dish costing c. 3-6 Yuan and sit-down restaurants averaging 40 Yuan per head. Hiring a bike was almost essential to traverse the vast flat campus. Venturing off-campus was exciting but a bit more risky. However, the Beijing subway was brilliant, simple and all written in English. It took some time to get used to the weather, as Beijing experiences a very dry heat. Most days were high 20s to mid 30s, and in the early afternoon the sun was very strong. Pollution was common but not unbearable. On some days visibility was very poor and the air felt thick, but on others there was blue sky and Beijing could be quite beautiful. Outside of class time the camp brought together an extremely interesting group of people from all over the world, and I spent a great deal of my time getting to know and exploring Beijing with students and teachers from other Universities in America, Australia and Britain. Meanwhile, it was a privilege to get to know some of the Chinese students and volunteers better and they were very helpful, showing us around the campus and Beijing, teaching me about Chinese culture and some Mandarin, ensuring that I ate as many of their provinces’ speciality dishes as possible – I think I ate a new delicacy almost every day! Although time felt limited it was possible to see a number of sights around Beijing. These included The Great Wall, Summer Palace, Olympic Park, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, National Museum and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.

George Horgan

Daily Life

Daily life was taken up mostly by camp activities, lessons and preparation. A typical day was as follows: 7.30–8.30 Get up, get ready 8.30- Cycle to class 9-9.50 – Give that week’s lecture 10-10.45 Lesson to 25 students 10.45-11.35 Repeat Lesson to other half of class (25 more) Lunch Break- 13.50 – Lesson prep. 14.00–16.00 Afternoon Activities, involving working on whole-camp initiatives. 16.00- Games, cultural classes/language classes, sight-seeing, socialising. Teachers and Foreign Volunteers were accommodated in the Foreign students’ dormitories on campus. The campus itself resembled a small town, complete with shops, athletics tracks, swimming pool, concert hall, cinema, water-lily garden and sixteen canteens. Food was both good quality and affordable, a canteen dish costing c. 3-6 Yuan and sit-down restaurants...
Tsinghua University continued...

English about it.
I used this on the Wednesday in a game called running dictation – where teams have to race to do a comprehension exercise with the article. While this was fun it was very rushed for time. This taught me that it doesn’t matter so much WHAT you do in a class, so long as you plan carefully to make it run efficiently and give the students lots of opportunities to speak and practice. Problems arise when they just don’t understand instructions. In the debate class students got really in to the task, came up with some good arguments and took part in a short formal debate at the end. One group even challenged the premise of the question, pointing out that it was not inconsistent to support fitness but refute compulsory running. Similarly successful was Alibi, a game where I managed to first persuade the class that the local bank branch on campus (at ‘c-store’) had been robbed the previous night, before revealing the accused to be members of the class. They were really taken in! The rest of the class was interviewing the accused in groups of ‘police-men’ and comparing their stories before confronting them all together and taking a vote. The high level of participation and enjoyment was demonstrated by my struggling to keep the noise levels down and keep everyone moving on – for all the right reasons! The Tsinghua Volunteers were extremely helpful and became great friends. They helped me to get points across to students when they were struggling to understand, advised me on what material would go down well when planning and even made presentations of their own in one lesson. As teachers we were also supported by our ‘Province Coordinator’, a member of staff from the Tsinghua Faculty of Foreign Languages. Our coordinator was very kind and helpful and gave us both the support and freedom to thrive.

Lasting Impressions
My three weeks at Tsinghua made a significant impact on me. I came away enthused about China, determined to learn more about Asia and return to explore more and revisit friends I have made. The warm welcome from those people I met and worked with and their genuine interest to learn about my own experience was touching. While I was confronted with stark differences, I felt that having such an opportunity to speak to some of China’s brightest students about my impressions and theirs provided a much deeper insight than if I were simply visiting as a tourist. Meanwhile, the experience of teaching was an extremely positive one and, although clearly different to a normal class environment, has made me seriously consider this kind of work and think about how I can involve working with people in this way in the career path that I am pursuing in the non-profit sector. Highlights included watching one of my students deliver his speech in front of 2500 people in the final of the speech competition, and having a surprise party thrown for us by our students. One of the challenges was engaging one particular student who was very able but unenthusiastic about the camp and easily distracted in class.

Hector Manuel Mendez Huerta
Daily Life
I was provided with accommodation within the university complex as well as a stipend for food. I worked everyday from 9-5 Monday to Friday and had the weekends off. There were around 250 other ‘foreign’ volunteers/teachers in the camp so there were numerous opportunities for socialising.

Work Projects
I was involved in teaching a group of around 50 Chinese students of Tsinghua University English and Western culture. I received a wide variety of support from the organisation including teaching materials and ongoing training.

Lasting Impressions
The internship was one of the most interesting experiences I have had. I have fallen in love with China, its people and culture and hope that I can return one day to live or work there. I have discovered teaching is a fulfilling career but not something I would like to do in the long term.
Umniah Mobile Company
Amman, Jordan
Lucie Taylor, Penultimate, BA French and Arabic, Brasenose College
Mark Uckermann, 1st Year, MEng Engineering, Economics & Management, Christ Church College
Catriona Bourne Swinton Hunter, Finalist, BA Music, University College

Lucie Taylor

Daily Life
The other 3 interns from Oxford and I shared a flat, and we usually walked to work together in the morning (35 minutes) and home again in the evening, or we’d go out to dinner or to a café or to a concert. Working hours were relatively long, 9am to 6pm, but the pace of the office was laidback. We were all pleasantly surprised by how welcoming our co-workers were, and we benefited from many invitations to join them for day trips or home cooked meals.

Work Projects
My work involved event organizing, writing and editing business documents (offer letters, press releases, etc.) in English, participating in direct marketing campaigns and learning to analyze data in Excel.

Lasting Impressions
I loved experiencing daily life in Amman, and I would certainly consider returning to work here after I graduate.

Mark Uckermann

Daily Life
Official working hours are 9am-6pm but like everything in Jordan it is not as strict as it first seems. The company-provided apartment was a 40 minute walk from the office which allowed for some nice morning exercise. Most evenings were spent in Downtown Amman, going to talks or lectures, smoking Shisha or dinner invitations. Umniah provided us with a bus for two extended weekend trips around Jordan and we rented cars on different occasions.

Work Projects
I was an HRD Intern for Umniah Mobile. Work consisted of a variety of projects, such as making the company more environmentally friendly, improving the employee intranet, and editing English translations.

Lasting Impressions
I loved visiting Jordan and it totally changed how I viewed cultures in the Middle East. I would now be much more confident (and keen!) to go back to the region. However, I would probably not return to Jordan for an extended period of time, as I am looking for new experiences. I have decided I do not want a career in HR, but still found the internship to be a valuable experience, with friendly colleagues and a pleasant working environment.

Catriona Bourne Swinton Hunter

Daily Life
7.15 Wake up, shower, breakfast, etc.
8.15 Leave the flat and walk to the office – a 45 minute walk. The taxis would come up behind us and hoot to get our attention and seem extremely surprised when we did not accept their offers (Amman is not very pedestrian-friendly, although I enjoyed the exercise!).
8.55 Enter the building using our key cards and sign in for work with the fingerprint scanner.
9.00-18.00 Working hours - We would take approximately an hour off for lunch, sometimes eating in the canteen and sometimes going out.
18.00 Free time- Our most exciting activities were at the weekend but evenings were enjoyable too. We met friends in cafes on Rainbow Street and Downtown, and attended concerts. If we had spare time in the flat, I would practise my transliteration, or put on BBC World. However, this did not often occur.

Work Projects
I worked in the Consumer Marketing team, and focused on Jordan’s Prepaid market, specifically on the Mass, Army and Teacher sectors. I gained firsthand marketing experience and insights into the Telecom market, including consumer behaviour and associated assumptions. During my time at Umniah I have automated several reports and introduced new Excel features to the team. Umniah has been taking very good care of us, assisting us in and out of work.

Lasting Impressions
Having no previous experience of the Middle East I was positively surprised by the calm and friendly atmosphere, contrary to what one might expect from Western media reports. I would recommend Jordan and this internship to anyone willing to try it. Career-wise, I knew that I am not destined for marketing and this experience has not changed my opinion.
United Nations Development Programme
Amman, Jordan
Anna Cooban, 2nd Year, BA Human Sciences, St.Hugh’s College

Daily Life
Work started at 9am and ended between 5 and 6pm every weekday. I would travel by taxi to and from work. Weekends in Jordan are Friday-Saturday. I settled in quickly thanks to how welcoming everyone at the facility was. I was given a very detailed welcome pack before I arrived so I knew the best locations to find accommodation/general information and tips on how to navigate life in Jordan. Outside of work, I would go to the downtown shisha bars and traditional Arabic restaurants with some of the other interns and my flatmates. One weekend, I went outside Amman with a couple of interns to visit the ancient city of Petra and took a tour of the desert.

Work Projects
I researched resilience-based development strategies in crisis contexts, which I incorporated into a presentation on ‘resilience’ to a group of 10 colleagues. I also led the research and content creation for a brochure on the UNDP’s resilience-based approach to the Syria crisis. I was given responsibility for editing and writing a number of press releases and documents, including the drafting of concept points for Queen Rania of Jordan’s speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Lasting Impressions
My experience has been overwhelmingly positive. I would definitely like to enter a career in international development, ideally at the United Nations.
United Nations Development Programme
Beijing, China

Kin Sing James Chan, Master of Public Policy (MPP), St Peter’s College
Karlson Leung, MPhil Politics: Comparative Government, St Cross College
Lennart Garritsen, Finalist, BA Jurisprudence, University College
Fieran Zheng, MSc Major Programme Management, Queen’s College

Kin Sing James Chan
Daily Life
On a normal day at UNDP China I worked from 9am to 6pm. Common tasks included meeting with government and other implementing partners, drafting concept notes and project documents, organising events and translation. Outside of work, I socialised with my colleagues and other interns in Beijing. We visited interesting places such as Inner Mongolia and went for a camping trip in Hebei.

Work Projects
I worked for the Poverty, Equity and Governance Team at UNDP China. During my internship, I worked on various interesting projects. These included a US$630,000+ project (collaborating with 4 UN agencies) to support the rights of persons with disabilities, a US$45,000+ project to combat corruption in Chinese government, and also a working paper to evaluate the structure of Chinese government in promoting social innovation. Throughout the internship, I worked closely with my supervisor, and positive and constructive feedback was provided constantly. I was also provided an opportunity to travel to Shanghai for a mission to meet with government officials and Civil Society Organisations, in order to learn about the on-going social innovation initiatives in China.

Lasting Impressions
Although I have been to Beijing twice before, this internship was my longest stay in the city so far. The internship at UNDP China allowed me to know more about the project content, social impact, organisation structure and working procedures of an UN agency. I am inclined to continue my stay in Beijing to work on development issues in China – for international organisations, NGOs or foundations. This internship experience definitely has confirmed my career goals and ambitions for working in the field of international development in the future.

Karlson Leung
Daily Life
In terms of support, our team leader was very friendly and supportive; however, quite a lot of tasks required self-directed working. I would have liked to have greater say over which projects I was interested in working on, and to have more substantial assignments at times. Nonetheless, the UN staff at the office were very friendly and insightful, and I learned considerably from working with them.

Work Projects
The projects I was involved in while at the Poverty, Equity, and Governance team at UNDP China were quite diverse. I mostly helped with the different portfolios that the programme coordinators were responsible for, which ranged from projects on green consumption and social innovation to strengthening civil society organisations and ethnic minority communities. The work mostly involved attending meetings and taking minutes, translation work, research and writing, speech writing, and event planning. In addition there were many miscellaneous tasks that we assisted with in the office as interns.

I found Beijing to be a truly wonderful and eye-opening place to gain work experience, despite issues with air pollution and traffic, which are too often mentioned. I had a fantastic time travelling around the surrounding provinces and exploring the many things that the city had to offer during long weekends and holidays. Looking for housing was quite troublesome and expensive, but fortunately I lived across the street from the UN compound so getting to work was not a problem. On a typical day, my hours ranged from 9:30am to 6:30pm, depending on the amount of work we had and if there were meetings scheduled or trips to be made. My colleagues at the office were very friendly, and I spent much time exploring the city with them outside of work as many of them were new to Beijing as well.

Lasting Impressions
Overall, I found the internship at UNDP to be a great learning experience, and it allowed me to connect to China in a way I could not before. I would definitely consider working in China or East Asia in the future, however the work culture may not be suitable for everyone. There were some issues with the office, mostly the high turnover rate and the fact that most employees there were short-term unpaid interns, which creates challenges with institutional memory and supervision. UNDP’s role in China was also more of a convener of partners rather than as an in-house implementer. Also, not having the necessary language skills would limit the amount of work you would be able to do as well. Nevertheless, the experience was valuable to my career goals and is definitely in the field that I would want to pursue later on in life, although it may not be with the same organisation.
**United Nations Development Programme continued...**

**Lennart Garritsen**  
**Daily Life**  
I lived in Beixinqiao, 25 minutes by subway to the internship. My working hours were from 9.30am until 6pm generally. After work I met up with people from the embassy intern community and went for dinner. Some weekends we would travel to a nearby town.

**Work Projects**  
I did ad hoc tasks, mainly researching partner opportunities or industry background research, and sent them off to my colleagues who used them for their own work.

**Lasting Impressions**  
I learnt through this internship that the UNDP is quite bureaucratic. As for China, I really liked the country and culture. I made some Chinese friends, learned about the culture and have seen how Chinese Politics works. I would not want to live in the country, but certainly would like to return regularly for short periods.

**Fieran Zheng**  
**Daily Life**  
My office hours were 9:30am-6:30pm. The apartment I lived in was 15 minutes away from the UNDP, and I walked to the office every day. A typical day started with checking emails. I received tasks during the day such as writing proposals, researching a given topic, booking tickets and translation work. Colleagues were sociable (some of the interns would sit in an ‘intern office’ except for the PEG team).

**Work Projects**  
My project was helping with PPGPA (Public Participation in Government Performance Appraisal) Inclusive Finance in China.

**Lasting Impressions**  
Beijing is a very inclusive city. Air pollution is really serious. The projects I was exposed to are really interesting and high-profile (I worked in the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Governance team). The role is very much about coordination and liaising between the researchers, the sponsors and the government, for example about mobilising financial resources. This meant I was less involved in the core matter (the project designation is left to researchers/consultants that are outside of the organisation). Overall, it was a satisfactory experience full of learning opportunities.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency Disputes Tribunal
Amman, Jordan
Catherine Hunt, Finalist, BA Jurisprudence, St Catherine’s College

Daily Life
I had a great time, it’s a very friendly office and I was given lots of help and support. My boss was also great about giving me time off to travel around Jordan. I worked from 9 until 5, and my boss gave me lifts to and from work as we lived in the same neighbourhood. I travelled around Jordan with friends, went hiking at the weekends and got to know Amman.

Work Projects
I was given the job of updating the Legal Pronouncements of the Dispute Tribunal; this involved reading judgments and summarising their legal output and organising the information available to the Legal Officers in a logical and useful way. Additionally, I was given ad hoc research tasks when necessary and summarised facts for some pending cases.

Lasting Impressions
I had a great time overall. Jordan is a great country with so much to see. Being alone as a woman was difficult sometimes, and extra care needed to be taken. The UN is an interesting place to work: people from all over the world with great ambition and concern for others. I’d probably return but not for the long term. I am now considering studying international law at Masters level.
United World College of the Adriatic  
Trieste, Italy
Anna Robinson, Finalist, BA Geography, St Edmund Hall

Daily Life
I had breakfast in the cafe opposite the school. During the week preceding the reunion I assisted the office staff with any jobs that needed doing. We would go to lunch at a restaurant in the village as the development team. I would finish work around 4pm. I stayed in school accommodation so walked to work.

Work Projects
I worked on the 30th year alumni weekend. When I arrived I helped prepare for the arrival of guests for a week. On the weekend itself I helped to ensure all the events ran smoothly, chatting to alumni, registering them and running the shop. I also wrote articles for the college’s annual review, summarising information on events and donors from the previous year.

Lasting Impressions
It was incredibly interesting to work in Italy. I learnt a lot about its history, culture and politics. In the future I would like to return. However I need to learn at least some basic Italian as getting around was more difficult as I had no knowledge of the language.

University College, Oxford  
Oxford, UK
Max Goplerud, MPhil in Politics: Comparative Government, Nuffield College

Daily Life
I worked from my own (College) office for the internship. I was able to set my own hours as long as the work was completed.

Work Projects
I was involved with a project that looked into whether there are patterns between undergraduates’ backgrounds (e.g. A-level results) and their performance at Prelims and Finals. My specific role in the project was running the various statistical analyses using STATA. This involved both examining (anonymised) university-wide and college specific data for the past few years. Besides being interesting in its own right (as it is a topic that is informally discussed quite regularly), the information gathered in the project is also designed to give the College more information on how to support its students and thus has an important welfare role.

Lasting Impressions
This project allowed me to get further insights into what many ‘researcher’ jobs would entail. It was highly self-directed and thus gave me discretion to explore some hypotheses that I myself created. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it solidified my intention to do similar work in the future.
University of São Paulo, Institute of Energy and Environment
São Paulo, Brazil
Daulet Serikbay, Master of Public Policy (MPP), Kellogg College
Oktoviano Gandhi, Penultimate, MPhys, Hertford College
Qin Lei, DPhil Materials, St Anne’s College

Daulet Serikbay
Daily Life
Everything was a good experience, except the first week, when I had to look for accommodation close to university and stayed at a hostel in the downtown area, which was remotely located from the university.

Work Projects
My summer project was secondary research on the Brazilian sugarcane-ethanol sector. The report I wrote stands a good chance of being co-published with my supervisor in an academic journal. I visited a leading agro-university ESALQ/USP to participate in a workshop on current issues in the sugar(cane) and alcohol industries. My initial challenge was that most of the discussions were in Portuguese but with the help of my colleagues I managed to understand these problems sufficiently enough to formulate policy proposals. Through my research, I reassessed my appreciation of climate change and sustainability and their link to energy policy. Beyond climate change, a fieldwork trip to sugarcane-ethanol mills in the São Paulo State informed my appreciation of the technological processes and environmental and socio-economic impacts of the sugarcane-alcohol production. I could not have been happier with my supervisor, who introduced me to all the big names at her institute, including Professor José Goldemberg (ex-rector of USP, scientific leader, major expert on energy end environment issues, interim Environment Secretary in charge of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, Education Minister). I had a unique chance to meet top-notch academics, policymakers and industry groups in the energy sector. She also encouraged me to give a presentation to the USP students, which became an informative "lecture" on global energy geopolitics and energy policies of my home country. Most importantly, she was very flexible with my schedule as this is an important factor for my creative and productive performance. I found many new friends among USP students who represent the future intellectual elite of Brazil and Latin America.

Lasting Impressions
Looking forward, I am reflective of broader issues that may influence my career plans and priorities ahead after an enriching experience at the flagship University of São Paulo (USP). I now understand that to fully understand a certain region and appreciate the aspirations of local people, it is imperative to be effortlessly conversant with them. The choice between the Spanish and Portuguese languages has been occupying my mind for quite a while. Brazil helped to make my decision in favour of the latter. As a speaker of several (7-8) distinct languages, including English and Russian, I now acknowledge that my next linguistic frontiers will be two new BRICS languages: Portuguese and Chinese Mandarin. This will give me a competitive advantage in deeply engaging with the pressing policy issues in all five countries. I am also seriously considering starting up a think-tank in my home country focusing on the policy issues in BRICS countries. Rarely have I seen such a concentration of welcoming and cordially affable hosts like Brazilians, despite their ongoing socio-economic challenges and inequality. A key takeaway: Brazil shows great promise of further sustainable development. Ultimately, I extend my limitless gratitude to Oxford's Careers Service and The Blavatnik School of Government for making this life-changing experience a reality, both logistically and financially. A special obrigado goes to BSG for organizing brilliant courses in Trinity term that powerfully influenced my multidisciplinary thinking about new areas of knowledge and policies and subtly directed me toward this summer project.

Oktoviano Gandhi
Daily Life
My supervisor had arranged one of her students to pick me up and take me to the accommodation that was also arranged by her. Adapting at first was slightly difficult as there wasn't a formal introduction to the department or the university. As such I was not told how to get a Brazilian phone number or the bus pass to travel around until the second week. The strike at the university that lasted for more than a month didn't help either as many administrative functions of the university were closed because of that. However, things only got better from there. I got to know many different students, both local and also those who were on exchange from IFP (French Institute of Petroleum). I often travelled to other cities together with another Oxford intern and the exchange students. The work was normal 9-5 work, which involved reading papers and journals in the office and working on my paper. In the evenings I would spend time with my friends, either in a bar, restaurant, school, or all three. When there was nothing on, I would continue to work on my paper as I really enjoy what I'm doing.

Work Projects
I was writing a paper on energy intensity of São Paulo state, Brazil. Energy intensity is energy consumption divided by GDP of the state. I was analysing the energy intensity using index decomposition analysis to attribute the energy intensity trend to either technological improvement or sectoral changes. My supervisor was
University of São Paulo, Institute of Energy and Environment continued...

very friendly and introduced me to many influential people in the
university.

**Lasting Impressions**

Brazil is a very beautiful country and the people are very friendly
and helpful. The inequality that exists was very palpable and this
has made the place slightly dangerous to travel around. I really like
what I was doing in Brazil and it has given me a direction for what I
should do after I graduate.

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Qin Lei

**Daily Life**

During my internship I stayed at my supervisor’s apartment on the
outskirts of Sao Paulo which is a huge city. We usually had meet-
ings and discussions during the day. I took the bus from home to
the university which takes about an hour and a half, it’s not a city
you can get to places very easily. I usually had lunch at the univer-
sity canteen with other interns and students at IEE. The canteen
was a bit expensive at the time when we were there because the
university was on strike and everything was shut down including
the cheaper public canteen, Sports Centre and other facilities. For
this reason we didn’t get to see more of the student life at the
University of Sao Paulo. We had quite flexible working hours, you
can decide for yourself so long as you had everything ready for
your next meeting and for your final report. For me I usually left
home at either 4 or 7pm to avoid the rush hour, when the traf-
**My supervisor was very friendly and introduced me to many influential people in the university**

**Work Projects**

I worked on an energy research project that was taking place at
the Institute of Energy and Environment at the University of Sao
Paulo. The part I was involved in was to research what influence

the pricing difference between gasoline and ethanol in the current
Brazil market has on the domestic economy, and how the coun-
try can best exploit these two fuel sources by using one for the
domestic market while exporting the other for the international
market. It was a very interesting project. I had never worked in the
energy sector before, but this internship has given me a brand new
international perspective on the global energy profile, and I find it
fascinating.

**Lasting Impressions**

I really enjoyed my time in Brazil. It’s a gorgeous country with a lot
to offer, such as its friendly people, breathtaking natural beauty,
music and dance. I would go to Brazil for the country alone. The in-
ternship was beyond my expectation too. I was new to the energy
sector and I did this internship out of general interest rather than
any specific career plan. But I was overwhelmed by the knowledge
I obtained during this internship and I think a global perspective on
multiple fronts is always an extra-bonus for the new generation.
Vermilion Partners
Beijing, China
Thomas Moore, 2nd Year, BA Oriental Studies (Chinese), Pembroke College
Chun Yat Arthur, Finalist, BA Jurisprudence, St Hugh’s College
Tom Scrope, 1st Year, BA Philosophy and Theology, St Benet’s Hall
Yubo Zhang, Finalist, BA Economics and Management, St Peter’s College

Thomas Moore
Daily Life
Working hours would technically be from 9am until 6pm, although it was common to work beyond that, be that into the evening, or helping with work over the weekend. However, the work is so engaging, and I and the other interns felt that we were making a real contribution, that we were quite happy to do this. The morning commute would be bang on rush hour, when the subway is at its most merciless. However, this simply has to be accepted as part of the rich tapestry of Beijing life. Senior staff would regularly take the interns out for lunch in the surrounding area. This was a good time to talk to the senior staff, who were all very welcoming, as well as the other interns, in a non-office environment. The other interns and I also arranged to have dinner and meet up in the evenings amongst ourselves. Being able to speak Chinese definitely made a difference in my work and social life at Vermilion Partners. I was not limited to working with sources in English, but could work with Chinese ones, as well as contribute to tasks that would normally be designated to the Chinese interns, such as translation. Indeed, since the content of a lot of the work was China-oriented, I found being able to work with primary sources in Chinese very helpful, and I believe it certainly enriched the quality of my work. Furthermore, although everyone has a very high standard of English, having some level of Chinese definitely goes a long way in helping to socialise with other employees, as well as the native Chinese interns. In hindsight, if I could speak no Chinese whatsoever, I believe this would have precluded me from a lot of what made my experience at Vermilion so enriching.

Chun Yat Arthur
Daily Life
Accommodation was at the Vermilion apartment. I travelled to work at around 8 am, arrived at around 8.30 and worked until 7.15 pm. I usually had lunch with colleagues, and later dinner with colleagues and other interns. In the evenings I went to the gym and returned to the apartment. Weekends were usually spent with colleagues and their friends.

Work Projects
The work involved target screening for potential acquisition, with guidance from an analyst, valuation (transaction comparisons), templates and internal training documents and translation.

Lasting Impressions
Vermilion is an excellent environment to work and train in. The staff are very friendly, and I found working in such a close-knit, bilingual environment very rewarding. Although the work was often challenging, it was never dull. Possibly unlike other internships, I never once felt redundant, and was given a lot of independence in the work I did. I in particular was lucky in that Vermilion is so suited to my interests. I’m currently hoping to return to intern there, and it is certainly an environment I would be very happy to pursue my career in.

Work Projects

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**Vermilion Partners continued...**

**Tom Scrope**  
**Daily Life**  
I was renting a flat, only a few stops away on the (very cheap) Metro. Working 9am-6pm or sometimes later if there was a project to get done. Out of work, I had a few mates out here, so went out with them, and did various souvenir shopping, especially at the fabric market.

**Work Projects**  
I worked on client profiling, research into new business environments, and proofreading of documents. Each project was given to me by one of the Directors.

**Lasting Impressions**  
Before I had thought that I might want to come and work out in China for a few years after leaving university. Now, I think I would rather be London based, but coming out to China fairly frequently. Partially due to the fact that my Mandarin is not that good, and it would take a few years to get fluent, by which time I would want to come back to London. I’m interested in the M&A/Consultancy sector after doing this, but would like to try something a bit different next summer, perhaps in Venture Capital.

**Yubo Zhang**  
**Daily Life**  
Work is from 9-6 although during the busy period I was leaving the office around 8 or 9. On two occasions I worked at the weekend. There are so many things you can do in Beijing and I was lucky because there were two other interns from Oxford working at Vermilion so we managed to explore much of the city together.

**Work Projects**  
I was part of the Mergers & Acquisitions team. Daily work included translation, company profiles and excel. The office is small and everyone was very helpful and friendly. I had a lot of guidance and help from my mentors so was able to get the hang of things quickly.

**Lasting Impressions**  
I really recommend this internship. It is such a fulfilling and good learning experience. China is a wonderful and exciting country. I will definitely return to work there again in the future.
The assembly could be disassembled into panels from transport between villages, and a full scale floor plan was designed and printed, to enhance the feeling of being ‘in’ an actual shelter. With ferro-concrete as the final material decided upon, my primary goal was complete. This coincided neatly with the end of my time in Cambodia, but was not the end of my involvement with the shelter design project. I remain in contact with the WaterSHED Team as an informal consultant on materials-related issues, and hope to continue to help in any way I can until the project is complete.

**Lasting Impressions**

My lasting impression of Cambodia is that it’s a beautiful place with wonderful people and a rich culture, marred by a corrupt government and an apathy towards correcting the problem. Although I loved my time there, I would not want to live there for an extended period of time. The work itself was very rewarding and frequently challenging, and the organisation is full of incredibly driven, principled and friendly people. The project strengthened my career aspirations towards entrepreneurial social enterprise.

**Daily Life**

My working hours were 8am - 6pm Mon - Fri. Daily routine was work in the office at my desk or, if I was in the field, performing surveys. I walked 10 minutes to work every day. The expat social life out of work was easy to settle into, busy, and very enjoyable. I socialised with a mixture of colleagues and people I met playing ultimate frisbee.

**Work Projects**

I did my internship at WaterSHED, a sanitation and hygiene NGO headquartered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. One of the organisation’s primary objectives is the reduction of the practice of open defecation, which remains widespread in much of rural Cambodia and is a contributing factor to numerous health issues. My challenge, as part of the Latrine Shelter Design Team, was to help design a cost effective and high quality shelter. I conducted research into candidate materials for construction of the shelter. This involved an extensive survey of scientific and engineering literature on construction in the developing world, as well as a review of existing shelter designs in Cambodia and elsewhere. The team and I attended a weekend expo on construction materials in Ho Chi Minh City; where we networked with suppliers from Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Taiwan, gaining valuable insight into the standards and practices of the region’s construction industry. Next, along with a Cambodian survey specialist, I worked with the team to design a rural consumer preferences survey in order to discard any shortlisted materials that would not be accepted by the target demographic.

On arriving back in Phnom Penh and evaluating the results of the field test, it was decided the bamboo-reinforced concrete and ferro-concrete were the two most viable candidate materials. Much of my remaining time in the WaterSHED office was devoted to considering the salient materials parameters and designing methods of testing them, as well as formulating equations to convert the data into useful information.

Before the testing regime could be finalised, a decision had to be made between ferro-concrete and bamboo-reinforced concrete. It was felt that a final, comprehensive field test was required, with prototypes that more accurately reflected the finished product. To that end, we constructed steel moulds and cast a full-scale, two-wall prototype for each of the candidate materials.
Web International English Jianyin Center
Jianyin, China
Sarah Hunter, Penultimate, MMath, Hertford College

Daily Life
I lived in a hotel in the city centre and got the bus to work every day. I worked Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm, and each day I had 5 classes which were 55 mins long. The other teachers were very nice and we would sometimes play football after work or go to a bar in the evening.

Work Projects
I taught in an English language Training Center for both kids and adults. There was very little/no training, but I had lesson plans to follow. I also had about three ‘English corners’ a week where students of all different levels could turn up, with no lesson plans needed.

Lasting Impressions
I don’t particularly want to pursue a career in teaching and the internship was not always organised in the way I expected. What I did love though was going into work and having really interesting conversations with the students, especially the adults. It gave me a chance to find out about the culture and meet some amazing people. Jiangyin is quite far off the tourist trail, so being a western woman meant I got a lot of stares and attention, and there was pretty much no English so the language barrier was sometimes a struggle. But in general I found that the local Chinese people were extremely friendly and willing to help. I will definitely go back to China in the future.

Wordsworth Trust
Cumbria, UK
Mark Wiltshire, MSt English (1700-1830), Worcester College

Daily Life
A typical day began at 9.15am and concluded at 17.45pm, but time spent with colleagues often continued into the evening with walks into the local area upon the hills or down by the lakes. With an intern from BYU I began a reading group of Wordsworth’s long autobiographical poem The Prelude, which grew to include many of the trainees also working at the Trust. Poetry readings, musical events, lectures, quizzes, etc. commonly occupied my evenings, and gave me a greater chance to get to know my colleagues at the Trust.

Work Projects
My duties included cataloguing bound volumes of prints, independently researching and assessing the significance of donations to the archive (including items relating to the history of the Cookson family, who were close friends of the Wordsworths), and transcribing letters from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. I researched the provenance of a small pamphlet - the Borrowdale letter - which does not include any identifying information. I catalogued the letters and documents of Thomas Bewick, a large acquisition consisting of close to 1000 documents. I organised spaces for trust events, and created/delivered a half an hour long tour of Dove Cottage, Wordsworth’s home from 1799-1808. I also assisted in the delivery of poetry performances and other organised events, and managed the experience of visitors to the museum.

Lasting Impressions
My intention on accepting this internship was to determine whether or not I could see myself working full time in a museum or other heritage environment. My two months here at the Wordsworth Trust have confirmed that I can. Having only briefly stayed in the Lake District before my internship, it has been incredibly satisfying to explore the area around Grasmere, especially with the company of friends I have made during my time here. I have lived most of my life in cities or large towns, but I am surprised how well I have adapted to life in a small village. The landscape of this area is beautiful, but it is the friendly attitudes of the people here that have made my stay truly worthwhile.
World Food Programme  
Rome, Italy  
James Beeton, Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL), Exeter College

Daily Life  
I generally worked from 9–5 every day. To get to work I would take a short 20-minute train from the area of Rome I was living in (Trastevere) and the office was right next to the station I would get off at. After work I would go to the gym, walk around my area (or go to tourist sites) or go out for dinner with the people I had met at the office.

Work Projects  
I was working in the Contracts department of the World Food Programme Legal Office. My projects generally involved drafting agreements between the organisation and donors who wished to finance the provision of food for poverty-stricken areas. The staff were all very supportive in showing me how to draft these agreements and respond to client questions effectively.

Lasting Impressions  
The internship left a good impression on me. I enjoyed the lifestyle and surroundings of Rome and I would definitely return to work there. The internship itself was very interesting in that I was able to see how a large international organisation like the UN carries out its activities. The internship has not changed my career goals.

World Resource Institute India  
Mumbai, India  
Martin Tengler, MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, St Catherine's College

Daily Life  
Finding accommodation in Mumbai was a challenge – for future interns I would advise starting the search 2 months in advance. I ended up staying in Andheri, which is quite far from the office and required commuting by train. The trains were crowded, and I learned the trick of remembering which ones are less crowded based on which station they start from. I worked about 8 hours a day. Most of my days I spent in the office, and two days at the client’s site. Out of work I socialized with colleagues and at the weekends tried to travel around the city.

Work Projects  
My job was to develop an Excel-based tool that would help Indian construction companies calculate their scope 3 emissions. This is work that has never been done before and was very interesting. Most of my work comprised of researching the data used in the tool. Some 20% of my time was spent on tool development, and 10% on communicating with and meeting with the potential users of the tool. I also wrote a report about Indian construction sector emissions. My boss made time for me at least once a week to discuss my progress. He was very friendly and I learned a lot from him. Other colleagues were also very nice and helpful and I had a great time at WRI India in general.

Lasting Impressions  
It was a shock at first to be in this city, although I expected as much. No matter how much you prepare, you will go through this shock. First and foremost, this internship took place during the rainy season in Mumbai. It was raining almost incessantly for the whole of August and half of September. There were lots of mosquitoes (possibly carrying malaria and dengue). The city is very dirty, smelly, crowded. Traffic rules were nonexistent, except for the fact that everybody honks. Getting on the train was like a free-for-all arena where you have to run faster and have sharper elbows than everyone else. At times, it truly resembled a fight for the last drop of water on earth. Getting off the train was often impossible due to the crowding. All this being said, I got used to the life here and after a while found ways to make life easier. I found friends and nice places and the experience was very positive overall. Also, I will now be much more appreciative of the little things in life that we consider a matter-of-course but that just do not exist in India: clean drinking water from the tap, safe roads, sidewalks, cleanliness. Indeed, I learned a lot from the internship. Not just about my career goals, but also about myself as a person. I could not recommend going to India more. Living here will put your life into perspective.
Yonsei University
Seoul, South Korea

Oktoviano Gandhi, Penultimate, MPhys, Hertford College
Phillipa Hack, 1st Year, MPhys, Hertford College
Yiqi Zhang, Penultimate, MEng, Balliol College
Darya Scchepanovska, 2nd Year, MChem, Worcester College
Elynor Kamil, Penultimate, MChem, Lady Margaret Hall
Young Kyung Yoon, 2nd Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular), Oriel College

Oktoviano Gandhi
Daily Life
In the morning, I would wake up at 8.20am to go to a summer class that I took as part of the summer programme. When the class finished at 11am, I went straight to the laboratory (the official starting time for the internship was at 2pm, but since I like my project, I always came as soon as I could). Lunch break was spent eating with the lab members. The official end time is at 6pm, but again, I always stayed until later, most of the time until 8pm, sometimes until midnight if I had a lot to prepare for the meetings. The lab members were very friendly and we ate dinner together quite frequently too. They would bring me to the places that I would never have known or visited otherwise. When I was not spending time with the lab members, I would explore Seoul, either with the friends that I got to know through the class, alone, or with other friends that I somehow met throughout the programme (there was also another Oxford student in the lab I was working for and sometimes we also travelled together). Most of these friends are Americans as Yonsei University has very strong relations with the American universities.

Work Projects
I was working together with a local Masters student at the Centre for Nanowear laboratory to build a microactuator (a micro system that converts electrical signal to continuous mechanical displacement). I joined the project in its inception (a few months after it was started) and was given textbooks to get basic information from and data about the project from the Masters student. When working in the project, I had to present my progress to the supervisors and lab members in the weekly meetings. Then, based on the comments and suggestions, I made changes to the experiment. At first, I was just following instructions to get the feel of the experiment and research, but as time passed by, I was working on my own initiative and experiments which was very satisfying.

Phillipa Hack
Daily Life
I took a class in the morning (provided by the university summer school), had lunch at one of the many university cafeterias, and then worked in the computer lab usually from 2pm until 7pm. In the evenings I explored on foot the dense, neon-illuminated streets surrounding the university campus, or took the subway for districts further afield. Other meals came from a convenience store or supermarket. I mostly operated alone, however I spent some time with those in my dorm and other members of the lab group.

Work Projects
I interned with the Center for Nano-Wear at Yonsei University, investigating friction at a small scale. My project involved indentation testing on one of the optical layers in a LCD television, under the supervision of a Masters student of the lab. The various groups within the centre work semi-independently, formally sharing progress at weekly meetings with the head professor.

Lasting Impressions
During the short stay I was there, I was invited to come to the Membership Training for the lab members (which was rescheduled so that we could make it in the first place) which included water gun fights, swimming competition, football, badminton, barbecue and drinking etc. However, even without this experience, I felt incredibly welcome as all the lab members explained their research patiently and were trying so hard to speak English as I couldn’t speak much Korean at all. They also had a welcome and farewell meal for us interns. After the internship period, I stayed for one more week and even then the lab members organised another farewell dinner before I left, which was very heartening. The country and the people were fantastic and I would definitely want to come again to visit, but not for life as the government is not very lenient on letting foreigners become citizens. Through this internship, I experienced life as a researcher and now I know that I do not want to be one despite how much I liked the work that I was doing.

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Yonsei University continued...

Yiqi Zhang  
**Daily Life**
I had morning class and did my internship in the afternoons. I normally started at 2pm with a flexible finishing time, sometimes at 6pm and sometimes between 8pm or 10pm. I lived in the student dormitory and took 20 minutes walk to the lab. Many University of California students also came to Yonsei university for summer school and we had morning classes together.

**Work Projects**
I'm researching the patent analysis of plastic surgery, using the data of patents and quantitatively analyzing the data with statistics. Our supervisor guided me through the project.

**Lasting Impressions**
The internship was quite busy and demanded much work. However, I have learnt plenty of research skills and made nice friends here. I enjoyed the time in Seoul and I will come back to visit the friends I have made. It does not change my future career plans very much and I did appreciate this experience.

Darya Schepanovska  
**Daily Life**
This internship was the first time I travelled to Asia for an extended time period, and I have enjoyed it immensely. As part of the summer school, we were also offered the opportunity of taking an academic course taught by the professors at the university – I studied World History in the mornings, worked in the lab in the afternoon, and explored the city at night.

**Work Projects**
My project focused on the synthesis of Titanium Disulphide nanodiscs under varying conditions. The majority of my time was spent in the lab, working with a partner who studied Chemistry at Yonsei. I received a lot of support from the research team, all of whom were extremely friendly and welcoming to us.

**Lasting Impressions**
Overall, this has been an extremely positive experience – the environment of the research group was creative, and yet relaxed and friendly, drawing me to consider postgraduate study as a possibility. Although I would not return to work in Korea without learning the language, I have resolved to apply for a PhD in universities abroad, as it has been such a fascinating cultural experience to visit Korea, not only as a tourist, but as a student, for an extended time period.

Elynor Kamil  
**Daily Life**
The internship itself took place every afternoon. In the mornings, as part of the requirement of the internship program, I went to a literature class. Although separate from the internship project itself, it offered a nice contrast to the rigorous science to do something entirely different. At the beginning of the lab internship, we began by learning how to actually synthesise these novel particles, alongside other interns, both from Yonsei itself, and from other universities in America. We also learned why these particles are so interesting, starting off from a relatively basic level, and working our way up to a more profound appreciation. After we had learned the basics, we spent most afternoons synthesising some nanoparticles and/or analysing the previously synthesised nanoparticles using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). After the internship was done for the day, there were plenty of places around Seoul to explore, and a lot of foreign students at the university to spend time with (as well as the other interns), since the international summer school was taking place at the same time.

**Work Projects**
I worked on synthesis of magnetic nanoparticles with the Center for Evolutionary Nanoparticles (CEN). Changing both nanoparticle size and shape, we could alter the magnetic properties. These properties were subsequently measured. I also undertook a course with the summer school at the university, learning about Asian American literature, which I did every morning, Monday to Thursday. As interns, we worked in pairs, supervised by a member of the lab whose research overlapped with what we were doing. The whole group was very supportive and accommodating in general, and the administrative team in charge of organising the entire internship program at Yonsei was efficient and helpful.
Young Kyung Yoon

Daily Life
Each day included reading research papers, observing and recording different plant phenotypes and looking at spectroscopy. I had classes at 11am-12:40pm from Monday to Thursday and lab from 2pm-6pm Monday to Friday. The classes were part of the Yonsei International Summer School programme, so there were many students from diverse backgrounds that I had the opportunity to meet during the experience. At the lab, I worked with PhD and undergraduate students. Outside of lab hours, there were a few socialising events where the Professor in charge took us to dinner.

Work Projects
I took a genetics class with the Yonsei International Summer School and was a research intern at the laboratory for plant genetics.

Lasting Impressions
I had the opportunity to experience lab life which was interesting. I also liked the topic of their research and was glad to be able to study it further.