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- South London Gallery, London
- St Peter’s College, University of Oxford
- Stockholm Environment Institute, Oxford
- Stowe House Preservation Trust, Stowe, Buckinghamshire
- Synergy Global Consulting, Oxford
- Thames Festival Trust, London
- TotallyMoney.com, London
- University College, Oxford
- Wordsworth Trust, Cumbria
- YouGov, London

United States of America

- Historic Annapolis, Annapolis
- International Alliance of Research Universities Campus Sustainability Program/University of Oxford Estates Services, Yale University, Connecticut
- Marketfield Asset Management, New York
- Naval History & Heritage Command, Washington DC
- Project Rousseau, New York
- The Paris Review, New York
Introduction

The Oxford University Internship Programme (OUIP) facilitates hundreds of summer internship opportunities for Oxford students in the UK and around the world. Since the programme’s inception in 2009, students have undertaken internships in more than 40 countries, and have gained valuable work experience in a huge variety of sectors.

In 2015, the Internship Programme offered 518 placements in 46 countries, hosted by 201 employers. This yearbook represents feedback from many of the students who took part in these internships. By celebrating and sharing interns’ experiences, we aim to promote the benefits of internships for students as well as employers.

The photos in this yearbook were either taken by students, © Shutterstock or © www.freeimages.com. Please contact us at internships@careers.ox.ac.uk if you would like information about specific photographs.
Cassandra Hornsby-Waide, Penultimate Year, BA Experimental Psychology, Queen’s College

Work Projects

I was asked to review 2adpro’s graphic designer training programme. The project involved sitting in on the training programme, interviewing employees, and then creating a new training framework that I presented to senior members of the company. I was assigned a senior manager to instruct me on what I needed to do.

Daily Life

There were five other interns, so we mainly socialised with each other. We were able to travel around a bit on the weekends and the office organised a couple of trips to nearby areas.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has left me with many lasting memories of India and a desire to return. It is a truly incredible country. The internship has broadened my horizons culturally, and I’ve also learned a great deal about technology and outsourcing, as well as in terms of my skill-set and ambitions. I would recommend it highly to anyone interested.

Henry Shalders, First Year, BA History, Oriel College

Work Projects

I worked on three separate projects, all tied to the general theme of digital project execution. They involved highly technical tasks, writing software manuals and preparing documentation and strategy reports. I was mentored by a senior manager who ran their digital project section and several digital team leaders.

Daily Life

Daily life was highly diverse and variable. Essentially we worked 10-6 every weekday then had the weekends off. The other interns and I walked to work, even though a car was provided. For lunch we tended to take two hours off and often managers would take us out to eat in the cities. The company was flexible about our working hours. In Bangalore we stayed in a run-down hotel where food and hygiene standards were concerning. In Chennai we stayed in a guest house where the staff spoke no English. In the evening the interns all socialised together, we would tend to grab an auto or uber (yes it extends even to India) and head out to an upmarket restaurant. Luckily, because it’s India, everything is amazingly cheap. At the weekends we went sightseeing. The company also organised two weekend trips to Mysore/Brandipur and Pondicherry.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has left me with many lasting memories of India and a desire to return. It is a truly incredible country. The internship has broadened my horizons culturally, and I’ve also learned a great deal about my skill-set and ambitions.
The opportunity to get consultancy experience in a small office where I was given lots of responsibility and treated like one of the team was great.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has been invaluable for me. The opportunity to get consultancy experience in a small office where I was given lots of responsibility and treated like one of the team was great. I loved living in Oxford and hope to carry on there after my internship experience is over. After years in academia the internship helped renewed my enthusiasm for my subject as I got to attend conferences and apply my knowledge to projects. Consultancy is something I could see myself doing in the future.
Most of my time was spent working on a project the ADI was doing in collaboration with the International Bar Association on the relationship between international criminal law and diplomacy, and how diplomats interact with the law and lawyers. The project is nearing its end and so the main task I was given was to edit and write parts of one of the case studies we were looking at, which was on diplomats’ understanding of the Genocide Convention during the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. This involved a significant amount of research into the events of the genocide and the law on the duty to prevent genocide, as well as an almost forensic analysis of declassified diplomatic documents from various foreign offices.

I was very fortunate to be given so much responsibility and freedom over an important project for the ADI. Although at times the work was challenging and daunting, the team were very supportive and were happy to meet frequently to discuss the project and its direction. Aside from this, I also helped with events and meetings the organisation was holding with diplomats and international organisations on issues such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank and the COP21 conference in Paris. I was also given to research in the diplomatic archives of France.

Linda Eggert, MPhil Politics: Political Theory, Blackfriars Hall

Work Projects

I was involved in the ADI’s Project on Law and Diplomacy where I contributed to case studies dedicated to the relationship between international law and diplomacy.

Daily Life

I took the metro to work every morning, normally finished work between 6.00pm and 6.30pm and socialised mostly with colleagues.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed living in France very much and would like to return to live and work there. The internship has confirmed my career goals and strengthened my resolve to work for the promotion of human rights and global justice.

Charles Bishop Penultimate Year, BA Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe), Wadham College

Work Projects

The ADI is a cross between a think-tank and a consulting organisation: it provides practical research in the form of guidelines and training to people working in international relations. It is a quite low-profile organisation but with a high-profile and influential network.
Although at times the work was challenging and daunting, the team were very supportive and were happy to meet frequently to discuss the project and its direction.

**Daily Life**

The ADI office is small and very friendly, and working hours are flexible. I tended to work from 10.30am until 6:30pm most days, but sometimes that would be longer or shorter. I would often have lunch with the team and the other intern from Oxford, and we socialised out of work sometimes too. The office is full of inspiring and intelligent people, and so conversations tended to be stimulating, profound and informative. I had spent my year abroad in Paris the year I did the internship and so I knew the city well, but I still found lots of things to do in my free time. Paris is one of those cities in which it is difficult to get bored. Working there over the summer means you can get out to see the amazing sights, museums and restaurants it has to offer.

**Lasting Impressions**

My internship at ADI rounded off a full year in Paris, confirming to me that the city is an excellent place in which to live and work. It was a great privilege to be able to work on the organisation’s projects, and I was inspired every day by the people who work there. It made me realise that international work is what I want to do and it gave me an excellent springboard from which to pursue that goal. The experience far exceeded my already high expectations and I would highly recommend it.
Victoria Adelmant, Penultimate Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), Keble College

Work Projects

During the six week period, I and the other OUIP intern researched the court structure and judicial training available in the field of competition law in the 28 Member States of the European Union. Our body of research was and is being used to compile a report for the European Commission. I received much support from the host organisation, in that I effectively had two supervisors and quite frequent meetings and daily email correspondence with them in order to keep to deadlines and make sure I was always following the right track.

Daily Life

I lived in Trier, which is a lovely bustling Roman city near Luxembourg. I cycled to and from work and would sometimes cycle into town during the lunch break to go shopping or buy a nice lunch. In the office, colleagues were extremely friendly and welcoming, often offering to get lunch for me, so I settled into the office very quickly. Outside of work I socialised mostly with a friend I already knew in Trier, along with her friends - there were great Sushi places, tourist attractions and clubs in Trier so it was a really great place to live for the summer.

Lasting Impressions

I loved Germany and would go back to visit, but probably not live there. Working at the Academy of European Law confirmed my career goals of working in a European institution.

Daniel Harris, MPhil Politics: Political Theory, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

I was responsible for helping to draft a preliminary report for the European Commission. I conducted research into the structure of the courts in the European member states, and compiled this research into country profiles for the evaluation of judicial training needs. I also created a small survey for European lawyers and edited scholarship profiles for ERA.

Daily Life

I travelled to work each day by bike which was by far the best way to explore the city as well. I settled in quickly because my accommodation was central and well-equipped and my colleagues at work were friendly and supportive. Outside of work I explored the rich Roman history of the city and attended many of the events held in the region including a wine festival, a medieval fair, the ADAC rally and the Mosel music festival. I also made some great friends just walking around the city and at music events.

Lasting Impressions

Working and living in Trier certainly changed the way I think about my future career goals. I was outside of my comfort zone and on the whole I think it helped me to flourish. I would certainly return to the city to visit and also to work should the opportunity present itself.
Work Projects

I was involved with two main projects during my time at Adlens. The first was a four-week long experiment investigating the ‘curing regime’ of the thermoplastic membranes used as a component in Adlens’ ‘Focuss’ product. The material from which the membranes were made had to satisfy a number of cosmetic and mechanical properties, and it was thought that by altering the way in which the material was prepared, its properties might be brought up to standard. Over the course of the four weeks, batches of material prepared under different conditions had their mechanical and cosmetic properties periodically tested. I was responsible for the preparation and transport of samples, the write-up, visualisation and analysis of the data obtained, liaison with the technicians carrying out the experiment, discussing results and possible improvements to the experiment, and the presentation of the results at a meeting. The second project was open-ended, and aimed to increase the speed, precision and accuracy with which measurements of membrane surface tension could be made. The work involved writing new scripts for the apparatus-computer interference software, designing macros which would automatically re-arrange and tabulate exported data, making novel calibration measurements, and experimenting with the way exported data were interpreted and used to obtain surface tension values. The project’s main challenge was to extract reliable information from messy data. Other tasks and mini-projects popped up on a daily basis, based around my supervisor’s work. Examples included constructing lightboxes from material bought from the local retail park, carrying out ‘Pepsi challenges’, in which I would go round the office asking colleagues to compare and comment on membranes (it wasn’t quite as strange as it sounds), and making microscopic inspections and images of membrane visual defects. My colleagues were always keen to discuss their work and mine, and made every effort to provide me with help when I needed it.

Daily Life

The Adlens UK branch is based in Oxford, so I was able to stay in college accommodation during the internship. I typically worked from 9 until 5, although some days I would come in an hour or so earlier to prepare for the curing regime experiment. Normally I spent all day in the lab, working from my laptop or with the test equipment; occasionally I would spend time in the cleanrooms or in the office. For the first couple of weeks, I worked under the supervision of my line manager, but towards the end of the internship I was allowed to choose what I spent most of my time working on. I spent most of my out-of-work hours with a friend also interning in Oxford, sometimes taking the opportunity to explore the city in a way that’s difficult to do during term.

Lasting Impressions

I didn’t expect to enjoy the internship nearly as much as I did – I was worried that, having studied physics, I would be out of my depth working in an engineering/materials science environment. It turned out that the flexibility of the job role allowed my supervisor to find work I was suited to, like the design and analysis of experiments and plenty of programming. My colleagues were unfailingly friendly and ready to help. The level of independence I was given made the work immensely satisfying. I was allowed to make mistakes, and call my successes my own. This internship made me reassess my opinion of working in industry - getting my hands dirty in the lab was great fun, and I would definitely consider going back to Adlens.
African Prisons Project (Kampala, Uganda)

Rose Worster, Second Year, BA Jurisprudence, Hertford College

Work Projects

African Prisons Projects has projects in both Uganda and Kenya, the dominant part of their work being targeted towards enabling prisoners to undertake undergraduate degrees in Law with the University of London’s International Programmes scheme. The project I am working on is in conjunction with the Kampala office, and the work they do with prisoners at both the Men’s and Women’s sections of Luzira Maximum Security Prison. APP provides funding, materials and teaching, (the latter being the work of volunteers such as myself) both to students already on the course and potential students on a summer programme who will (funds providing) start their degrees in September. The volunteer section of the charity is undergoing revival, but the support we receive is of a very high standard. As well as the time in lessons at the prison during which we are escorted by a staff member, we have excellent support from the office staff whilst we work there with them. We are supplied with materials to aid the construction of lesson plans as well as exemplars of these, and the whole staff body are unflaggingly welcoming and happy to answer any questions we might have. This extends to the head of the Access to Justice, currently away in Nairobi, skyping us to check how things were going.

Daily Life

There was an Intern’s induction day upon arrival, which went through both what was expected of us and what we were ourselves to expect both from APP and our working environment in prison. We were then given the rest of the day to begin planning lessons (we had been informed what topics we were teaching in advance) and the weekend to settle in and explore Kampala along with staff members who gave up their free time to do so. We work in the prisons Monday to Thursday, two days in the Men’s and two in the Women’s. The journey from our accommodation at the secure APP office is a short journey by local taxi along with a staff member, who drops those volunteers working at the Women’s prison that day before accompanying those working at the Men’s prison. We feel very secure at all times, and the prisoners we work with are excellent students and often imprisoned under circumstances that I hope would never have seen them incarcerated in the UK. Work is usually for about four or five hours, following which we return to the APP office. Depending on the subject we are teaching, these classes are either one-on-one or with groups. Socially, as well as spending time with the other two volunteers, the APP staff are always happy to go places with us or to recommend things for us to do ourselves. We’ve met their families and friends, as well as those of the prison guards, and the whole feeling at the office is one of a group of friends rather than a strict working environment.

Lasting Impressions

It’s hard not to be overenthusiastic in describing how incredible an experience this has been thus far, and how
sad I will be for it to end. I spent a lot of my childhood living in Zimbabwe, and coming to Uganda has been like coming home but with the added satisfaction of being able to use skills that are hopefully making a difference. My desire to apply my legal education in a development related context are certainly confirmed, as is my desire to apply for postgraduate study that looks into human rights law so that I can hopefully one day do more along the lines that APP aspire (maybe even with them if they’ll have me!).

Kate Bolton, Second Year, BA Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe), Somerville College

Work Projects

I worked in Luzira Maximum Security Prison in Kampala. I worked in the Men’s Prison two days a week teaching them criminal and contract law on alternate days. I then worked in the Women’s Prison for two days a week teaching them criminal and contract law as well. On the final day, I would research and prepare lesson plans for the following week.

Daily Life

Work started at 8am and the other intern and I would arrive at the prison at around 9.30am. We stayed there until around 2.30pm and then got back at 3.00 pm. After that we spent the rest of the day doing lesson planning. We took a taxi/minibus to work every day which went just at the bottom of the office/accommodation. Out of work, we went to the capital city, Kampala a lot and went to the markets and other bars. We also went to Jinja, a different city and did bungee jumping and white water rafting. The staff at the office took us anywhere we wanted and were extremely kind, socialising with us as well as helping us with work.

I went to teach prisoners, but I have actually made friends with the students.

Lasting Impressions

Uganda really is the ‘pearl of Africa’ as they say! I have had a life changing experience working in the prison and I went to teach prisoners, but I have actually made friends with the students. Now I will never judge someone without first hearing their career goals. I am now more determined to continue my career in human rights law and am planning on coming back to Uganda next summer to intern with African Prisons Project again! I would definitely come back to Uganda - the country is amazing, the people so friendly. I cannot recommend this whole internship enough to anyone and I only hope that whoever does next participate is grateful for the opportunity because we are extremely fortunate to be able to teach in such special circumstances.
Laura Hankins, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, Magdalen College

Work Projects

I was involved in two separate research projects during my internship, both using the nematode worm, C. elegans. The first project looked at the effect on phenotype and on gene expression of infecting the worm with both fungus and bacteria. To support this, I was trained in techniques such as qPCR and microscopy. The second project involved comparative lifespan analysis of the worms in two populations: those expressing the highest levels of anti-microbial peptide (whose gene is induced by infection with a fungus, wounding etc.) and those expressing the lowest. Again, I was trained well in the relevant techniques to complete this project and received support in the planning of the experiment.

Daily Life

Each day I got in to the lab at around 9am and then worked on my projects until midday. I would then go to lunch with my lab and we would chat over food. Then I would return to the lab and work until around 5pm, depending on how much needed to be done that day. In terms of social time outside work, there would often be evenings where we would go to a lab mate’s apartment for dinner. Alternatively, I would spend evenings with the other interns from Oxford and other universities. Our rooms were all in the same accommodation block so it was easy to meet up to chat and sometimes play video games! At weekends people from my lab would usually go on day trips, such as the time we went to a lavender festival in a nearby town famed for its lavender production. These were really good opportunities to get to know the people I was working with and to see more of the local area. I also went on several day trips with my fellow interns, such as visits to the city centre for shopping and sightseeing as well as walks and days at the beach. This was a nice way to get to know more people from my university and beyond and to chat to people studying a range of different subjects.

Lasting Impressions

I think this internship has confirmed that I wish to pursue a career in scientific research as I found the work stimulating and enjoyable. The internship also gave me the opportunity to talk to PhD students, which was very helpful for me since I wish to undertake a PhD after completing my undergraduate degree. I am also glad that I managed to experience life in the South of France for two months, as this was a region I had never visited before. The internship allowed me to experience the beauty of the area and to meet people from many different countries.

Alexandra Barasch, First Year, BA Biological Sciences, St. Hilda’s College

Work Projects

I was primarily involved with three projects. The first, an investigation of the gene doublecortin (Dcx)’s role in neuronal migration, involved RNAi electroporation of rat embryos so that Dcx would be “knocked down” and not expressed in the pups when they were born. By examining GFP expression in each mismatch and Dcx-KD brain, we were able to see how mutations in doublecortin might impact cortical development. Secondly, I aided a study on sevoflurane, a commonly used anaesthetic, particularly in neonatal surgery, which has recently been suggested to cause neuroapoptosis with potential long-term complications. I did this...
through the use of Neurolucida, tracing neurons and creating 3D models so that the effects of the drug on neuronal architecture and synaptogenesis could be evaluated. For the third project, I took slices from the brains of animals exposed to a virus and performed immunocytochemistry to see whether they had been infected, evaluating the viability of the virus as a potential vector for gene therapy in the future. Throughout all of this, I received training and guidance from members of my lab, gaining valuable experience in everything from state of the art software to brain surgery.

**Daily Life**

Living on the Luminy campus meant that my workplace was just a few minutes’ walk from my accommodation-and that we were within hiking distance of the beautiful national park. Day-to-day life in the lab varied with the work that needed to be done (whether that was digitally tracing neurons or trying my hand at surgery) and might be punctuated by a lecture on microscopy or the arrival of a guest speaker, but I still felt that I settled in quickly and easily. On weekends, we swam in the Calanques or explored the city of Marseille itself, both of which were incredible to experience.

**Lasting Impressions**

Ultimately, I enjoyed my time in Marseille, and while I might not choose to live there permanently, I would gladly return in the future. My two months at INMED have confirmed my strong interest in neuroscience and given me the skill set I’ll need to pursue a career in biological research going forward.

*My two months at INMED have confirmed my strong interest in neuroscience and given me the skill set I’ll need to pursue a career in biological research going forward.*

Samuel Usher, Finalist, BA Cell and Systems Biology, Lincoln College

**Work Projects**

I was involved in a project looking at the role of Glypican4 in the differentiation of dopaminergic neurons. I was responsible for culturing human induced stem cells, putting them through a differentiation protocol, and checking any differences between the time-course of differentiation. My supervisor taught me a lot of new methods - immunofluorescence, in situ hybridisation - and gave me a lot of freedom in designing my experiments.

**Daily Life**

I arrived on a Monday, so I was straight to work in the lab. For the first few weeks, I had relatively less workload so I was free to explore the surrounding
area. We were based outside of Marseille next to the national park - an hour’s walk from some amazing beaches. There were a few other Oxford interns there at the same time as me, so we did a lot of touristy sightseeing together. There was also a French intern in the lab at the same time as me who showed me around Marseille which was great.

**Lasting Impressions**

I had a great experience, and I’m glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to try living and working in another country. It was also a great research experience, confirming my desire to do a PhD. While I would prefer to study in England, I would definitely love to go back and stay in Marseille without any work commitments!

I’m glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to try living and working in another country.

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**Work Projects**

I spent a little over two months working in a lab alongside various doctorate and post-grad students and their supervisors. The experience was extremely developmental for me in many ways: the practicals we have at university are certainly helpful but do not quite demonstrate what it is like to work in a lab environment. As someone hoping to go into research I really enjoyed getting to see what life was like. The first month mainly consisted of hands-on training. My supervisor was extremely kind and helpful and showed me the ropes for the various techniques involved with his team’s projects. As many of these are very delicate he observed me closely and helped me improve. My overall involvement in the lab consisted mainly of three parts: rat dissections and preparation; staining and imaging of sections; and analysis of the images and the rat behaviour. I was initially quite worried about working with animals - it is not something I am particularly ethically comfortable about and I’m reasonably squeamish. My supervisor was extremely understanding however, and let me take things at my own pace. Eventually I learned to handle and examine the rats by myself as well as being able to carefully dissect and slice the brains we were interested in. We examined the brains for viral expression (the team is concerned with CMV infection in utero) as well as investigating the leukocytes that respond to the infection - which ones are activated and where, etc. This was done using fluorescent antibody staining and imaging at confocal microscopes and fluorescent binoculars. Towards the end of my internship I was shown how to analyse the data we had collected: how much the virus affected the rats’ behaviour; statistical analysis comparing leukocyte activation in infected and non-infected animals. Finally, as my supervisor was also overseeing other projects, he let me sit in on some of the experiments to broaden my knowledge further. I got to help with techniques such as PCR and flow cytometry, which will hopefully expand my scientific repertoire. I learned a number of new techniques and gained an insight as to how a lab operates. I never felt like an observer nor was I pressured to do things I wasn’t comfortable with. I think there was a great balance between being independent and having help when it was needed.
Daily Life

Daily life was possibly a bit more difficult than the work itself! I was prepared things to be hard making myself at home in a foreign country. My French isn’t amazing but I can hold a decent conversation if they don’t throw in too many big words! Fortunately everyone at the lab spoke good English (especially my supervisor) but as I expected socialising was challenging - French people in the end prefer to speak French and when in a big group I would get a bit lost trying to follow conversation. However everyone in both my lab and my office was very friendly and would always make an effort to make me feel welcome. I eventually found a few German and Spanish colleagues who preferred to speak English which was nice! My accommodation had a few issues but the people I lived with were all very nice. Most of them were fairly quiet and kept to themselves but we managed to organise a few get-togethers when we had the time. At the weekends we would take the bus into town or visit the stunning ‘calanques’ in the nearby national park, which was only a five minute walk.

Despite being a bit isolated from the city the location of the university was absolutely breath taking - being so close to the sea and sun could often make you forget you were here to do some work! The town of Marseille is also amazing: the Old Port; the views from Notre Dame; the markets; the food. All of it was delightful and a really enjoyable experience. I think the problems I experienced were fairly justified: we were a bit isolated, my French wasn’t quite good enough (although it spurred me on to improve it quite a lot) and it was often a bit too hot for the Irish blood in me, but overall everyone at work made such an effort with me that I would be more than happy to go back and do it all again.

Lasting Impressions

Overall this internship has been exactly what I hoped for. The experience in the lab showed me what to expect should I go into research and will be invaluable when I make that decision next year. Not to mention I learned a hell of a lot of neurobiology, which is a topic we don’t get to do much of in the Biochem course. I remember a number of moments looking down a microscope thinking just how stunning and complex brains are. More than that, though, the internship was challenging. It was a challenge to improve and socialise in French, getting to know another new town and new customs. It also really pushed my boundaries - I’m still unsure how I feel about the use of animals in research but I think it was a really formative experience for me doing things I wasn’t entirely comfortable with. Finally being by the Med in such an idyllic location meant that although I spent over two months of my precious summer holiday working, it still managed to feel like a holiday, for which I feel incredibly lucky. I’ve learned a lot, grown a lot, and hopefully a little way down the line helped a lot of people when our research comes full circle.

Chanatjit Cheawsamoot, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, St. Hilda’s College

Work Projects

The research team I joined is mainly interested in myelin repair in the adult brain. The myelin sheath tissue is an essential feature for efficient signal transmission and neuronal survival in the brain. Some diseases, such as multiple sclerosis, can lead to demyelination (loss of myelin) in the brain; this can lead to progressive handicap. However, spontaneous remyelination can occur as a repair process and the
team aims to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying this process. It was previously discovered that neural stem progenitor cells (NSPCs) had a possible immunomodulatory role in the demyelination/ remyelination process, apart from their usual role in generating new neurons; however, this still remains an open question. Thus, the numerous projects I was involved were directed towards addressing this question. During my stay, I quantified cell density of the different types of cells (NSPC, oligodendrocytic progenitor cells and microglia) in the demyelinated corpus callosum region of the mice brain, and analyzed cell morphology and cell contacts using immunofluorescent staining of brain tissue sections to observe the interactions of the three cell populations, all of which play a part in the remyelination process. Since a co-culture between NSCs and microglia cells is another useful tool that will enable the study of how these two populations influence each other, I tried to obtain microglial cells stably expressing a fluorescent protein so that they may be distinguished from NSCs when in co-culture. This was done by manipulating the BV-2 mouse microglial cell line to induce the expression of the red fluorescent protein (RFP) in microglia cells. At the beginning of my internship, there were also five other Harvard PhD students undertaking internships at the university, so an international student social was organised to let us get to know one another. This was brilliant as we got to make friends with other students doing research internships.

**Daily Life**

My supervisor was incredibly helpful in getting me to settle in; she gave me tours of the labs and the university, introduced me to other students and researchers in the lab, and even drove me into town to get some groceries to see me through my first week. I lived in accommodation on campus, which was less than a ten-minute walk away from the building I worked in, which was very convenient. During weekends I met up with other Oxford students undertaking internships there to either explore the city centre or take a boat out to one of the nearby islands in Marseille. The campus was situated right next to the Calanques national park, so we were able to go hiking in the picturesque mountains and relax on the beaches. On the downside, summer is a very quiet time in a university campus, since students and researchers are on holiday so I didn’t get to meet many people living and working there.

**Lasting Impressions**

This internship has enabled me to live in a new city I have never been to before - Marseille is an incredibly vibrant seaside city that has a very different feel from Paris, so it gave me an alternative insight into life in France. I would definitely consider living or working there sometime in the future. Being able to work independently and professionally in a research lab has given me real insights into the career of academia and research. Throughout my projects, I learnt that experiments don’t always work out or results don’t come out as expected and we have to formulate ways to solve the problems that arose or try to make sense of why the results came out that way using scientific principles. I also learnt to be patient, as some experiments take a very long time to carry out and to be okay with repeating experiments until they finally work!
Anneli Strutt, MPhil English Studies (Medieval), Wolfson College

Work Projects

I’m working as a part of a three-person team organising a 1,200 person event, the Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Oxford. My project includes everything involved in putting the event together.

Daily Life

The internship is based in the University administration building at Wellington Square so I walk to work every morning. The job has been very busy so not a whole lot of time for socialising as the main event is still ahead to do during term.

The job has been very busy and has been good training for how to manage deadlines and competing demands.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has given me further insight into events management, and has been good training for how to manage deadlines and competing demands.
**Ayushi Nayak, Second Year, BA Archaeology and Anthropology, St. Peter’s College**

**Work Projects**

I am working on updating the database for the Virtual Museum of Images and Sound, a project of the American Institute of Indian Studies. The AIIS’s Centre for Art and Archaeology houses an archive of photos of monuments, art, coins, sculptures etc. These photos were taken in the 1960s and, since heritage objects and monuments undergo deterioration/breakage, have now become an invaluable resource for scholars of Indian art, archaeology, art history, history, architecture, conservation, etc. The Centre for Art and Archaeology is currently working on digitising the photo archives as a virtual museum (Virtual Museum of Images and Sound http://vmis.in/ ). My task was to update the database of Hindu temples in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, India so that the data can be digitised.

**Daily Life**

Since my parents live in New Delhi, I did not have any trouble settling in, and I travelled to work in my own car every day. Outside of work I have been catching up with my friends from school and spending time with my parents.

**Lasting Impressions**

Since I’ve grown up in India, this was not a new experience for me. I would say, though, that being able to work with the photo archives by myself helped me get a feel of how research is done.

**Suzanne Robin, MSc Sociology, St. Antony’s College**

**Work Projects**

I was asked to produce a report assessing the website’s efficiency and was introduced to the archives and library, with the possibility to conduct my own research using them. Everyone was happy to help if I asked for it but I received little formal supervision.

**Daily Life**

Daily life in Delhi can be overwhelming in the beginning, especially as a foreigner and even more as a woman. I decided I wanted to stay in Delhi and chose to commute every day to the work place; which took me a bit less than 3 hours daily and quickly became exhausting (it included taking the autorickshaw, then metro and autorickshaw again for me). On the other hand, it is more convenient to stay in Delhi if one hopes to get a glimpse of the atmosphere there. I made friends easily outside of work (in my hotel, through Couchsurfing) but also at work. Out of work I would usually rest or have dinner with friends, visit the monuments of the city etc.

**Lasting Impressions**

Delhi is probably one of the most challenging places I’ve had the chance to visit. But it also has extremely exciting prospects. I do not think I would like to live there but it was an interesting experience to be part of the life there for a while.

This internship has convinced me that I should stick to my field of study when it comes to getting work experience, so it has confirmed my career goals in an indirect way!
Harriet Evans, Second Year, BA Classics and English, Exeter College

Work Projects

I helped with Artichoke’s fundraising and development team raising money for two light festivals. My main duties involved researching companies or trust funds in the different areas where the festivals would be based and creating proposals to send to these companies. The research was an interesting way to find out more about different lines of work and helped me understand more about how brands worked. The proposals involved a strong visual element and I enjoyed developing my design skills. The proposals had to include commercial benefits of sponsorship but also descriptions of the artists’ works, which I particularly enjoyed researching and composing. Artichoke colleagues were very supportive, and for each project I helped with I was given a supervisor who explained my various duties and gave me detailed feedback. If they changed my work they would show me and explain why.

The internship was invaluable experience in the mechanics of having a job and how workplaces function.

Daily Life

Everyone was very friendly and they included me on their work outing and team meetings/lunches. Though I mainly spent time with the fundraising team, everyone worked in the same open-plan office and the atmosphere was inclusive.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was invaluable experience in the mechanics of having a job and how workplaces function. I liked the area, Aldgate East for all its exciting food markets/restaurants but didn’t enjoy commuting. The internship helped me realise how important things like logistics can be for jobs. While I’m not sure I will pursue fundraising, I enjoyed being in a creative atmosphere.
Sofia Vaz Pinto Simoes Coelho, First Year, BA History and Modern Languages (Russian), Merton College

Work Projects

Work at Ashinaga, especially in the translation team, comes in random and unpredictable waves, which can be challenging. One week can be spent on little work, but the following week there can be a long document to translate at short notice. The internship was advertised as a 9am to 5pm translation job, however this hasn’t been true for most of the time. I was in Tokyo for two weeks at the beginning of my time here with relatively little work, then spent about a week helping out at a children’s summer camp, and another week on a trip to the affected areas of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, where interns taught lessons in a high school. Next week we will help out again at another summer camp, and after that we will spend more than a week in Kyoto, which leaves the interns with two and a half weeks at the end of their internship to complete the projects they had set out to do. Whereas I am very grateful to Ashinaga to have showed me much more of Japan than I ever thought I would see, I must say that I felt frustrated by this lack of time allocated to do the work I had been expecting, due to a full month of various trips occupying a considerable part of the internship. However, I would like to emphasise that I have been having a wonderful time in Japan, mainly thanks to Ashinaga, who has generously paid for my flight, accommodation, meals, and transportation. It is a remarkable organisation, and summer camps, though exhausting, have been an extraordinary opportunity to witness the nearly miraculous work they do with children. I would highly recommend this program to anyone interested in learning more about Japan and the type of work they do at different levels. It is also a fantastic opportunity to meet other interns from all over the world, and make some long-lasting friends. My only advice is to enquire persistently and meticulously about your internship schedule, the exact kind of work you will be doing, and the amount of work of each kind that is expected from you.

Daily Life

Daily life is constantly changing, as mentioned earlier. Interns work at the Kokorojuku, where we are staying, although they can hypothetically work in the Tokyo office, or even in a cafe. In any case, the routine is quite free, and depends on each intern’s working habits (and deadlines, obviously). In tsudoi (summer camps) we usually woke up around 6-6:30am, and went to be around 10:30-11pm. Work in tsudoi consists mainly of taking part in group activities, inspire kids to be mind-open and go abroad, and plan ‘intern time’, during which we try to do fun/educational activities. During the Tohoku trip, we usually woke up around 7am, and were free after dinner (from around 7:30pm), with trips or lectures during the day, and also one day of teaching classes in a high school. We haven’t yet been on the Kyoto trip, during which we will do cultural activities, I believe.
Ashinaga provided comprehensive explanations of all the tasks and were very helpful in every way.

Lasting Impressions

After a week of near dislike and another of growing curiosity, I can say that I am increasingly fascinated by Japan. I knew very little about the country before I arrived, and now want to learn more and more to try and understand its apparent paradoxes and countless mysteries. The language barrier is certainly a problem, and it does make communication very tricky. I am very grateful to the Japanese-speaking interns, who have been translating and explaining Japanese people and language to me. The trip to tsunami-devastated Tohoku is particularly moving and interesting, and certainly leaves lasting impressions on one’s memory. Summer camps equally have strong emotional moments, in which one is faced with the children’s extreme vulnerability, but also extraordinary courage. I will definitely come back to Japan if I can, though I’m not sure I would consider working here. The country is beautiful, the people are extremely kind and welcoming, and the food is delicious. Work and career wise, the little translation I have done so far have been useful in showing me that I don’t want to do translation on its own as a job, and that I would rather use my languages in a different work context.

Hannie Knox, Second Year, BA Oriental Studies (Japanese), Hertford College

Daily Life

When at the base I was sent translation tasks for which I was given a deadline to complete by. During the times I was away I worked on a variety of mainly intercultural exchange programmes and student support.

Lasting Impressions

Ashinaga provided comprehensive explanations of all the tasks and were very helpful in every way.

Working at Ashinaga has been a great experience. I would have liked the opportunity to do more translation work, but apart from that it was great. supportive, and for each project I helped with I was given a supervisor who explained my various duties and gave me detailed feedback. If they changed my work they would show me and explain why.

Work Projects

During my internship I worked on translation projects, interpreting tasks, and gave general student support.
I taught critical reading lessons to the scholars (a group of 18-22 year olds from 20 sub-Saharan countries), SAT critical reading, career development, preparation for medicine and I mentored three students’ university applications for medicine abroad (in the UK). I didn’t really receive training and guidance on these roles from Ashinaga, though I think there are plans to introduce a training week next year. I had the opportunity to make a lot of decisions about what I taught. The applications tutoring was quite challenging as the scholars did not have internationally accredited qualifications and it was not clear which overseas courses the scholars could be funded for.

Teaching was great fun and all the scholars are great people. The interns, intern leaders and staff members were also very friendly and welcoming.

Daily Life

I lived in an Ashinaga-rented house about a one-minute walk from the Kokoro-juku (a large open-plan building where all the scholars live and are taught). Teaching was great fun and all the scholars are great people. The interns, intern leaders and staff members were also very friendly and welcoming. There was a nice welcome as I got out of the taxi. The houses are nice though electricity and water quite often fails (once or twice a week). Kampala has a great night life for those of that persuasion. The safari in Murchison, the gorillas at Bwindi and the rafting at Jinja were all also incredible weekend trips.

Lasting Impressions

Uganda is a beautiful country with very friendly people. There are many amazing tourist opportunities but these are quite expensive. Nansana (where the Kokoro-juku is located) is a suburb of Kampala and I rarely went into central Kampala. There is not a great deal to do in Nansana though, and the weekend trips helped keep me entertained. Meeting and bonding with all the scholars was incredible and I hope to maintain these relationships over the next years. Teaching itself was very rewarding with the exception of SAT preparation which was not very exciting, and in which we saw little improvement in the scholars over four months. As for Ashinaga as an organisation it is exceptional in a number of ways: it has an inordinate amount of funding (I think $83 million a year income roughly) and provides an amazing opportunity for the scholars (some of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds, some of whom are from the higher echelons of their respective societies). Overall, I definitely don’t regret coming on this internship, it has been an amazing experience. However, the hierarchical nature of the organisation was sometimes challenging, for example how individuals’ views were valued according to their position in the organisation.
Helen McCombie, Finalist, BA History of Art, St. John’s College

Work Projects

While interning at the Western Art Print Room at the Ashmolean Museum I undertook a number of projects. Mainly these were cataloguing items, making entries for them on the museum’s database, aiding in their conservation and making them more accessible for those wishing to study from them. Items I catalogued included a number of sketchbooks: that of Robert Braithwaite Martineau, a lesser-known Pre-Raphaelite painter, that belonging to Egyptologist and novelist Amelia B. Edwards, and also that of an amateur artist Bishop Walter John Trower, whose topographical and architectural views of Europe were particularly interesting to study as they offered views of cities and areas of Europe which are now much changed. Cataloguing these items also in many cases involved taking photographs of them to be uploaded to the database, which again makes it far easier to identify and study from them. I had a real sense that I was doing useful work which will aid future scholarship. I was also able to register and create entries for a pair of new acquisitions, watercolours by the artist Erin Bannister Townsend, so I got a real sense of it as a working and thriving collection.

On top of these cataloguing projects I was also involved with the daily running of the Print Room. This involved catering to visitors, helping them choose artworks to view, and then helping them with handling and viewing these works. The Print Room is open to anyone, and people don’t have to book to come in (apart from to see Michelangelo and Raphael drawings, which were of course very popular!), and it was really fun meeting the huge variety of people who came in, from world renowned scholars to people who just love art, and I learnt a lot just by talking to people and seeing all the different artworks they wanted to look at. So this side of the internship was also great fun. I feel like both the sides of the internship have given me a really invaluable insight into the different aspects of how museums run and are organised, and it was a real pleasure to be involved with it, if only for six weeks.

The support I received was really great, it was always made sure that I had something to do and was happy with what I was doing, but I was also trusted enough to get on with things, like the cataloguing. Once I’d got the hang of the visitors they were happy to let me handle visitors by myself (the nature of the Print Room meant that they were always on hand, in the room, should I need any help anyway, so I never felt like I was left on my own!), which again was highly satisfying, because it felt like I was making a genuine contribution to the running of the Print Room.

My mentor Angelamaria Aceto has been absolutely wonderful. She’s patiently shown me how to do things, and is always conscious of how I’m getting on. Caroline Palmer has also been a great help, and has again always been conscious of how I’m getting on and making sure I’m happy and satisfied with how things are going. All in all they have both been absolutely wonderful, I couldn’t have asked for better support, and I am really grateful to them. The other members of the department of Western Art have also been so friendly and supportive, all offering their help if I have needed it, and offering advice and friendly support. I’ve learnt a lot from all of them, and again I am hugely grateful to them for welcoming me into the Western Art Department - in the best way possible, it felt like I had been there forever by the time I got to the end of the internship, and I was very sad to leave! So I have greatly enjoyed my experience at the Print Room, it’s been really wonderful getting to work with such amazing artworks, seeing some of the most important drawings, and many lesser-known but still very beautiful, works of art on a daily basis, and getting to work alongside such a wonderful, knowledgeable, and friendly group of people.

It has definitely confirmed that I want to remain in the art historical field one way or another, and has informed what sort of scholarly decisions and approaches I want to take in future.

Ashmolean Museum (The Western Art Print Room) (Oxford, UK)
Daily Life

I live in Oxford so it was quite easy for me to get into work. The hours of the internship were also fairly lenient, working 10-4:30, so I had plenty of time to hop on my bike and cycle into work. On a number of occasions I did go in early, to help set up a display in one of the exhibition spaces, and to go down and get some items out of storage for a visiting scholar to see. So I had a very easy routine really, as I suspect would most people living in Oxford, as the Ashmolean is so central and easy to reach. It has to be said that there are far fewer people around in Oxford out of term time, but I live with my partner, so from the socialising point of view I had a very easy time of it and was very settled. Often we in the Western Art Department would have tea together after the Print Room had shut, and my internship seemed to have timed with quite a few birthdays, so we had several cheerful gatherings in the tea room in celebration. They were also sweet enough to hold a little farewell tea for me on my last day, and they gave me a lovely card and book as a farewell present, which was really kind of them. It was a very sociable atmosphere. Although I technically finished at 4:30 I was allowed to stay on a bit if I wanted to finish up a bit of work or my current task, which was nice. I was thus usually finished by five or so, and had plenty of time to pop into town if I needed to shop for supper or similar, and overall I had plenty of time to do some of my own work, reading and such like, studying in preparation for my masters, so it was a very pleasant daily routine.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impression is a very happy one. It has definitely confirmed that I want to remain in the art historical field one way or another, and it has really confirmed for me how much I like working with the real objects, and thus the internship has informed what sort of scholarly decisions and approaches I want to take in future. The Ashmolean is a wonderful place to work, and Oxford is as ever a beautiful city to live in. I do get the sense that the arts and heritage sector is a very competitive environment in terms of the number of jobs, with so many places still coping with the effects of the recession and funding cuts in various ways. However I was expecting this, and it doesn’t put me off wanting to be involved in it, as the people who are employed in it clearly really love what they’re doing and get a lot of satisfaction out of it. Thus my overall impression is still a highly positive one.
and translation help if we ever had communication difficulties during lessons. As for the English programme for adults, the curriculum was often already planned, and we simply had to assist the instructor and encourage conversation. This was sometimes difficult, because the vast majority of the Japanese people we met were very shy. The Japanese school curriculum puts far more emphasis on writing than speaking, and in Fukuoka there are comparatively few foreigners, so there aren’t many opportunities to practise speaking English. We also delivered presentations for Fukuoka Directive Council, a company quarterly meeting, to English teachers and various other audiences, giving feedback on our experience of Japan and encouraging cultural exchange. However, we weren’t only working for Aso Group – in return, they really went out of their way to show us every aspect of their business.

We toured the company’s hospital, cement factory, rehabilitation college, human resources centre and vocational college, as well as many departments in the main building. Everything was perfectly organised and we had our schedule for the entire month before we even arrived in Fukuoka. We also had a whole week’s holiday in the middle of the internship (partly because of a national holiday at the time), and our coordinators were constantly making sure we weren’t too tired out or overworked. All in all, the organisation was faultless and the work projects were really varied and enjoyable.

Daily Life

No two days were the same on this internship. We were constantly meeting new people, whether company employees, adult English learners or university students, and doing different activities, whether teaching, presenting or visiting companies. However, the internship was so well-organised that we knew exactly what to expect every morning. We stayed at excellent accommodation in Fukuoka that Aso Group
had sourced – single apartments with breakfast and dinner provided – and the company also provided a train/bus pass for work travel. Our working hours weren’t regular because our schedule was so varied. For example, when we were teaching the children’s English programme, we would wake up at 6.25am, meet our internship coordinators at 8am, travel to nearby Iizuka city by 9am and teach from 10am-3pm. When we got back to Fukuoka, though, we’d usually be free afterwards. On another day, we’d do a company visit from 10am-1pm, go for lunch with the company employees, perhaps go on a visit in the afternoon and teach a business English workshop from 5-6.30pm. Aso Group made sure we were extremely well looked after. We were introduced to a variety of amazing Japanese restaurants over lunch with our employers, and they even dedicated a day to hiring us kimonos, taking us on a tour of Fukuoka’s shrines and gardens, and introducing us to the Japanese tea ceremony! In our free time we visited almost every museum and tourist attraction that Fukuoka had to offer. We also did a lot of shopping – Fukuoka’s department stores are like nothing you could ever find in the UK – and sampling of the city’s incredible food and street stall restaurants.

Lasting Impressions

I had already visited Japan once, spending two weeks in Tokyo, but during this internship I felt I had a real insight into the country. It was a far more eye-opening experience than just visiting Japan as a tourist. We met so many local people who took time to talk to us – and often about interesting social issues, too, like their ageing population or the need for Japan to become more outward-looking and international, given the depleted workforce. On my previous visit to Japan, I left Tokyo feeling a little overwhelmed and certainly not contemplating living there, but Fukuoka is very different to the capital. I was struck by the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere (it’s voted the ‘12th most liveable city in the world’) and I really didn’t want to leave at the end of the internship. Our hosts could not have looked after us better, and I intermittently felt almost guilty that I could be enjoying myself this much and calling it ‘work’. Aso Group planned everything to perfection, and our tasks were so varied that we could never get bored. Although in the long term I think it would be difficult to integrate into such a homogenous society as Japan’s, and wouldn’t move there permanently, it is the ideal place, in terms of excellent food and hospitality, to undertake an internship. I am extremely grateful to Aso Group and can’t thank them enough for their kindness, nor recommend this internship highly enough to next year’s applicants!
Elizabeth Lambert, Final Year, BA English Language and Literature, St Anne’s College

Work Projects

I and the other intern on the programme were responsible for establishing a curriculum for a class of 10-14 year old students from Iisuka City to promote Aso Group’s English Programme starting in October. The class was one week long and the goal was to have students confidently deliver presentations on a topic of their choice at the end of the week with their families coming in to watch them. During the week we helped the students write their presentations, work on posters, and learn other topics interesting to high school students such as hobbies, food, and travel. During the rest of the internship we gave presentations about university life at Oxford and general life in Britain. We held Q&A discussions promoting multicultural exchanges and comparing life in the UK and Japan. These audiences included vocational college students and other Aso employees, such as their graphic design team (who made us our own business cards and presented us with beautiful calligraphy pens!), a rehabilitation centre where we met a Para-Olympic gold medallist, and a speech therapy centre. We brought traditional shortbread from the UK to share with everyone and heard about their own experiences with travel and learning English. We also went on frequent visits to subsidiary companies including a tour around Aso’s cement factory (decked in full hi-vis gear!).

Daily Life

Aso Group was incredibly supportive and kind throughout the whole experience. I was picked up from the airport by the leader of the internship who gave me a file of information on Fukuoka - including maps of the nearest supermarket, restaurant, pharmacy etc - and showed me around my accommodation. The flat I stayed in, which Aso Group kindly paid for, was a lovely clean and bright room with a fantastic view of the mountains. It had a small kitchen but the place was catered and I usually had my dinner in the hall with the other students who lived in the flats. I would arrive to the office using an Oyster-card type travel pass which Aso Group supplied and paid for. Or if we were being taken to different company buildings or to different cities the internship coordinator, Kaoru, would accompany us there in a taxi or train (which would take us straight through bamboo groves to the next city along). Outside of work I usually would hang out with the other Oxford intern, but the company would very kindly keep us occupied with lots of exciting trips to restaurants and events, such as employee parties. One Aso employee - who was on their scholarship to Oxford and currently studies at New College - took us on a drive to the beach, the mountains, a volcano and out for ice cream. On the weekends I visited museums, galleries, trips to nearby cities (myself and the other Oxford intern visited Nagasaki for the Obon Festival and to see the A-Bomb museum), parks and treated myself to meals out.

Lasting Impressions

I cannot stress enough how hospitable, thoughtful and accommodating the company was, and it meant I never felt at all homesick or lost, despite it being my first time travelling outside of Europe. I think about my time in Japan almost every day and miss my experiences there a lot. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to have the eye-opening experience of being shown around an exciting city, which is so different from home, by locals who know every nook and cranny. The internship has definitely given me a more international mind-set and has encouraged me to think seriously about living and working outside the UK and undertaking more travel to East Asia. It has given me a more international mind-set and has encouraged me to think seriously about living and working outside the UK and undertaking more travel to East Asia.
**ATDBio Ltd (Oxford, UK)**

*Helen Owen, Penultimate Year, MChem, Trinity College*

**Work Projects**

For my project, I worked on the synthesis and selection (via SELEX) of a nucleic acid aptamer. This was a new field for the company, so my project involved developing and testing two different SELEX methods, with help and guidance from my supervisor. During the project I was taught how to use the company’s wide variety of equipment (and worked on optimising their new PCR machine) which provided me with a lot of practical experience. At the end of the internship I gave a short presentation on my project to the rest of the group, and I was proud to have helped set up a method that will hopefully benefit them in the future.

**Daily Life**

I took the bus to and from work with my intern colleague, working from 8:30am to 4:30pm with regular coffee breaks and a one hour lunch break, during which the whole company could relax together. I settled in very quickly, and was soon working on my project with the help and supervision of the other staff members.

**Lasting Impressions**

I will be working in a Part II group which also specialises in oligonucleotide synthesis and modification next year, so this internship has given me a lot of valuable practical experience for working in this field. Working in a professional research lab has also improved my confidence in my independent lab skills, and the friendly and supportive atmosphere has definitely given me a desire to work in a similar environment in the future. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and I would highly recommend it for future applicants!

*Mihaela Smilova, Second Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry), Oriel College*

**Work Projects**

My project involved synthesising a short fluorescent protein. This involved the entire process from synthesising the starting oligonucleotides, purifying them, assembling them into the final product via PCR and the gene’s subsequent cloning and expression in E.coli. I received excellent support throughout the entire course of the project. The staff members have vast experience in the area and were always happy to provide guidance and share knowledge. At the end of the internship, I had the opportunity to present my results in front of the company and members of the university. Something I really enjoyed about this project was the fact that I was encouraged to think independently and design experiments by myself (and then discuss the plan with a member of staff, of course), which taught me much about experimental design and lab work in general.

**Daily Life**

The day started around 8:15 am, with some routine lab maintenance, usually followed by a short meeting with the project supervisor, to discuss what experiments were to be done that day. There was a coffee break and a one hour lunch break, which provided lots of time to socialise with company members and interns. Everyone was really friendly and supportive, and lunchtime was a great time to talk, see how others’ projects are going, learn something new, and also to talk about things outside of work. In the afternoon, experiments continued and my fellow intern and I made sure all results from the day were written up. We left work around 16:30, which left a lot of time for pursuing hobbies, going for walks and meeting up with people. Also, all the free time in Oxford meant I got to do all the ‘touristy’ things that most students don’t have time for during the term.

**Lasting Impressions**

This was my first experience working in a lab outside of what I had learnt on my course. I developed practical skills and techniques such as PCR and gene cloning which will be useful in many different areas of biochemistry. Overall, I really enjoyed the experience: both the project itself and the environment at ATDBio. In future I would like to pursue a career in science and doing this internship has confirmed to me that this is something I want to do.
The Auchindrain Trust (Inveraray, Scotland)

Silja Lehtinen, MPhil Development Studies, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

My internship involved working on several projects, firstly archaeological research where I participated in the excavation and analysis of several sites. Second was the Tablet project, which involved working on the beta phase of moving the museum’s information onto tablets to be given to visitors. This included adjusting and testing the tablets, and interviewing visitors.

I learned an immense amount about the third sector, particularly from the point of view of a very small organisation.

Daily Life

I lived about a five minute drive from the museum. In the mornings I would drive to work, and drive back in the evenings. I interacted with the other staff during the day, as well as volunteers. My free time was spent mostly with the other Oxford intern. We ended up spending a lot of time inside our accommodation because the weather was dreadful this summer, and the area is rural (so minimal indoor attractions around).

Lasting Impressions

The area is absolutely beautiful, but I would probably only work there if I had a family of my own. I would not want to settle there for a long time as a young, single person. That being said, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience there. I learned an immense amount about the third sector, particularly from the point of view of a very small organisation. I think based on this experience, I am still interested in the third sector, but potentially a different type of organisation (not a museum, necessarily).

Matilda Agace, First Year, BA History of Art, Wadham College

Work Projects

My main work focus was researching craft and building techniques associated with the township, so writing on weaving, lime mortar pointing and peg making etc. My research was then converted into information for the new tablet guidebook. I also did bits of archaeology, digging to uncover ruined houses and to find their true perimeters. Whilst digging, we found lots of fragments of glass and pottery along with more interesting finds which I washed, photographed, catalogued, wrapped and, in some cases, researched. I then wrote a project for my course vac work on the importance of pottery fragments for our understanding of domestic history.
Another task was configuring the new tablet system in the museum, so that guidebooks are replaced with interactive screens. Other than that I've hung an exhibition, worked in the visitor centre, promoted an event, made Facebook page updates, done some procuring, and herded chickens. All of this was really well supported, I always had all the information and help I needed, whenever I needed it.

Daily Life

The other intern and I lived in a nearby B&B, so we'd get to work at 9ish, and then get on with our projects. Every other day, I had a tearoom shift over lunch which allowed me to earn a bit of extra money on top of my grant. During the day I’d try and balance my indoor and outdoor work and I always had enough different projects on that I could tailor my type of work to how I felt on the day. After work I’d either go straight home at 5ish or stay longer to skype friends and organise university work in my own time with the office’s internet. Normally when I got home I was pretty exhausted so I tended to relax and watch TV (I never had really sat down to watch TV properly and aimlessly before this summer!), cook supper and maybe write letters, or read or draw. Inveraray is pretty quiet so I didn’t really go out much in the evenings, although for two lots of two weeks there were international volunteers staying and working at the museum so we sometimes stayed with them in the evenings. Glasgow and Edinburgh aren’t too far away so I travelled there some weekends to see my friends and go out, staying in AirB&B places with them. Some of my home friends also came to visit.

Lasting Impressions

Scotland is stunningly beautiful and I did love living there. We had a bit of a dreary summer though, raining most days and pretty cold so by mid-August I was lusting after the relative sunniness of the south. I think the area is a bit quiet for me to live in long term, but I adored Glasgow when I visited so I’m definitely hoping I can move up there at some point in my life. Careers-wise, I’m now convinced that if I do decide to work in a museum it’ll definitely be a small one like this because I love having such a variety of tasks. But also it has made me doubt that conventional jobs are for me, I found the 9 to 5 quite gruelling and prefer having more flexibility with my time and work. I also realised I really like the research side of things, and going into academia might potentially suit me more than a museum-type job which I hadn’t really considered properly before.
she taught me certain particular conservation and preservation skills, and helped me to use some rather complicated technical equipment while handling and photographing manuscripts. After I had photographed my document there, I spent the remainder of my internship at the Balliol College site on Broad Street, where I worked at a desk with the rest of the library team. This was a very different environment, although an equally enjoyable one to work in, and everybody I worked with during my time as an intern was particularly welcoming, often going out of their way to assist me with my work. My experience of working under good management was particularly enriched by this internship. In my last week, we went out for drinks as a group, to celebrate my time at Balliol.

**Daily Life**

I spent the first two weeks of my internship at Balliol’s Historic Special Collections Centre at St Cross Church. I worked with the archivist there, Anna Sander, and

**Work Projects**

During my time as an intern with Balliol College, I undertook a research project spanning six weeks. I analysed a document containing college accounts, library records and catalogues from the 17th century. The document had never been properly studied before. I transcribed the relevant sections in full and made a searchable database that will hopefully be of use to other academics. I wrote a full introduction and index to the database that has been published alongside on the Balliol College and Archives websites.

**Lasting Impressions**

I enjoyed my time working in a library environment. I greatly appreciated the freedom that employees had to go about their tasks, while still maintaining exceptionally high standards of conservation and cataloguing. I am not entirely certain what I want to do in the future, but my experience as a library/archives intern certainly made a positive impression upon me.

**Sophie Lealan, MSt History of Art and Visual Culture, Oriel College**

**Work Projects**

During my time as an intern with Balliol College, I undertook a research project spanning six weeks. I analysed a document containing college accounts, library records and catalogues from the 17th century.

**Matthew Main, Final Year, BA English Language and Literature, New College**

**Work Projects**

During my time as an intern with Balliol College, I undertook a research project spanning six weeks. I analysed a document containing college accounts, library records and catalogues from the 17th century.
The document had never been properly studied before. I transcribed the relevant sections in full and made a searchable database that will hopefully be of use to other academics. I wrote a full introduction and index to the database that has been published alongside on the Balliol College and Archives websites.

I appreciated the way in which the organisation structured my internship, allowing me to undertake a structured project following my own interests and associated with wider projects and events happening across Oxford.

Daily Life

I spent the first two weeks of my internship at Balliol’s Historic Special Collections Centre at St Cross Church. I worked with the archivist there, Anna Sander, and she taught me certain particular conservation and preservation skills, and helped me to use some rather complicated technical equipment while handling and photographing manuscripts. After I had photographed my document there, I spent the remainder of my internship at the Balliol College site on Broad Street, where I worked at a desk with the rest of the library team. This was a very different environment, although an equally enjoyable one to work in, and everybody I worked with during my time as an intern was particularly welcoming, often going out of their way to assist me with my work. My experience of working under good management was particularly enriched by this internship. In my last week, we went out for drinks as a group, to celebrate my time at Balliol.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed my time working in a library environment. I greatly appreciated the freedom that employees had to go about their tasks, while still maintaining exceptionally high standards of conservation and cataloguing. I am not entirely certain what I want to do in the future, but my experience as a library/archives intern certainly made a positive impression upon me.
Lasting Impressions

One thing I took from this internship is that even a very small organisation can make a very big difference in countries like Bangladesh. I would love to come back and do some more work with BLAST.

Katy Sheridan, Second Year, BA Jurisprudence, New College

Work Projects

During my internship I worked on a range of projects, such as conducting international law research on SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights) including the
topics of rape, sexual assault, marital rape, and child marriage, as well as domestic law research into the same area. I helped to organise the Seeking Justice Seminar, which involved being the verbatim scribe for notes from the seminar, and I also converted this into highlights and a press release. I rewrote, edited and designed the Annual Report 12/13, including researching, summarising and extracting information from the consolidated reports on minority rights, women’s rights including domestic violence, TFT (Two Finger Test used as medico-legal evidence in rape cases), dowry, gendered poverty etc, and worker’s rights including Rana Plaza cases. I attended the Shokhi seminar on Sexual Violence in South Asia, went on field visits to SHOKHI sites such as Rangpur, Dinajpur, the Supreme Court and District Court. I worked on a grant proposal for PIL implementation on the Two Finger Test and Forced Eviction. Other ‘as and when’ jobs were domestic violence policy edits, language edits, drafting letters, bibliographies, and a questionnaire for CEDAW research on gender.

Daily Life

I stayed with a family I found on AirBnb who were very welcoming and hosted other interns as well. We had a bus come and collect all the interns every morning and take us home in the evening. The traffic was a bit of a culture shock to start with but I soon got used to it. The car picked us up at 8am and we normally left work about 4.30pm unless we had a later meeting. I did lots of different things at work (see above). I was supervised along with other interns to make sure we were on track. For about half of my internship I was completing a project under the supervision of a Supreme Court Barrister who was also the executive director of the organisation. I learned a lot from her. There isn’t much to do in the evenings in Dhaka as it isn’t the safest city, and for a lot of the internship I felt quite isolated. However the times I did go out the main activity was eating out or drinking tea, as alcohol is illegal so there aren’t many places to chill out. I mainly socialised with work colleagues and other interns. Two weekends during the internship I travelled outside of Dhaka to see more rural parts of Bangladesh including the beautiful tea gardens in Sreemangal. I would definitely recommend doing this.

Lasting Impressions

Working in Dhaka was very rewarding and I learned a lot but the city can also be very isolating and difficult to live in, especially as a woman. I found not being able to go outside without being harassed extremely difficult to deal with, as was the heat and the restrictions on what I could wear. However, the people at work were very welcoming and I did, overall, enjoy my internship. It has confirmed my desire to work in women’s rights, but I would not want to work in South Asia full time, as I found the culture very difficult.
Beijing Normal University (Beijing, China)

Chui-Jun Tham, Second Year, BA History, Corpus Christi College

Daily Life

We lived on the Zhuhai campus for the first week of the internship, and the Beijing campus for the other two. While the first campus was a little dull, the second one provided plenty of scope for exploring the main city. We went out to bars, clubs, tourist spots and restaurants! These were all great fun and allowed us to fully enjoy China. However, if you apply for the internship it might be worth remembering that timings and workloads are very prone to changing last minute (think that site visit is at 9am? Well expect to have to turn up at 7.15am with little prior warning!), and that exploring can sometimes mean you wind up having an hour and a half’s sleep, no matter how well you’ve planned timings.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed the internship, but have learned that I could never live or work in China!

Sian Meaney, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

During our internship, we put on a ‘leadership workshop’ and created an academic presentation on a topic chosen by our groups (which included international and Chinese students). We also had site visits, which were organised by the university (although not always applicable to the work we were doing!).

Daily Life

I was part of a group that did a field study of migrant workers in Beijing. We received limited guidance from the host organisation, in the form of general advice on our topic and research methods.

I made a lot of good friends amongst the Chinese students especially, and found it both fun and challenging to learn about the differences between the many cultures present there.

Lasting Impressions

I think I would like to return to China to study one day or to conduct research, and the internship opened my eyes to the possibility of working in translation as an alternative to research.

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Lasting Impressions

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Robert Daly, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages, New College

Work Projects

The host organisation offered £1000 towards international travel and paid promptly, in cash (Chinese yuan), on arrival. During the programme itself, we received a generous living allowance and had all our travel costs and museum entry fees paid. Before we arrived, the host organisation had sorted all the programme participants into eight groups (each of which contained 3-4 international students, of which around 2 were from Oxford, and 4-5 Chinese students). We worked in these groups, and were encouraged to do almost everything together, for the duration of the programme. The programme comprised one week in Zhuhai and two weeks in Beijing. In Zhuhai, we attended a series of lectures on contemporary China, took part in various workshops and team-building activities, and visited a local museum. In Beijing, we attended further lectures, visited other tourist attractions together (a museum and an historical district), and worked independently in our groups on an extended research project. Undergraduate and postgraduate participants from Oxford all have exactly the same role on the programme.

Daily Life

In Zhuhai, a typical day would involve one lecture or workshop (2 hours) and a trip off campus to a museum (3-4 hours). The scheduling was inconvenient, such that there was not enough free time to do anything else during the day (since the campus itself is a good distance outside Zhuhai). There was not much to do in the evenings on campus. In Beijing, there was obviously much more to do. We also had much more free time, which made it possible for us to visit the major tourist sites during the day, such as the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, etc.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed the internship, learned a lot about Chinese culture, and made many Chinese friends. However, the organisation of the programme was somewhat chaotic, with the scheduled arrangements and timings often changing at the very last minute. It also remained unclear, at least to me, how the completion of an extended research project related to the overarching aim of fostering leadership skills. I would return to Beijing, and other major Chinese cities, as a tourist, but I do not see myself working in China in the long term.

Matthew Lynch, Second Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Balliol College

Work Projects

I was part of a group of students from universities around the world who developed an in depth research project into air pollution in Beijing. We had academic support from a professor at Beijing Normal University, and lectures given by people working in NGOs in China to facilitate our research and illuminate possible directions we could take.

Daily Life

We were staying on the university campus. We’d usually have a few hours of lectures in the morning, and then a presentation or other activity in the afternoon. We’d usually have social lunches and dinners with the other

The program opened my eyes to opportunities, particularly in China and particularly in the NGO sector.
interns and the Chinese students we were studying with. There was a lot of opportunity for cross-cultural interaction and learning, as the groups we were in for research became the social core. There was plenty of time to socialise in the evenings as well.

**Lasting Impressions**

I found China absolutely fascinating and would definitely want to return. The program opened my eyes to opportunities, particularly in China and particularly in the NGO sector, and to see how much is being done in these areas is a great relief from the bombardment of banking and consulting firms. I would recommend the program to friends!

*Chui-Joe Tham, Second Year, BA History, St. Edmund Hall*

**Work Projects**

I worked together with other Oxford interns to create a presentation on leadership, and secondly, as part of a nine-person team to conduct a social science project into a Chinese political and social issue. For the second project, my team received lectures spread over a three-week period, a field trip to a migrant centre, and a twenty-minute session with an academic supervisor to discuss the presentation.

**Daily Life**

There were two activities organised a day on average. In the first week this was a lecture/class in the morning, and a presentation from one of the other involved schools in the evening. In the second week, this increased to two lectures a day, and in the third week, we had no presentations. I spent a lot of time with my group members and with members of other groups.

**Lasting Impressions**

I felt that the most important aspect of it was being thrown into an environment where people from sometimes very different cultures worked together. I might consider returning to live and work there, for at least a short time, as I feel like I know the area a bit more and wouldn’t mind the culture and food.

*Mathew Yates, MSc Contemporary Chinese Studies, Pembroke College*

**Work Projects**

We were involved in all manner of projects in the first leg of the internship. First of all the Oxford interns hosted a workshop to try and give other participants a feel for the university, with an emphasis on leadership.
We then had various lectures on leadership and cross cultural communication before moving on to the second leg in Beijing. Our group was tasked with researching the welfare of migrant Children in China, and as well as having the specialist lectures held by BNU, we also conducted field research for the final research project.

Daily Life

Daily life typically involved a morning class or lecture. The first leg of the program included many ‘leadership exercises’ and spending time on the Zhuhai campus. The second half of the trip was a bit more interesting - we were left to carry out our own research, had specialist lectures etc. There was plenty of time to get to know other participants, and socialising became easier as time went on, especially once we were in Beijing.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impression is that I love China. It’s a crazy place and will challenge and push you in every way. You will miss home, but you will get home and miss the excitement of China and the opportunity it brings. I will certainly return.

Toni Lehtonen, Second Year, BA Music, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

In groups of about nine students (five Chinese, four international) we were tasked with researching a social issue facing China today.

Daily Life

We spent a lot of our time with our group members. Mornings were generally spent in lectures, followed by trips and activities in the afternoons, occasional Chinese lessons and work on our group projects. There was actually not nearly as much free time as many of us had expected, but near the end most groups managed a few days of just sightseeing.

Lasting Impressions

The internship had very strong effects on a lot of the international students taking part. I came to the conclusion that I could never live in the country; the complete chaos of everything, the smog in Beijing (though apparently pollution was very light when we were there), and the very noticeable censorship all added up for me. However, that isn’t to say I didn’t have a brilliant time, it was certainly never dull and I’m considering the possibility of another short internship in China in the future.

Toni Lehtonen, Second Year, BA Music, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

The first week of the International Youth Leadership Programme was spent in Zhuhai in Southern China. This week consisted of workshops (delivered by

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participating students roughly divided into regional groups), lectures on cross-cultural interaction, leadership skills, and China in general, as well as Chinese lessons, and team-building activities. The latter two weeks were spent in Beijing, during which we had five guest lecturers speaking about social issues in China, and during which we had a field trip to a site that related to our group’s chosen social issue-research topic. The remainder of the time was spent on preparing a presentation on the issue.

**Daily Life**

The goal of the first week of the internship was mainly to get used to being in China (for foreign students), to get to know each other, and to build a good, productive and enjoyable group-spirit. This was achieved through organized activities such as rock-climbing, as well as the workshops that each of us prepared. The time in Beijing offered more freedom (as it was in the city as opposed to a suburb) to explore cultural and historical sites, and to take time for social interaction on our free time. Because of the curfew that the Chinese participants had, there was a lamentable division between local and foreign students, but at times we managed to do social activities together, too: these included going to KTV, visiting the Great Wall, and exploring Beijing and its sights and nightlife.

**Lasting Impressions**

The programme offered an opportunity to get to know two very different parts of China, and to meet new people from a huge range of backgrounds. It was really interesting to experience the similarities and differences between working styles and ways of thinking between each of us - although these are idiosyncratic characteristics, there tended to be regional trends. Despite some barriers and difficulties, I made great friends from all over the world, and fell in love with Beijing.

Christoph Nitschke, MSt US History, Corpus Christi College

**Work Projects**

The International Youth Leadership Program revolves less around direct leadership training and more around cross-cultural communication and problem solving. Of course that’s not at all a bad thing. I think I learned a great deal in the programme, as it is really challenging to organize your very diverse international group (in my case two Oxford students, one from Barcelona, one from Birmingham, three from BNU Zhuhai campus, and two from Beijing) and come up with a policy research project in a short period of time. This group work was preceded by helpful lectures on cross-cultural skills and introductions to major policy issues in China. The workshops were slightly un-academic, but a great way to get everyone to work together. Overall the research work was rather shallow, but the main benefit of the programme clearly is tackling the cultural challenges.

**Daily Life**

The three-week programme started in Zhuhai, where we spent nearly all of the week on the campus of Beijing Normal University Zhuhai (BNUZ), as it’s quite a bit outside the actual city. Accommodation was very good, but the Chinese students were on the other side of campus and actually had a curfew. The campus offers plenty of restaurants and canteens serving fantastic, cheap food. There are brand-new tennis courts close to the accommodation, which we used (you can rent rackets, but need to book ahead). At the end of the first week, we took a sleeper train to Beijing. The second and third week of the programme happened on campus of Beijing Normal University in Beijing (BNU), which is quite close to the city centre.
Thus there is plenty of opportunity to go out. People also made time to go sightseeing or used their free day for this. The lectures and workshops could have been scheduled better. Usually we had two a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, which essentially prevents you from having a block of time for group work etc.

Lasting Impressions

I definitely had a great time and got to know a fascinating country that had been a virtual unknown to me before. The programme offers a great opportunity to both learn about Chinese people and culture and meet other interesting international students. It will improve your leadership skills, but mostly your organizational and cross-cultural abilities. I will definitely go back and travel in China, and with the right job, I could also see myself working there for a limited amount of time. I would say the internship confirmed my broader career goal of working internationally and inter-culturally.

Henry Mason, DPhil Classical Languages & Literature, Merton College

Work Projects

During the internship I was involved in preparing lectures on leadership, and a research project on a social or political issue affecting China.

Daily Life

I got up most days around 7.30. During week 1, I was giving lectures and workshops which was mostly quite passive. For weeks 2-3, designing a research project and carrying it out; this was much more active.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has taught me a huge amount about Chinese culture, and I would feel much more confident now in undertaking a role related to or based in that country.
University and Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus. The main project in which I was involved was a research group of eight students (four international, four Chinese) in which we tried to develop a realistic governance model for the currently developing social work sector in China. My host organisation provided us with feedback by an academic supervisor, lectures on the topic and the possibility to do field visits to organisations that would serve as our case studies.

Daily Life

The internship took part at two places - Zhuhai and Beijing. In both places, the host organisation provided accommodation, food stipends and a weekly allowance. Accommodation was in one- or two-bed rooms and of good standard. The program itself would take between three and six hours per day, leaving a lot of time for group meetings, organised tours, visits to restaurants. These were frequently organised by the Chinese students and were a very valuable part of the program.

Lasting Impressions

My time in China has left a deep impression on me. It is incredible to think that I had so little clue of such an important and amazing place. Even though it may have little effect on my daily routines back in Europe, it certainly has changed how I see myself and my cultural heritage. It has also given me interesting insight into a potential career sector.

Lucy Maycox, Second Year, BA History, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I took part in the ‘International Youth Leadership Program 2015’ that was organised by Beijing Normal University and Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus. The main project in which I was involved was a research group of eight students (four international, four Chinese) in which we tried to develop a realistic governance model for the currently developing social work sector in China. My host organisation provided us with feedback by an academic supervisor, lectures on the topic and the possibility to do field visits to organisations that would serve as our case studies.

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This was a great opportunity to learn more about the different universities and their cultures, with students from Beijing, Zhuhai, Harvard, Rutgers, Hofstra, Oxford, Birmingham, KCL and Barcelona participating in the programme this year. Some groups began planning the research project in Zhuhai but most of the work took place in Beijing. I was in a group of nine students and our topic was rural-urban migration. We decided to focus on the issue of migrant identity and the challenges faced both by migrants and local governance surrounding integration and development. One of the most interesting parts of our research was visiting a migrant village on the outskirts of Beijing where we had the opportunity to conduct interviews and collect primary data. The research project was definitely the most challenging aspect of the work, as although the Chinese students mostly spoke a very high level of English, when we were interviewing migrant workers in the village it was sometime difficult for the international members of our group to understand the translations of what had been said. However, we also learnt a lot about different models of research, which differed between Chinese students and the international students, emphasising the importance of being open-minded and taking on board new ideas.

**Daily Life**

We spent the first week living on the Zhuhai campus which was a great experience as it was a very different environment to the Oxford college system and way of life. All of the international students lived in close proximity which made it easy to socialise and settle in quickly. We were given amazing accommodation and the BNUZ students were extremely helpful in helping us to settle in and showing us where the best canteens were and where to buy SIM cards etc. There was a welcome session in the first week which was a great chance for everyone to get to know each other. In Beijing in particular we were able to see sights such as the Great Wall, the Hutongs and the Forbidden City, outside of our work time.

**Lasting Impressions**

I definitely gained a lot from the internship programme which was an unforgettable experience, largely due to the amazing people involved. I’m really grateful to the Careers Service, BNU and BNUZ for providing the opportunity to participate in the programme. The experience really enhanced my knowledge of rural-urban migration and wider current political issues in China, but even more importantly I had the opportunity to interact with motivated and engaged students from all around the world. Despite only knowing each other for a short time, I really feel as if I made friends for life during the three weeks. I would love to return to China to work and to travel. However, the internship definitely emphasised that more so than in Europe, not being able to speak the language, or at least to a reasonable standard, becomes problematic over a longer period of time. If I were able to spend a longer time in China I would definitely ensure that I spoke a better level of Mandarin to make daily social interaction easier and gain an even deeper insight into the culture.
Katherine Hickson, Final Year, BA Geography, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

I was responsible for researching the requirements for the electronic medical record system which the hospital is planning to implement in the near future. This involved creating a structure for interviews to be carried out throughout all hospital departments, conducting and writing up these interviews. Approximately 50 were conducted in total and this took up most of my time. Their purpose was to identify the main procedures which took place in each department, and details of the current system used to record these. I then created a report summarising these current operations, key challenges, and recommendations for how the electronic medical system could be used to mitigate shortcomings of the existing system.

Daily Life

I was based in a hospital owned guesthouse around two miles from the hospital itself. During my first three weeks, there were three other volunteers staying in the same place, and during the last two weeks I stayed there alone. However, this was unusual and there would have been an option to stay with one of the surgeons if I had felt unsafe at any point. People were generally extremely friendly and very welcoming, and there is a strong expat community who were great fun to hang out with in the evenings. I was able to borrow a bike from the hospital, which I used to commute each day. Working hours were from around 7:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday, and weekends were free to explore Malawi. I took these opportunities to go to a variety of interesting places and ended up horse riding through a jungle, going on a 20 dollar safari and visiting Lake Malawi.

Lasting Impressions

I had an incredible time during this internship and would thoroughly recommend it. Malawi is an exceptionally interesting country with a fascinating culture and incredible wildlife. The internship was largely a self-driven project, but well supported by the hospital director and relevant to the development of the hospital. The experience affirmed my desire to work in the private sector or healthcare within the international development sphere, but made me realise that the best way to enter this is to gain thorough training in a UK based consultancy before moving to work in the developed world.
**Work Projects**

I was involved with two main projects during my internship. The first was the creation of a set of Charters for the charity, the purpose of which was to make clear the kinds of behaviours expected at different levels of the organisation. For example, the Frontline Staff charter was intended for use by support workers, and laid out both how they were expected to behave towards the people they served and how service users should behave towards staff. The Service User charter answered similar questions but was shorter and easier to understand, catering for the various needs of different service users. I also produced a Managers’ Charter which focused on the sort of behaviours a good manager should exhibit to their staff, and finally a Training Charter, laying out expectations of those attending training courses run by the organisation. Creating these charters involved visiting the charity’s numerous services, attending various meetings, and gathering both staff and service users’ opinions.

My second project involved research on impact measurement and performance monitoring. The aim was to consider how the organisation could improve its monitoring process, for example through considering which KPIs it measured and how it measured them. I completed a research paper which focused on how impact measuring in general could best be approached, and giving some ideas to the organisation to consider for the future.

**Daily Life**

My journey to work involved a short cycle to my local station and then catching the train for around half an hour into Birmingham New St. I then had a 15 minute walk to work, where I arrived by 9:30. I worked on the administrative floor of the organisation and spent most of the day with two PAs, who were very friendly and with whom I chatted casually throughout the day. Most of my day was spent sat at my desk working on the computer, unless I was attending meetings or travelling on local transport to visit the numerous services the charity runs throughout the city of Birmingham. I met weekly with the Director of Operations who was in charge of the internship and with whom I also got on very well. My day finished at 5:00, when I either caught the train home or met friends for a drink or dinner in town. As everyone I worked with was quite a bit older than me and many had young children to care for, there was little socializing outside of work. However the people I worked with were all very kind: the Director of Operations took me out for lunch at the end of the internship and the floor I worked on gave me a ‘thank you’ card and a leaving present.

**Lasting Impressions**

I already know Birmingham well as I have lived there for most of my life. As such the internship had little influence on how I already felt/feel about the city. I would still prefer to move elsewhere after I complete my degree, but that’s more because I would like to live somewhere new rather than because of anything particularly wrong with Birmingham! I would like to move to another big city, preferably London when I begin working. In terms of my career goals and ambitions, I am still very unsure about what I want to do. The internship was helpful in highlighting some of the things that are important to me, for example I want something that challenges me on a daily basis. I am also still interested in the charitable sector itself: I found the research I completed on monitoring and performance and on some of the newer movements in the sector, like collective impact, really interesting. This has prompted me to consider careers in policy or think tanks and the possibility of further study, such as a Masters in policy or something like international relations. Whilst I am very much undecided about what I want to do, the internship has really encouraged me to start thinking about my options more widely and more seriously.
Gabriel Lawson, Second Year, BA History, Lincoln College

Work Projects

I was responsible for the processing and appraisal of files in the Oxfam Archive. These files could consist of reports from areas where Oxfam worked, photographs taken by professionals or by Oxfam staff, or even just expenses claims. The archivists supervising me and the other intern were really friendly and around all the time if we needed to ask a question or clarify what we were meant to be doing.

Daily Life

The hours worked were flexible, but I chose to work nine to five so I’d have plenty of time free in the evenings. As the Weston Library is so central I could walk to work every morning, and even go home for lunch if I wanted.

Lasting Impressions

I’ve loved being in Oxford out of term time and without the pressure of essays/exams, and I’ve also gained a fascinating insight into work as an Archivist. As a historian it was interesting to deal with primary sources first-hand, and the experience I’ve gained here will definitely help me with my thesis next year.

Jonathan Finlay, MSt Modern British and European History, Kellogg College

Work Projects

I was compiling an exhibition on the Easter Rising to be displayed next year in the Proscholium of the Bodleian Library. I was also compiling an archive of websites related to the centenary of the Rising. I was introduced to the Bodleian’s extensive manuscript archives, and to the software used for web archiving.

Daily Life

My day involved a very short bicycle commute from my college accommodation. As soon as I arrived, everyone was very friendly and keen to engage me in conversation. The only out-of-hours socialising I experienced was the monthly staff dinner, which was a welcome opportunity to see my colleagues in a different environment. I also developed a rapport with my co-intern, which definitely helped both of us to acclimatise to unfamiliar working conditions.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was very valuable in that it gave me a chance to work with physical archives; despite holding two History degrees, all of my previous research had been with digitised sources, so the ability to handle manuscripts was very exciting. It has not changed my current career goals (which are not in the archival/library sector) but it has given me professional research experience to complement that which I received during my degrees, which is always useful.
Danielle Bishop, MPhil Modern Languages, Exeter College

Work Projects

I was involved in a wide variety of projects during my time with the Bodleian, as my role was to act as an assistant to Wilma Minty, the Chief Events Planner and Organizer of the Public Programme at the Bodleian Libraries. Chief among my personal tasks was to collate information from events sign-up sheets and to build our own mailing list for Bodleian Events. I then cross-referenced our list against the Communications Department’s list, eventually inviting our mailing list members to sign up for the Bodleian’s official ‘What’s On’ Newsletter. I worked closely with Wilma in the final stages of putting on multiple ‘Lunchtime Lectures’ that accompanied the Weston Library’s current Marks of Genius exhibition. I also assisted with planning and preparations for the Globe Theatre’s performances of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing in the Old Schools Quad, as well as assisting Wilma with the reception and dinner accompanying the launch of the library’s Digital Bodleian project, and with the planning and invitations for the Weston’s upcoming exhibition on Armenia. In addition to these larger projects, I fulfilled a multitude of daily tasks, including emails, drafting invitations and letters to various organizations and individuals (including the United Nations), and planning and carrying out many special visits for VIP donors, Bodleian friends, prospective students, and distinguished guests from other libraries around the world. Apart from my work with the Public Programme and Events, I also assisted the Friends of the Bodleian with two projects and worked with the Centre for the Study of the Book and various members of Exhibitions, Special Collections, and Rare Books to facilitate group viewings of manuscripts, tours of the Weston Library and other Bodleian buildings, and any other tasks I could lend a hand to help with. In return, I received incredible support from Wilma and from many other members of staff within various departments. I worked with Wilma particularly closely, and she gave me detailed guidance on how to fulfil tasks that were new to me, such as drafting a letter for an invitation to an Exhibition opening and dinner. She also gave me the freedom to work at my own pace and make certain projects my own, as well as encouraging me to think outside the box and come up with innovative ideas for events and ways to extend our public outreach. In addition to the support I received in the workplace, which was wholly positive and unwaveringly helpful, Wilma also supported me personally, often going out of her way to look for connections I might make with others (for example, explaining to several native Spanish-speaking staff that I had studied Spanish and would soon move to Spain, and setting up coffee meetings with them) and always making sure I was introduced, welcomed, and included in every meeting and interaction we had with all members of the Bodleian library, regardless of department. This is as much a testament to Wilma as a manager and mentor as it is to the Bodleian’s positive work environment, and I feel extremely grateful to have been so wholly supported by such a wonderful and caring mentor in this internship.

Daily Life

The huge variety of tasks was what made this job so interesting and rewarding, every day was fast-paced and brought new and unexpected tasks and challenges. The huge variety of tasks was what made this job so interesting and rewarding, every day was fast-paced and brought new and unexpected tasks and challenges. I arrived in the office every day at 9:30 a.m., and I would spend about half an hour going through my emails and seeing what kinds of information and documents Wilma had sent me. This often included a variety of tasks, for example: sending an email to someone who had a question about our mailing list, proof-reading a letter to be sent to Bodley’s Librarian, drafting invitations for an Exhibition opening or a dinner, setting up a spreadsheet with mailing information for guests coming to that dinner, and making a detailed schedule for a VIP visit/tour of Weston that would be sent to the group ahead of time. On any given day we might have to be prepared to give a tour at 10:30 a.m., go to set
up the lecture theatre and attend a lunchtime lecture starting at 1:30, give a series of Open Day tours for prospective students lasting thirty minutes (every hour

from 12:45-3:45), run over to the Oxford Playhouse to pick up tickets for the academics who gave pre-show talks for the Globe performances, go to the University offices to pick up posters advertising the Globe, and help supervise a manuscript viewing for a visiting group, among many other things. Some days, the scheduled working hours changed slightly depending on events. This variety of working hours, the different types of events, and the very different people I had the opportunity to meet was not only exciting, but also a welcome change to my schedule as a student. Another important part of the culture was our daily coffee breaks, which was one way of relaxing and socializing, but also an important way to take care of business in-person. As this internship was located in central Oxford, I continued living in my own flat and walked or cycled to work every day in a very short commute. So although I often spent time outside of my normal working hours as anyone would (meeting friends for dinner, or going home to cook or pursue my hobbies), I also often wanted to stay later and help Wilma, or just chat with her and other library employees, to hear more about their jobs and their lives. We developed quite close relationships in the end, and I was thrilled to be invited to a monthly office dinner, to a going-away party for someone in the office, and also to have dinner with Wilma and her husband one evening after working late.

**Lasting Impressions**

My internship with Wilma was, without a doubt, one of the best experiences I have had in Oxford. I cannot say enough good things about Wilma as a boss and a mentor— her kindness and caring attitude, her attention to detail and willingness to teach me, her boundless energy and positivity, her easy going nature... I am extremely grateful not only to have worked with and learned from Wilma, but also to have gotten to know her as a person. As I said earlier, I have come away from this internship experience with an intimate understanding of the huge variety of tasks and important attention to detail that go into planning events for an organization as prestigious as the Bodleian, but I have also come away with a great fondness for the Bodleian and its inner workings. In every moment of my internship, Wilma always treated me as an equal and trusted me with important tasks and sensitive data, as well as being patient in the moments where I was still learning things that must have seemed quite natural to her after many years in this role. I have learned and grown incredibly over the span of just five weeks, and I am extremely grateful to Wilma and to the many others at the Bodleian library who took me under-wing and allowed me to help them and learn from them. This internship has fully confirmed my passion for working in Arts and Events Management, and I am currently searching for roles in this field in Spain. Although it may sound cheesy, Wilma was one of the best mentors I have ever had the pleasure of working with and she has inspired me to pursue a career in this field so that I may someday be like her— working to bring literature and the arts closer to the public, sharing these important and life-changing resources with those who may not always have a chance to partake in such experiences. Had I not already had plans to move to Spain, I would have loved to continue at the Bodleian in a similar capacity. I would also like to thank Fiona Whitehouse for securing funding for me, as the initial funding opportunity attached to my internship was unavailable to me due to my nationality. A huge thanks to everyone at the Careers Service and the Internship Office as well, as I would never have solicited this life-changing internship without first having seen it advertised within the Internship Programme.
Miranda Harrison, Second Year, BA History, Christ Church College

Work Projects

During the internship my main responsibility was to produce a box list of documents in the Cripps archive. I also briefly worked on the Oxfam project and with the Edgar Wind archive.

Daily Life

Working hours were nine to five, to get to and from work I had a 20 minute walk from my college accommodation. We had a couple of tea breaks a day which allowed for socialising within the office.

Lasting Impressions

I very much enjoyed my time at the Bodleian, the people were lovely and learning about working in the archives sector was very interesting.

Elena Muller, MPhil Modern Jewish Studies, Lady Margaret Hall

Work Projects

During the internship I was involved in a project to catalogue the Oxfam archive. For the most part this entailed working my way through over 700 ‘project files,’ i.e. records of grants made by Oxfam to projects in the UK and abroad. After deciding whether or not a file should be kept in the archive, details such as provenance, file code, agency, specific aspects of the project, and timeframe needed to be recorded. After preparing it for the archive - making sure that photos are protected for example, or that there are no corroding materials left - the file would then go into its grey archive box. I also worked on boxes of photographic material, which often provided me with an interesting visual impression of the project files, which consisted predominantly of papers and documents. Working with the team of archivists on the Oxfam project was a truly valuable experience. I received a thorough introduction into the project and the work of Oxfam more generally, and was given comprehensive guidelines for the work itself. My colleagues were always happy to help and wanted to make sure I was getting the most out of the experience. In turn, they also showed me a great appreciation for the work I had helped them with, and I was thus very glad for it to have been a mutually beneficial experience.

Daily Life

As I stayed in Oxford for the internship, there was not much settling in involved - except into the nine to five schedule, which I really appreciated after a two-year Master’s degree. I was able to stay in College for the summer, and there were still a few of our MCR around, so afternoons and weekends were spent enjoying an Oxford summer, as well as writing applications for the time after the internship. In the context of the internship, but outside the specific project, the group of Bodleian interns was given some really fascinating glimpses behind the scenes of the Weston Library: a tour of the conservation room, an insight into the Tolkien archive, and a look around at the studio for imaging services. We also had plenty of opportunities to socialise with the staff and among interns on our coffee breaks during the day, and at a lunch with the Keeper of Special Collections at Exeter College.

Lasting Impressions

Working in the Archives and Modern Manuscripts section of the Bodleian’s Special Collections was a very constructive and engaging experience, providing me with a good insight into the work of an archive. I would
consider this as one of the areas in which I can imagine being involved in the future, and the internship was definitely important for that. It has also confirmed my perception that working for a department of the University would be an excellent work environment.

Arabella Currie, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature, Balliol College

Work Projects

I was involved in organising and planning the Bodleian Library’s contribution to next year’s centenary commemoration of the Easter Rising. I helped to find and organise materials for an exhibition and to construct a web archive recording online commemoration and response.

Daily Life

Our immersion as interns in the daily life of the Bodleian was conducted with immense warmth and hospitality. We were introduced to everyone and made to feel at home, as well as given instructive tours of various departments and the opportunity to learn about numerous aspects of the library.

Lasting Impressions

My internship has taught me a great deal and has really opened my eyes to the countless possibilities that archives and libraries offer. It will not only help me in the research I am currently undertaking as a postgraduate student but will also inform and lighten my decisions when it comes to moving into the world of work.

Olivia Thompson, Final Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Corpus Christi College

Work Projects

During my first week in the Rare Books Department I assisted with events organised for Alice Day 2015. Throughout my internship I was investigating a collection of books from one of the library’s early benefactors, with a view to identifying the benefactor’s interests and the provenance of the books. After examining all the books I was able to provide a plausible account of how they came to be in the library. I learned a lot about bookbinding, printing, bibliography and the book trade. In my last week I was entrusted with the task of starting the integration of the library’s latest bequest, which I was given free rein to examine and classify as I wished; I have returned as a volunteer to continue with this. In all activities I had the benefit of the instruction and advice of all the Rare Books staff, who found ways for me to use skills I had already, while gaining an insight into the workings of the book industry, both on the material and academic/research side.

Daily Life

Every morning I would normally set out at about 8, stop for coffee, and then go into work from between 9-9:30 to between 5-5:45 (with a lunch break at about 1). The books of which I was investigating the provenance had to be ordered especially from Duke Humphrey’s Library, so on most days while waiting for a batch of them to arrive I would assist with everyday tasks in the office, for example: checking sales catalogues for books the library did not already possess (which taught me a lot about what it does possess); examining new purchases to ensure they matched catalogue descriptions; putting the library security stamp on new books (this was nerve-racking); identifying loose manuscript fragments used as binding waste (which required knowledge of palaeography – in which I had some grounding but also conducted further research – as well as of Greek, Latin and French, and digital skills); putting shelf-marks on newly catalogued books; helping to catalogue books; returning books from the reading room to the book stacks; preparing books for ‘show-and-tell’ visits, and...
assisting at these events. I sometimes joined staff for meetings e.g. of the Oxford Antiquarian Cataloguers’ Forum. In my first week I assembled cradles in the Conservation department for a book display. Thus I was involved with every stage of a book’s life span at the Bodleian, although not always in chronological order. Every day we went for a tea break in the staff common room in the morning and afternoon, which bolstered the informal and supportive atmosphere already perceptible in the office. We mostly stayed together as a department but I also talked to other interns about their projects. I had a very good relationship with my supervisor (who patiently endured my endless questions!) and I became very fond of all the other Rare Books staff. I also got to know regular visitors to the office - administrators, volunteers, other staff members from around the whole library as well as former Rare Books staff. After listening to my repeated disquisitions on Tolkien, the Head of Rare Books arranged for me and some of the other interns to view some of his original drawings, which was an astonishing privilege. All of the interns also received a free ticket to see the Globe Tour production of ‘Much Ado About Nothing’, and went for college lunch with our supervisors, the Keeper of Special Collections and staff from the Careers Service. I met up with a girl who had previously worked in Rare Books and had just returned to Oxford for a library traineeship, to whom I was introduced, by chance, by a mutual friend at the Catholic Chaplaincy (where I was staying). My position gave me access to the reading rooms, an invaluable bonus to me as I was writing a commentary on Cicero’s letters, which I continued during the evenings and of which I managed to finish a first draft. During my internship I also received my exam results (and so confirmation that I could proceed to postgraduate study) and graduated. Everyone in the library was extremely supportive and interested, which made the waiting a lot less harrowing!

**Lasting Impressions**

When I began this internship, I had just finished my undergraduate degree at Oxford, and was waiting for my results to take up a place as a graduate student. I already knew, therefore, that I liked the city, but working regular hours was a very different experience, and one from which I benefited immensely. More specifically, it was fascinating to work behind the scenes in the Bodleian and to witness the constant activity of which reader services is only the tip of the iceberg, and I greatly enjoyed getting to know my way around the Weston Library, which opened only in my last year and which I did not have much occasion to use as a classicist. The focus of the Weston’s collections alerted me to elements of the history of scholarship that I did not have space to explore in my degree, which enriched my understanding of my discipline and certainly inspired me to take new avenues in my research. When I applied for this post I was not entirely sure if I wanted to be a librarian – I got the impression from the advertisement that the post would fit my skill set. I was pleased to be proved right, and absolutely loved the entire experience from top to bottom and start to finish. I am very grateful that I was shown the full spectrum of work in Rare Books and made to feel part of the department; I could easily have been given a designated task and otherwise just left to my own devices, but everyone went above and beyond their duty to ensure that I could answer that deceptively simple question of what working in a particular place is actually like, on the whole. I am still in Oxford, now engaged in postgraduate study, and I am still involved with the library – I volunteer two days a week, and attend staff coffee mornings. I feel I have established a supportive network, the experience has broadened my ambitions in my research and alerted me to new techniques and connections with other disciplines, and I am definitely considering working in an academic library when I have completed postgraduate study.
Max Long, Final Year, BA History, Magdalen College

Work Projects

My internship involved several projects. Firstly, a major task was content writing: I wrote up to 4,000 words a week of online copy for Bokengo’s ‘Inspiration’ section. This I researched using various websites online. I also conducted two hours a day of English lessons. One hour was to the hotel staff of a luxury hotel owned by the man who owns the company Natural Mystic, which in turn owns Bokengo, where my internship was based. The other hour was to one of the men who worked in the office alongside me.

Daily Life

Living in Jodhpur immediately after having left Oxford is quite hard, and this should be emphasised. Jodhpur is noisy and very dirty, and certainly quite a culture shock. The room I was provided with was very basic and had a bucket instead of a shower. After two months this got a little bit annoying. There was a very different cultural attitude to expectations of work output compared to that which I am used to.

Lasting Impressions

I would like to visit India again, properly. When I got the chance to travel it was a fantastic experience, and I made some lasting friendships with people who were very kind to me.
Frederick Howell, Penultimate Year, BA Modern Languages (French), St. Hilda’s College

Work Projects

I taught French lessons to students at the school both at IB and IGCSE level. The department at the school helped me in the provision of materials and gave me indications as to how my ideas on lessons could fit into the curriculum.

Daily Life

I worked Monday to Friday every week. I travelled to school by car with the children of the host family. During weekends I had the opportunity to explore Delhi and its surrounding areas. When not working I travelled by rickshaw or metro.

Lasting Impressions

The internship left a lasting impression. It made me sure that I want to further explore India. Teaching there also helped me develop many skills and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Andreea Raslescu, Second Year, BA Experimental Psychology, Somerville College

Work Projects

I taught Psychology to year 12 and year 13 students, following the IB diploma curriculum. I also supervised year 13 students collecting data for their practical assessment in Psychology and gave feedback on Psychology-related extended essays. I was supervised by the school’s psychology teacher during most of the lessons I taught - she was encouraging and supportive which made me feel more at ease during the first few lessons, having never taught an entire classroom before. She also made herself available by e-mail, in the event that I had any questions about lesson planning or the material I should include.

Daily Life

I woke up at 6 am every day and was out the door by 7 - the traffic in Delhi can get pretty hectic so the drive to school took about an hour every day. I got to school/work together with my host family’s children, which allowed for fun bonding time listening to music and talking about the differences between India and the UK. After school, the interns would usually go out as a group: we visited monuments, tasted the local cuisine or just hung out at one of our host family’s houses. And if I fancied a quieter day, I usually went back home and relaxed by the pool in the back garden.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has helped me confirm my love for teaching and guiding students, and that becoming an Educational Psychologist is the right career path for me.

The internship has helped me appreciate India a lot more - although it is still a developing country, it has much to offer with respect to both sensorial experiences and work opportunities! I would gladly return to work in India, and at The British School. More importantly, though, the internship has helped me confirm my love for teaching and guiding students, and that becoming an Educational Psychologist is the right career path for me.
attractive proposition. Disadvantages aside, expat-life in Delhi offers a wealth of cultural experience and a standard of living which is arguably quite a bit higher than that which a comparable salary in Europe could afford. I enjoyed teaching at the British School. I will not be entering the teaching profession for the long-term, immediately after graduation. However, this experience confirmed that it is a profession which I would enjoy and which I would strongly consider were I looking to change careers a few years down the line.

Alexander Harries, Final Year, BA History, St. John’s College

Work Projects

I taught IGCSE and IB History as well as IB Theory of Knowledge. I also ran some debating workshops for Years 10-12 and guided students with university applications.

Daily Life

I lived with a host family in Gurgaon, around 30km outside Central Delhi. I left for school at 07:15, with the school day starting at 08:05 (a 40 minute commute by car was always entertaining). Time at school would be doing a mixture of teaching lessons, assisting teachers in lessons, planning lessons and marking. Some days after school I was involved in debating or university preparation. The school day would finish at 14:20 or 15:30. After school I would return to Gurgaon with my host family, go sightseeing with the interns or socialise at another host family’s house. Weekends were mostly free. The school organised a day trip to Agra on one Saturday and a CSR morning on another Saturday. Otherwise, I spent weekends sightseeing with other interns or spending time with my host family.

Lasting Impressions

Delhi gets a lot of negative press so I was definitely nervous upon arrival. It is certainly true that Delhi is ever so slightly bonkers (huge, busy, noisy, dirty- at times an all-out attack on the senses) and getting ill or scammed are very real risks. However, Delhi has a huge amount to offer: excellent sightseeing, great restaurants, plenty of cultural events, trendy bars, etc. In addition, living with host families in relatively wealthy enclaves shields interns from a lot of the problems which most tourists face. I would definitely come back to explore more of India as a tourist. However, I would hesitate to do so on an absolute shoe-string, as it is clear that having some home-comforts (e.g. AC) can go a long way in making your trip more pleasant. Prior to going to Delhi I would never have dreamed of living in India. Whilst I have no active plans to move there, I can certainly see that were one made the right offer, it could be an

not be entering the teaching profession for the long-term, immediately after graduation. However, this experience confirmed that it is a profession which I would enjoy and which I would strongly consider were I looking to change careers a few years down the line.
Will Glover, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Exeter College

Work Projects

I undertook an oral history project at Broughton Castle, a country house in rural Oxfordshire. This involved three main tasks: Transcribing interviews that were conducted and recorded by the Lady Saye and Sele during the 80s and 90s, conducting my own interviews with current inhabitants and staff at Broughton (in an attempt not only to understand how life and work there has changed over the years but also to record for posterity the state of affairs in the present day), and editing all the material and extracting the most significant/interesting/accessible extracts to be posted online, either on the Broughton Castle and/or the Thames Valley Country House Partnership Project website.

Daily Life

Some of the work, such as the transcribing, would be done from home, so I spent a couple of days a week there. For the rest of the time, however, I went to Broughton itself, where an average day might involve some transcribing, followed by conducting interviews with the various inhabitants and staff there. I had an office to myself and often the family were not there, so I would just get down to work by myself. I never felt isolated, however, and was made to feel extremely welcome by everyone from the moment I set foot in the door. On the days where the family were there, I would have lunch with them and talk to them about (among other things) the project and its progress.

Lasting Impressions

I can safely say that Broughton Castle is one of the warmest, friendliest places I’ve ever worked. This was confirmed by all the other staff there; when interviews, they all had only positive things to say about the Fiennes family and their home. I had not previously considered heritage as a career prospect, but having taken part in it to some small degree has shown me how rewarding it is, both for those that benefit from it (i.e. Broughton) and those that make it happen (me, other staff, the Fiennes family).
Alice Ashpitel, Penultimate Year, MEarthSci, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I worked on redesigning the awards scheme which CPRE Branches give to their dedicated volunteers. I designed a new set of certificates, sourced materials, costed the project, talked to the branches to get nominations and wrote up why each recipient won an award. Whilst doing this I was supported by my line manager who was incredibly helpful and full of advice but who also allowed me to make my own executive decisions. In my first week I helped run the inaugural staff network day, where staff members from branches across the country met to discuss issues. I sat in on the meeting and was minute taker. My line manager made sure I knew what was required of me and checked I had all the key points. I was then in charge of writing them up and producing actions from the meeting which I was then responsible for following up. During the meeting I also gave a presentation on the research I had done for an online platform which staff would use to communicate more effectively. I was also responsible for designing a new method for assessing the ‘health’ of the CPRE branches. The brief was to create a quantitative analysis where there had only ever been qualitative data. I assessed CPRE Branch websites, social media presence and communications with the national office as well as with members, and their strategies for the future. From this I created a scoring system under five categories and wrote a report on which branches were thriving and which were weak. I then gave my recommendations for improvement. I was given help with Excel whilst creating my assessment and feedback on my report. I also helped create the new CPRE Top Lines document. This document contains a summary of every issue CPRE campaigns on and the policy line on the issue as well as responses to typical queries. The aim of the document is to provide the whole office with knowledge of all the varied areas of policy work and help staff respond to queries. This had been a pipeline project for 18 months and I was in charge of taking the rough text that had already been taken off the website, and meeting with each staff member to check that these areas of policy were up to date (which often they were not) and re-writing them. Whilst doing this I was constantly meeting staff members, who were very helpful and willing to check what I had written multiple times. I also met with the project manager several times and we adjusted the document several times to fit in all the different information received. I was encouraged to use my own ideas to create
the clearest layout and re-write whatever I felt was necessary. I researched and wrote an article about branch-to-branch working for the national magazine. I was contacting branches directly and had a lot of independence whilst writing it. Besides this I was dealing with everyday admin tasks and helping my Line Manager with whatever branch issues arose day to day. Many of the above projects were supervised by different people, which was not only interesting but fun and I had the chance to experience varied styles of working as a result.

Daily Life

I commuted from Surrey to Waterloo every day and then walked to the office in Southwark which was a really nice walk. The office has a very friendly and relatively informal structure - it is open plan and people are always talking. I was taken on a walk around on my first day to meet everyone. I was given £6 a day for lunch and had an hour long break. There are lots of cafes and a street market nearby so there was a lot to choose from. Often I took my lunch back to the office and sat and chatted with people and we had some very competitive crossword sessions in the ‘Break Out Area’ which was essentially a kitchen/living room space with sofas and microwaves etc. There is afternoon tea every Wednesday at 4pm where two staff members bring cake, cheese, biscuits, dips, bread and pudding for everyone to have a break and chill out. I also went to the Staff Day out to Kew Gardens, we got the boat from Westminster and we all had a tour and a picnic before splitting into smaller groups to wander around. We then met up for a rounders match on the cricket green, and drinks in the pub. There is a staff football team who play every Monday lunch for 2 hours which another intern went along to. I socialised with my Line Manager mostly who was very friendly and my other project leaders as well as the other interns and volunteers. I think I had spent time talking to everyone in a non-work related capacity by the time I left including the chief executive. My hours were pretty flexible and I usually worked 9:15 -4:30 but this varied depending on travel and what I needed to do.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed working in London and would definitely return to work there - especially south of the river. CPRE was a fantastic organisation to work for because I was able to work on so many projects, and often independently which helped me build confidence in my abilities and decisions. I would highly recommend them to anyone with any interest in environmental NGOs or more generally experiencing work in the third sector. I really liked the friendly nature of the office and I think that this stems partly from the nature of the work, everyone is working towards a common set of goals and have all actively chosen to work in the environmental area of the third sector. I personally don’t think I would want to do that job immediately after graduation. There are other avenues I want to explore which are slightly more focused on my degree, however having had this experience I would now consider a move into it in the future (as many in the office did). It has reaffirmed to me that I am particularly interested in certain aspects of my degree and want to pursue these, in particular having worked with the person in charge of CPRE’s energy policies I am interested in looking at environmental law/policy. More generally I am now much more interested in working in the sustainability sector, or at least for an organisation that emphasises sustainability in its work.
Yunshu Li, Penultimate Year, MEng, St. Hilda’s College

Work Projects

I worked on a range of tasks during the internship. At the beginning, I was responsible for extracting useful data from multiple sources to create Excel models. Prior to this, I had little experience with Excel and it was a very steep learning curve. In addition, I also worked on some business development tasks, such as helping out with bids or researching new business opportunities. My colleagues were generally helpful and very efficient. In the fifth week, I became involved in researching environmental policies and business opportunities in Asia. My supervisor invited me to meetings and conference calls, and checked on my work regularly. I particularly enjoyed these business development tasks as they required me to speak to and interact with people from the organisation.

Daily Life

I lived relatively near to the workplace and walked to work every day. A typical day would start at 9 and end at 5.30 in the evening, with an hour long lunch break in between. Until the last week of my internship, I was the only intern in my department. I appreciated how people would introduce themselves when they knew I was new, and I was therefore able to make some friends from other departments. It was not a structured internship programme, but I enjoyed the hands-on learning approach. There was a lot of independence and flexibility in the way I could complete my work, which I valued. A little more guidance at the start of the internship, however, would have made settling in a bit easier. On weekends, I would explore London, or meet with friends.

Lasting Impressions

This internship experience has been a very insightful one. I was especially impressed by the dedication my colleagues had demonstrated towards their work. London is an exciting and diverse city to live in, and I always had new things I wanted to try. I would certainly consider a career in this sector.

Pico Mannocci, MSc Nature, Pembroke College

Work Projects

My internship involved organising meetings and brainstorming sessions with team managers to discuss company strategy and organisation. Another task was business development for the organisation including scoping potential markets, contacting possible partners and writing bids and proposals, as well as project work including research into technologies and policies.

Daily Life

I was living at home which is perhaps an atypical example. I cycled to work each morning and spent most of my time with old friends. I have made good friends at my place of work however, but mostly socialising with them is confined to work hours.

Lasting Impressions

This internship has certainly been eye-opening and informed me about aspects of the sector that I had not previously considered. It was not what I had initially imagined, and it was more challenging and corporate than what I had expected, but valuable none the less.
Murtaza Safdari, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Christ Church College

Work Projects

I was involved with the Compact Linear Collider (CLIC) experiment at CERN, where I was working on the phase feed forward system on the Control Test Facility (CTF3). My project was primarily to do with simulating the phase of the beam, and comparing these simulations with the real beam to assess the beam quality. I received vital support from my supervisors, who helped me with both the technical, as well as the theoretical aspects of this project.

Daily Life

The typical day of a CERN summer student starts off with three lectures in the morning. These lectures cover a wide range of topics, and are delivered by some of the world’s leading experts in the fields of particle and applied physics. After this, lunch is served in one of the three in-house restaurants at CERN, where people are provided with a wide variety of food choices to pick from. Students then work till dinner time on their respective summer projects, after which they are free for the day. Evening activities often involve meeting up with other summer students and either staying in to play some games or watch some television, or going out into Geneva for dinner and general merriment.

Lasting impressions

My time at CERN has helped me gain a new insight into life as a particle physicist working on an international collaboration of its scale. I’ve spent some quality time travelling and having fun with other summer students, having debates and discussions with my peers and supervisors, and working on the cutting edge of particle physics. I really enjoyed the international culture of CERN, and Geneva in general. The city is always buzzing with life, and there is always something for everyone to do here. The working environment at CERN is exceptional. There hangs an unparalleled sense of camaraderie and shared responsibility at CERN, something which I consider to be truly unique to CERN and the scientific community. I also enjoyed travelling around Switzerland and learning about the Swiss people and their culture. Given the opportunity, I would certainly go back to work at CERN in the future.
Lucy Martin, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Trinity College

Work Projects

During my time at CERN I have worked on transverse beam dynamics at CTF3. I used Matlab to write programs to complete a quadscan of a virtual beam using 2 quadrupole magnets, finding the Twiss parameters of the beam and the values of the two quadrupoles which gave a constant beam size. I then adapted the program so that it could run using the actual beam at CTF3. I then used tomography to reconstruct the shape of the beam in phase space. I received a lot of support from my supervisor, who taught me the basics of how to use the programs I needed and was always available to help when I was unsure of what to do next.

Daily Life

I lived on site in CERN for the duration of my internship, at the CERN hostel. For the first 6 weeks of the internship we had a lecture program (as part of the CERN summer student program) in the morning which was extremely interesting and covered a broad range of topics. The afternoons and the last two weeks of the internship were dedicated to the project. It was easy to find people to socialise with as about 300 students took part in the summer school from all around the world. This was a great way to learn about the other types of research people are doing at CERN. The CERN hostel was only a two minute walk away from where I worked, which was very convenient if occasionally strange! Outside of work I took part in High-Intensity Interval Training through the CERN fitness club, and visited Geneva and the surrounding area with friends.

The internship has confirmed that I would like to go on to study for a PhD, and also made me more aware of accelerator physics, which is an area I’ve really enjoyed working in.

Lasting Impressions

I have a very good lasting impression of working at CERN and in the area of accelerator physics. I like the area, but feel that to return for a long period of time I would try to learn French! The internship has confirmed that I would like to go on to study for a PhD, and also made me more aware of accelerator physics, which is an area I’ve really enjoyed working in.
Work Projects

My time with Climate Connect was very informative and interesting. I was introduced to the whole spectrum of the company’s work as they rotated me through each of their functions. I spent the first few days in the financial analysis and policy analysis team. Besides learning about the day-to-day operation of the firm, this time gave me the chance to attend some very interesting government policy meetings.

In the first of these meetings I was able to see how policy is created in India - the format entailed the government proposing new regulations before being heckled by lawyers from all sorts of different interest groups. Important bills were then re-drafted during that lengthy meeting before being re-published later. The second such meeting was hosted in Delhi’s most luxurious hotel, where several different consulting firms including McKinsey and Deloitte made pitches to the government on how to alter the policy before they in turn were cross-examined by the officials. These meetings gave me a fascinating opportunity to learn about policy making in India. Later in the internship, the Director took me on a business trip to Pune in the south, which is one of India’s top IT cities, and where the firm’s IT is outsourced to. Here I learned about how a start-up manages its IT outsourcing, and about how to use Wordpress and self-hosting to manage sophisticated websites. I also enjoyed the opportunity to see one of India’s less touristic but most liveable cities. In terms of host organization support, my employer was extremely helpful, as they let me modify my timetable to meet my needs. When I requested that they allow me to live somewhere different from the worker’s accommodation (as I wanted to be in the more fun, centre of Delhi), they provided allowances to cover all my transport and hotel costs so that I could live in a fun backpackers hostel in the centre of Delhi.

Daily Life

I hope to have further involvement with my internship employer when it begins expansion into China, and I have an offer to join them for a part-time position any time from now.
I would get up each day at around 8 am. On my way to work I negotiated the exciting chaos of downtown Delhi’s Paharganj district, ate a panipuri or two and then make my way by tuk-tuk to the express train to take me to the office in Delhi’s suburbs near the airport. At work, Nitin Tanwar, the Director, gave me a daily morning briefing before allocating me to one of the work streams for the day – I usually spent 1-2 hours being briefed on the work stream’s tasks before being given time to reflect and research on the area, later I would have the chance to ask questions. Usually Nitin would take me out to one of his favourite restaurants for lunch and the work day ended at 5pm when I would take the express back to Delhi central. I had plenty of time in the evenings to explore Delhi and test its bar scene and broad range of delicious cuisine. On weekends I went on trips to nearby sites, including the Dalai Lama’s home in Dharamshala, the homeland of India’s hippies in Manali, the stunningly spiritual Ganges in Varanasi and the tourist trap in Agra (Taj Mahal). There was a lot to do, lots of support and a great social scene. I would also say however that an internship in India is not for the faint hearted, nor is it ideal for anyone lacking travel experience or at the least an open mind. As a foreigner in Delhi you tend to be viewed as a cash cow and as a result almost every single transaction involves second-guessing what the potential scam could be – while I enjoyed this daily/hourly challenge, I can imagine it could be very stressful for some.

**Lasting Impressions**

My internship was great. It introduced me to the world of carbon credits, carbon trading, carbon offset consulting, project management and general start-up management. Post internship, I am based in Beijing where I am studying for a Masters. I hope to have further involvement with my internship employer when it begins expansion into China, when China turns its pilot scheme carbon-trading into a nation-wide, fully implemented system, which is due to happen in 2017. I have an offer to join them for a part-time position any time from now and will do so once my masters course gets less busy. The internship also gave me my first ever opportunity to visit India – I really appreciated the stability it gave me over my first few weeks, I really got to know India by staying in Delhi and trying to make the most of everything it had to offer. It also gave me the time and space to get used to how things are done in India – this period served me well as a launchpad into the country, once I finished the internship I set off on a trip from North to South (Dharamshala to Kerala) and East to West (Goa to Pondicherry.) My initial period in Delhi followed by the travel opportunity gave me a really wonderful first glimpse into India. I would urge anyone to consider an internship with this company or with any other company in India – I am happy to be contacted with any queries future applicants may have.
My time at Compton Verney was primarily divided between a research project and a curatorial one; the former involved looking into the folk art collection at Compton Verney with an aim to improving a bid for its Arts Council designation, whilst the latter was a collaboration with the Gallery Director to put together and plan an upcoming exhibition on 1950s design. Both projects were highly stimulating and involved a great deal of independent work and initiative on my part, which was an invaluable experience and highly rewarding. The 1950s exhibition work was excellently supported by Steven Parissien, who was a great help and highly dedicated to access initiatives such as this for arts careers. I was primarily helping him to source objects and communicate with private lenders and other museums and galleries, as well as taking site visits and research trips, thus helping form an impression of the process behind planning a gallery exhibition. The research project into the folk art collection was fascinating and diverse; the complications and intense debate surrounding the term formed a large part of my research and final analysis, and were extremely interesting to look into. The ways in which such issues shape the perception of the vernacular paintings and folk art objects within the Compton Verney collection were a useful and interesting topic of study and one which was informed by numerous research trips to other UK museums with similar collections, funded by the gallery itself.

### Daily Life

I worked in the gallery on a weekday 9-5 basis, although I was also told that remote work from home was perfectly acceptable as I was mostly working in a research capacity. However, the gallery environment was particularly interesting for me given that it allowed me to gain more insight into the career path and general office environment, so I came into the gallery most days, excluding various site visits and research trips. I was based in nearby Stratford upon Avon, as my home near Bristol was too far for a commute. My rent was only covered from Monday to Friday, so I drove back to the south west for the weekends. The gallery is in a very rural location about half an hour from my rented room in Stratford, so I drove in every day by car, giving a lift to a fellow intern. Unfortunately, given the gallery’s location, the team was spread out over a wide area and the necessity of driving home made socialisation rather limited and the team more diffuse, and not as close-knit as I would have preferred. I had a little difficulty settling in to the environment given the temporary nature of my placement but effort was made by my colleagues to remedy this. When it came to the time of my leaving, a lovely tea and cake goodbye party was held in the office.

### Lasting Impressions

The internship has certainly given me a great deal to think about. It has been extremely useful in forming lasting contacts and giving me a taste of work at the intersection between arts and heritage. Working in a gallery within a country house certainly provided a useful stepping stone between my academic experience of the 17th and 18th century architecture of such properties and my interest in a career in the arts and galleries, however it has also helped me to realise that my interests lie primarily with research and/or a more modern, urban gallery environment. My situation in nearby Stratford and the nature of the gallery as affected by its rural position were not ideal for me personally, although the work was stimulating. Although it may be an environment I would be more attracted to further along in a career I would ideally...
had never previously visited. I would certainly enjoy visiting again, and seeing how it will develop in the future. As a learning experience it was also rather important. It taught me the ways in which large organisations function, and the role of planning, ideas and interactions in producing a viable and spirited working environment. It has helped me very much in the sense that I now have very hands-on experience of the kind of work which I hope to pursue in the future. I am very grateful to the experience.

Joel Nelson, Second Year, BA History, Jesus College

Work Projects

My task was to review the financial viability of the organisation as a whole. I started out by investigating the history of the organisation (financial and other), and in the following weeks I worked in closer detail with several departments trying to gain a deeper understanding of their financial concerns. I spent roughly a week on each task and tried to find ways of both tightening up the status-quo, and working with the teams to come up with new income streams and related innovations. The gallery provided me with all of the relevant reading, and the necessary introductions in order to make these tasks more feasible.

Daily Life

Compton Verney is a very nice working environment, and an excellent gallery. In my first week I was kindly given a number of talks and tours which acquainted me with the history of the organisation and its goals for the future. The staff members are all extremely friendly and made all the interns feel very welcome. I ordinarily worked from 9am to 5 pm and, later on in the internship, my hours became more flexible, which I supplemented with work at home. That was largely because the round-trip took roughly three hours by bicycle. I would spend the majority of the day in the office getting to grips with my various tasks. I was very lucky in finding a wonderful place to stay in a very picturesque village, and was very pleased to get to know some of the villagers rather well.

Lasting Impressions

I developed a great deal of affection for Compton Verney, both for the people who work so hard there, and for the physical environment, which is spectacular. I was very glad to get to know Warwickshire, which I had never previously visited. I would certainly enjoy visiting again, and seeing how it will develop in the future. As a learning experience it was also rather important. It taught me the ways in which large organisations function, and the role of planning, ideas and interactions in producing a viable and spirited working environment. It has helped me very much in the sense that I now have very hands-on experience of the kind of work which I hope to pursue in the future. I am very grateful to the experience.

Leon Acquah, Penultimate Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Balliol College

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Work Projects

The project that I was working on was the sending of grant applications to local trusts. The first part involved researching trusts (including online and telephone research) that Crisis already had on its database to ensure that the information (such as contact details and how to apply) was up to date. I checked that the trusts listed would be interested in funding the work that Crisis does, as each trust has different criteria for the types of organisations they are interested in funding, and updated relevant information where necessary. I wrote three different grant proposals, focused on different areas of Crisis’s work, using research I had done using reports written by Crisis and other organisations, previous funding applications, what I had learnt from working at Crisis and case studies of clients who had used Crisis Skylight Oxford. I also used statistics from data collected by Crisis about the use of its services, and that I found using online research. I was also involved in preparing the mail merges, deciding which type of application to send to each trust and how much to ask them for, and I put together an instructions document describing how to do the work that I had been doing using the database for others to use. The support I received from Crisis was excellent, I can’t commend them highly enough. Sara, the Regional Fundraising Executive for Crisis Skylight Oxford, who was my direct line manager, always ensured that I had all the help I needed. On my first day of the internship we had a meeting to explain the project I would be working on and she showed me how to use the database and other resources I would be using. We also set objectives to be completed during my time at Crisis, both for the project and personal objectives. I was given the opportunity to set these personal objectives, which included skills I would gain, things I would learn about homelessness and the work Crisis does to combat that, and insight I wanted to gain from people in various roles to help me with thinking about my future career. Sara helped me to fulfil these during my time at Crisis. We had weekly meetings scheduled to check on the progress of achieving the objectives, to give me the opportunity to give any feedback I had on the internship so far, such as if there was anything I was struggling with or wanted more support for, and to set goals for the coming week. I also met with the volunteer coordinator who checked I was settling in OK and if there was anything I wanted any more help or support with. As well as scheduled meetings, Sara was
available at any time to discuss the project and was very happy to answer any questions I had. Everyone at Crisis was really welcoming and willing to help me. I was able to meet with Crisis employees in a variety of roles, both in Oxford and at the Head Office in London, to discuss the work they did (the role of their department in Crisis’ work, what they did on a daily basis, the skills their job required and the career path they had taken to get there). So I gained an extremely valuable insight into a wide variety of jobs. I was also able to help with some of the classes that Crisis Skylight Oxford provides for people experiencing homelessness, including a CV workshop and IT class, and attend sessions including a housing drop-in and job club to learn more about homelessness and the work that Crisis does, and I had the opportunity to attend fundraising department meetings at the Crisis head office in London.

Daily Life

I worked 9-5 Monday to Friday in the office in central Oxford (with a lunch break with food in the yummy Crisis cafe!), for six weeks. As the organisation was in Oxford, I was able to live in the house that I would be living in for the next academic year as the lease had already begun, and cycle to work. Crisis would have reimbursed my travel expenses if I had wanted to get the bus. I worked in the same office as my supervisor so throughout the day we would discuss the project and any issues or questions I had. I also spent some days working in different offices in the building, giving me an insight into the work of different departments, and on one day I went to the office in London to sit on fundraising team meetings and meet people working in different departments in the London office that they don’t have in Oxford. On a lot of days I would also do something other than working on the computer, for example meetings with colleagues working in different roles, sitting in on sessions they were running, helping with classes for homeless clients or taking part in other activities happening in the building such as a volunteer social and watching the performance of a group of clients who had put together a band as part of a music class.

Lasting Impressions

I had a really fantastic time working at Crisis, I was really sad to finish, and intend to continue volunteering there. I learnt so much, about working at a charity, in social care and in fundraising. I gained a much better understanding of homelessness, its causes and effects, and gained a very valuable insight into a wide variety of jobs. Crisis is a great organisation doing some fantastic work and everyone was very welcoming, friendly and helpful- it was a lovely place to work and I got a lot of useful advice. It was an extremely useful and enjoyable experience.

Crisis is a great organisation doing some fantastic work and everyone was very welcoming, friendly and helpful.
Hamish Arnott, Second Year, BA Human Sciences, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

I was tasked with developing an Android app for nurses to use to report back on the operation of clinical trial centres around the world. Previously they emailed in digital copies of their paperwork and the study coordinator would input the data by hand, so developing an app offered the prospect of significant time savings. My manager was very supportive throughout the internship. I had previous programming experience, but I received a lot of advice and support both with using the existing development resources at the CTSU and researching new ones.

Daily Life

My working day was flexible, as beyond the requirements of my project and my contracted hours I wasn’t required to arrive or leave according to a particular schedule. The other programmers in the CTSU were really friendly and we spent a good amount of time chatting in the canteen - there was even the odd lunchtime trip to the pub.

Lasting Impressions

Although I stayed in Oxford, I got to work at the university’s Old Road campus, which I’d not seen much of before. There’s a very diverse set of people there, from programmers to medics to researchers, so it feels quite lively compared to some other university buildings. The CTSU has a great working atmosphere - the focus is on results rather than procedure, so as long as you can justify your approach to solving a problem they give you a fair bit of leeway in how you get it done. I’m definitely considering software and app development as a career more seriously than I did before.
Catrin Thomas, Final Year, BA Philosophy, St. Edmund Hall

Work Projects

I undertook research that helped contribute to a number of Demos’ projects. This included searching for previously used methods, findings of relevant surveys or studies, and background research for projects. I also interviewed for one of the projects, and transcribed a few interviews. The projects were all focused within the Welfare ad Public Services team, or the Citizenship team.

Daily Life

I took the tube to work, and the total journey took about 50 minutes. The office was open plan and quite small, so I got to know everyone quite quickly. I met friends and relatives who were in London, and went on work drinks on Fridays. I also went back to Oxford or to my family home a couple of times over weekends. There were two other interns at the office so I socialised with them a lot.

The internship confirmed for me that I am really interested in policy work and that I would like to go into that field of work as a career.

Lasting Impressions

I don’t particularly like London, as it is too large to get anywhere without needing the tube. However, I will be returning to London to work this autumn, and so I am glad that I have had this experience. The internship confirmed for me that I am really interested in policy work and that I would like to go into that field of work as a career.
Nicholas Tan, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence, Harris Manchester College

Work Projects

I worked in the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM) in Demos, which studies how social media affects politics and policy. I worked on a number of projects, most notably a study on compulsive gambling behaviour online for the Responsible Gambling Trust, as well as a report for the Open Society Foundation on how MEPs engage with their constituents over social media. These projects involved using in-house software to classify tweets into actionable reports, by building algorithms that could be used to analyse and visualise vast amounts of digital data. My supervisors and colleagues provided me with training and instruction in the use of the software, which was immensely helpful since I didn’t possess a background in computer science or programming. The work provided me with valuable insight into quantitative research methods, and allowed me to experience the intricacies of policy research first hand.

Daily Life

I was fortunate to find a friend’s place to stay in Euston, right in central London. This meant that getting to work wasn’t too difficult, since a tube station was helpfully nearby! The work environment was open and casual, and coming to work in a shirt and jeans was perfectly acceptable. Everyone worked in a single, large room and interacted freely while on their assignments. Even as an intern, I always felt that my opinion was valued and taken seriously, and my supervisors would keep me informed of events that were happening around and outside the office. Part of the excitement of working at a think-tank is that very few days are exactly the same - some days were spent on heavy research and data modelling, others were spent attending conferences and public debates with MPs, academics, and civil servants. I had many friends in London to meet with for drinks, but my colleagues in the office were friendly and always approachable, and within the first two weeks I was already attending a few socials. Everyone works hard on their projects, but after work, it’s clear that people also have a good time. It was especially heartening to see past interns and researchers return during these socials and parties - it made me realise that Demos was a broad community, with a warm and open culture that continually draws its people back. The close mentorship that I was provided by my supervisors was noteworthy in itself. These individuals were leaders in their fields, and constantly asked by government and civil society for their advice on major public issues ranging from technology to radicalisation. The opportunity to work (literally) next to these individuals and be provided with advice and exposure was in itself a highlight of this internship.

Lasting Impressions

Working in a think-tank in London proved to be an extraordinarily liberating experience - being able to engineer solutions for important policy dilemmas in a friendly and casual environment is a privilege that few people get to do for a living. I was really thrilled to be given this opportunity, and to put my name to some ground breaking research. I would certainly like to return to London to work in a think-tank or a similar environment, and it has cemented my intentions to work in public policy in the future.

Raphael Hogarth, Second Year, BA Philosophy, New College

Work Projects

I worked on three major quantitative projects in my time at Demos. The first was a briefing paper I produced for the Review on Third Party Campaigning (the Hodgson Review), conducted by the Cabinet Office. I was trained in the data analytics platform
Qlik, and used this software to conduct analysis on tweets sent to, from and about MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates during the 2015 General Election. I produced data visualisations to show the ways in which third parties were using social media to campaign in the run-up to the election, and considered the extent to which the current legislation on online campaigning is adequate to the electoral reality. The second was a collaboration with IPSOS Mori for Innovate UK (the technology strategy board), looking at how social media can be used as a gauge of public opinion. I used Qlik to mine and compare attitudinal data from Twitter (mainly on the general election) with offline attitudinal data collected by IPSOS Mori. The aim of this project was to ascertain whether differences between the online data and the offline data were due to demographic biases in online users (e.g. they tend to be young) or due to a ‘platform effect’, that is, a tendency to say different things when online from when offline.

Establishing certain demographic biases in the online dataset allowed us to control for these factors and attempt to make the online data ‘representative’, with a view to using Twitter as a real-time monitoring tool for public opinion. The third was a project for the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), looking at how social media data in the wake of an accident (e.g. a train crash) can be systematically triaged and mined for useful information. I used a Natural Language Processing platform developed by the University of Sussex to build an architecture which could distinguish between urgent requests for information, non-urgent requests for information, criticism of the train operating company, and irrelevant tweets. This developed my understanding of machine learning and natural language processing, and gave me an opportunity to try my hand at some coding. Though my focus was mainly on quantitative work, I undertook some qualitative work too. I edited a number of articles for Demos’s magazine of political ideas, Demos Quarterly. I also researched and wrote an article for the Demos site about the recently established Petitions Committee in the House of Commons (and the e-petitions system that goes with it). I did some research for a project focussing on the under-representation of Muslims in the higher professions. In addition, I edited and conducted research for two reports being produced for governments (at home and abroad) about the interaction between terrorism and social media.

**Daily Life**

The office was young, fun and relaxed. I would typically have a chat with my supervisor on a Monday morning about what we were going to be working on that week, and then work fairly independently for the rest of the week, dividing my time between my own project (a briefing paper for a Cabinet Office review) and research I was conducting for others at the think tank. By and large, I was very busy - I spent very little time sitting around in the office waiting for someone to give me something to do. People typically had lunch in the office over the papers, a chat and a collective effort at the Times quiz. A few times a week, I would have meetings, events or training sessions to go to elsewhere in London, so the scenery was pleasantly varied. There was also a lively social scene at the office - people typically went to the pub after work on a Friday, and I was taken out for a meal by the senior members of my research team in my final week. The congenial office environment was, day to day, one of the best things about this internship - the people were great to work with and the office a great place to work.

**Lasting Impressions**

The internship gave me a flavour of the think tank world, and also snapshots of the parliamentary policy process, party politics and journalism. It definitely bolstered my ambition to be involved in public decision making in some capacity.
Leonie Hoffman, First Year, BA Philosophy, Somerville College

Work Projects

My tasks on the project were initially quite varied, ranging from logistics and coordination of fieldwork to recording the data collected by our research assistants. As my understanding of the project grew, I was able to carve out a more specific area of greater responsibility for myself, in which I dealt with aspects of the research that interested me most: questionnaire and data base design, questions about how to avoid bias in planning data collection, etc. The team on the ground was extremely supportive, and I felt that they valued what I contributed.

Daily Life

The project was based in a rather small town and had no significant leisure facilities, or parks. Generally, working in that area meant restrictions on how to get around, so most of the time we drove. Walking was only possible in certain areas of town, and only during the daytime. To counter that, the team often organised outings during the weekends to the nearest city, to beaches and to the mountains. We also had communal dinners and barbecues quite frequently, and over time, made friends with some of the locals as well. We even organised an internal book club, reading South-Africa specific literature.

Lasting Impressions

I was, and still am, ambivalent about South Africa. Living in the country for three months, interacting with our local co-workers on a daily basis, and getting a sense of the wider political atmosphere was interesting, challenging and mind-opening. Slowly beginning to see the incredible paradoxes inherent in the socio-economic, cultural and political structures was difficult, because it also taught me about the limits of my capacity to understand what differs from my, European, background. The complexity of the country’s past and present clearly made simple judgments about the country as a whole, about what I saw in my daily life there, quite impossible. It is these experiences, however, that I am now building on in my degree when trying to understand political phenomena or concepts. This has been incredibly valuable, and I feel, will last quite a while as an experience to draw upon. Apart from that, I’ve gained a lot of confidence in research work, and would definitely contemplate this as a career option.
James Reid, Penultimate Year, BA History and Modern Languages (German), Wadham College

Work Projects

I was involved in several research and archival projects during my internship. These projects included cataloguing library indexes, tracing collections through rare book dealers and completing bibliographical research. I met regularly with supervisors to discuss the progress I was making and was also supported in conducting my own academic research.

Daily Life

As an intern I was given a lot of access to the various areas and departments of the archive. There were short-term researchers and another intern at the institution who were sociable and the archive laid on occasional seminars and tours of the museums attached to it which I could take part in.

Lasting Impressions

The internship gave me the opportunity to see another area of Germany to that which I had previously lived in. This experience allowed me to learn from some of the linguistic differences in the region, which was particularly useful for my competence in the language. I would certainly return to work in Germany. It has also confirmed that research as a general discipline is something I would be interested in working in.

Viktoria Herold, MSc Modern Languages, St Cross College

Work Projects

So far I have been involved in various research projects, with a special focus on the biographies of intellectual and/or literary families represented in the archive. The purpose of these projects is to understand the success of family biographies in recent years and to determine how this success relates to German as well as international literary culture.

Daily Life

I live in a guesthouse for researchers and scholarship holders at the Literature Archive. After breakfast in my studio apartment, I go to work in the library of the archive. Work usually starts at 9 am and lasts until 5 pm. I often meet up for lunch with colleagues and superiors around 1 pm. There are regular supervision meetings in which all the interns report to the director of the research division, who in turn gives advice and helps us plan future projects. On top of that, we all have individual meetings with researchers from the different departments of the archive; work here crosses disciplines as well as departments. After work I socialise with others staying in the guesthouse by cooking in the communal kitchen or by going out in one of the nearby towns.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has given me a valuable insight into German philology more broadly, and provenance research more specifically. My fellow interns have taught me a lot about German academic culture and they have thereby helped me decide where I want to continue my academic career: in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, the intellectual culture and the specific research methods of the Literature Archive will most definitely influence my future research in Comparative Literature.
**Guy Fowler, Second Year, MMathPhil, Exeter College**

**Work Projects**

I worked in the valuation team, valuing companies and investments for regulatory and financial reporting purposes. The work consisted mostly of Excel modelling, research and helping to prepare reports.

**Daily Life**

I mostly worked 8.45-17.45, though had to work later a few times. I lived at home for the internship and commuted in by tube. The team went for drinks a few times, and we also went out for lunch together at the end of the internship. The office was very friendly, and people were always happy to help me with anything I wasn’t sure about.

**Lasting Impressions**

I enjoyed the internship, the team I worked with were great and the work was mostly interesting. Valuation wasn’t an area I knew much about, and the internship gave an excellent introduction to it. Duff and Phelps was a good place to work and I would consider going back there.

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**Gen Hall, First Year, BA Philosophy, St. Edmund Hall**

**Work Projects**

During my internship I was provided with a variety of roles relevant to the appraisal of intangible assets in companies and the valuation of private equity investments. The work included research into markets and companies, building and checking financial models and writing reports.

**Daily Life**

My work day started around 8:30. I’d spend the first hour checking emails, reviewing work I had done the day before and catching up on the morning news. I would then get started on work that I had been set, which I had prioritised by urgency. For example, I could’ve spent the morning writing up on industry and company overviews and building the introductory sections of a report. At 12, I’d go grab lunch at the local Thai van nearby, and bring it up to the office to eat it at the desk. I was sat at a table of around 6 of us, and depending on how busy people were, we’d sit and talk for a bit. I’d get back to work around 30-60 minutes later, working on building a macro for a colleague’s model or putting together an IRR or WACC on Excel. This would take me through to around 5:30-6:30pm, and if I wasn’t too busy, I’d leave the office then to meet some friends for a drink in London or head back home. Occasionally, I’d have to stay in late to finish work and a bunch of us would order food on the company for dinner. The latest I stayed was until 11:00pm, but that was a one off case. On Fridays, most people on the office would leave early and we’d all go down to the bar and have a few drinks.

**Lasting Impressions**

Working in London really made me appreciate and enjoy the city, as I had time to see corners of it that I would not usually have seen if I were there for a shorter time period. It has made me consider working there after graduation - something that I had not put great thought into previously. An insight into the financial world was also very positive, and I am now more confident that it is a career path that I would be really interested to pursue. It was a good place to work and I would consider going back there.
boundaries for all the Earth Trust-owned land from Ordnance Survey data, and LIDAR terrain data. I also mapped lots of the structures found across Earth Trust land, such as power lines, oil pipes and gas pipes. In addition, I digitally mapped the results of various different research projects taken from the last 20 years, such as yearly frogspawn locations in Wallingford Castle Meadows.

I found the QGIS mapping very interesting, and I can see myself developing that as part of my career.

Daily Life

A typical day in the Earth Trust office involved leaving Oxford at 8.15 am and cycling 11 miles to the Earth Trust Centre in Little Wittenham. By 9am I arrived at the centre and met my supervisor to talk about my tasks for the day. Most mornings I would work on creating new map layers using my laptop and QGIS. I usually had lunch at 1pm, sometimes taking a walk up Round Hill with another intern to enjoy the views. By 5pm I was ready to update my supervisor on the work that I have done in the day. Sometimes I would go out into the field for surveying or data collection instead of staying in front of a computer all day. After cycling back, I would be home by 6pm.

Lasting Impressions

The Earth Trust and Little Wittenham are in a very nice rural place, but I probably would not want to live or work there in the future as the area is very isolated. The work at the Trust isn’t quite what I want to do. I did find the QGIS mapping very interesting though, and I can see myself developing that as part of my career.
Daily Life

I stayed in a large house on a compound with my fellow Oxford intern and four other company employees, including our boss and another intern from South Africa. We were driven pretty much everywhere in company trucks. Out of work, we were lucky enough to hitch rides from fellow employees heading to places of interest; including Cape Three Points, Lake Botomswe and the local Kejetia market. They also invited us to all their gatherings with a friendly group of local expat friends on week nights and weekends. We went out for a couple of company dinners and made friends with the local Ghanaian interns we were also working with.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed learning a lot about Ghana and its culture and language in particular. The experience has made me a slightly more patient person. My experience was that people there very much value taking their time, although to be honest this was too much for me sometimes. In terms of career goals and ambitions, I feel I further improved my research and data management skills. I developed interpersonal and meeting management skills from meeting such a range of people from all over the world, and doing all kinds of projects. I gained an insight into the food and agricultural sector and supply chains, which is what I wanted.
different farming districts and then on to specific communities to interview farmers about the scheme. After this, we would then drive to a town near the next day's district and find another hotel. We would do this in the weekdays and then come back to the city for the weekends. For the weekends there would always be something happening and we often went out with other people working in Kumasi or went on trips to Accra, a lake or the beach. While working in the city, I was taken to the office each day by a driver, and generally worked from 9 until 5.30, although while writing up my report I often worked longer hours than this. Outside of work there was not that much to do in Kumasi, so we often just went out for dinner or to a bar in the evenings.

**Lasting Impressions**

Ghana was a lovely place to work and my lasting impressions will definitely be of hospitality and kindness. I would love to return and work in Ghana or elsewhere in West Africa in the future.

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Jacob Studholme, Penultimate Year, MChem, St. Hugh’s College

**Work Projects**

I worked on an assessment of the companies’ inputs credit scheme. The scheme allows smallholder farmers to buy high quality agricultural inputs, agrochemicals and fertilizers, on credit.

My internship was split between fieldwork and office work, where I spent five weeks in the field and the rest in Kumasi. While in the field, I worked with five local interns and two drivers. We would stay in local hotels and wake up early in the morning to drive to different farming districts and then on to specific communities to interview farmers about the scheme. After this, we would then drive to a town near the next day's district and find another hotel. We would do this in the weekdays and then come back to the city for the weekends. For the weekends there would always be something happening and we often went out with other people working in Kumasi or went on trips to Accra, a lake or the beach. While working in the city, I was taken to the office each day by a driver, and generally worked from 9 until 5.30, although while writing up my report I often worked longer hours than this. Outside of work there was not that much to do in Kumasi, so we often just went out for dinner or to a bar in the evenings.

**Lasting Impressions**

Ghana was a lovely place to work and my lasting impressions will definitely be of hospitality and kindness. I would love to return and work in Ghana or elsewhere in West Africa in the future.
Elementis (Deuchem) (Taiwan, China)

Oliver Crossley, Penultimate Year, MChem, University College

Work Projects

My research was largely split into two sections- a practical laboratory based project, and a literature review and theoretical project. Most of my time was spent in the lab researching within the area of chemical dispersants. By utilising the urethane reaction, I was challenged to take a current synthetic procedure and apply it to a different system. My main targets were to optimise the reaction conditions and develop the most suitable reactant composition in order to maximise the yield. I was also involved in collaboration with the analytical department in order to devise a technique to quantify the product composition. The second of the two projects was based on the copolymerisation of acrylates with vinyl ethers. I conducted an extensive literature review, and produced a written report to provide the pros and cons of different experimental techniques. I was also asked to suggest which method I thought was the most suitable for industrial application. In the last week of the internship I presented my research on both topics to the research group.

Daily Life

Taiwan is a fantastic place! To say that the people are kind would be an understatement. Everybody is extremely willing to help and very welcoming. My accommodation was a 20 minute walk from the company and so it was simple and easy to walk to work each morning. However I would often meet other people from the company for breakfast, and sometimes it was even waiting for me on my desk when I arrived. The day started at 8:30 and finished at 17:30, with a one hour lights out and sleep at midday. The lab was very sociable and everybody was always very keen to organise trips at the weekend. I often spent the evenings with a friend I made who also worked at Elementis so there was no time to get homesick. We travelled around on his scooter, and saw many great places, and experienced some exotic, and sometimes very unusual, foods. He became a really great friend and is planning to come and visit me in England early next year. The managers were also very friendly. They took me out for dinner the first two days I was here, gave me a phone with a Taiwanese sim card, and bought me many things for my accommodation. One organised a trip to and a tour around a neighbouring city with his son one weekend. I managed to visit a lot of places across Taiwan, making use of the High Speed Rail. I saw lots of scenic places, went to the top of Taipei 101 (for the best view of Taipei), got some great photos while riding a cable car over the city, ran in a 15km night market run and took a dip in one of the natural hot springs in Beitou.

Lasting Impressions

I had an amazing time in Taiwan. It was brilliant to experience its different culture and its contrasting environment to the UK. Although it was a fantastic place, I would not choose to live or work there in the near future because of the language barrier. My experience confirmed that I would like to work in research and development, and I will be keen to find a job in this area as soon as I can.
EM Communications (Moscow, Russia)

Alex Watson, MPhil Russian and East European Studies, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

I was responsible for numerous PR and research related tasks, ranging from media monitoring to social media strategy advice for clients.

Daily Life

The hours were more 10-6 than 9-5. There were slow days and busy days, although definitely more of the latter than the former. I was able to rent accommodation through AirBnB within walking distance of work, which made life easier.

Lasting Impressions

I was happy to be able to live in Moscow for the summer and it was definitely a learning experience. The internship gave me insight into the PR and IR sphere, and will certainly help inform future career decisions.

Alexander Walmsley, BA Modern Languages, Penultimate Year, (French and Russian), Lincoln College

Work Projects

The work varied quite a lot and was dependent on what the client needed. Normally it involved some media monitoring, with additional research sometimes required on a specified topic. There was also some translation work, proofreading and writing articles for newsletters. In addition there was the odd bit of work with spreadsheets. I also went on a client meeting and visited a warehouse complex. The work was usually well-explained, and I felt I was given enough time to complete it. The atmosphere in the office was friendly and informal, which made it a pleasant environment to work in.

Daily Life

I rented an apartment on Airbnb with the other intern. The flat was situated a 15 minute walk away from work. Having already been to Russia several times, I didn’t experience much of a culture shock and had several friends already here. Outside of work I met up with Russian, British and American friends and went to bars, restaurants and attractions. We had a work party one Friday which involved over 100 guests and one weekend, our boss also invited us along to a music festival for which he bought the tickets.

Lasting Impressions

Overall I’ve had a very positive experience in Russia. Not much has changed in my opinion about Russia: I still love coming here and enjoying its culture, whilst remaining as exasperated as ever with some of its quirks. It’s certainly never a boring place to be! I would certainly return to work here and would perhaps live here, though would have to think about the trade-offs more carefully. My career ambitions have been aided by this trip as I realise that whilst I’m not convinced that PR is the sector I wish to go into, there are many aspects of this position, such as the small office and the project based approach, which attract me.
Daily Life

My very basic grasp of the language could’ve made living in Russia a near-impossible task, but my host family made it incredibly easy to settle in. They immediately welcomed me into their family and provided me with meals for a few days, until I eventually moved into the apartment below. If only for a short time, it was great to gain so much insight into their way of life. This hospitality was also present at work, where everyone made great efforts to make me feel welcome. St Petersburg offered a great deal to do outside of working hours, with vast amounts of culture; both historical and modern.

Lasting Impressions

I thought Russia was an interesting country, and St Petersburg was beautiful. I would certainly return, however I am certain I don’t want to work for an NGO in the future as it was less efficient in comparison to businesses I’ve worked for.

If only for a short time, it was great to gain so much insight into my host family’s way of life.

Liam Langshaw, First Year, MPhys, Queen’s College

Work Projects

Projects ranged from writing reports, concerning important environmental issues in Russia, to producing an in-office exhibition. This aimed to raise awareness of ecological issues and how to tackle them. The posters used for the exhibition were mainly gathered from local artists and partner NGOs, which involved negotiation for copyright permission.
Anca-Simona Georgescu, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe), Christ Church College

Work Projects

Oxford for three months (I am a part time student), but also to understand more about the architecture and history of the city. As an architect, it is amazing to get access to the important buildings and develop understanding of their evolution and their present problems. The people I have met were incredibly kind and helpful, and a solution was always found for anything I asked for. I am very happy to have been accepted on this internship.

Irina Mot, MSc Sustainable Urban Development, Harris Manchester College

Work Projects

My responsibilities involved both administrative activities, such as organising meetings for the Head of Conservation & Buildings, taking meeting minutes, managing the calendar, and architecture projects. I also took responsibility for two ongoing projects, one in the Clarendon Building and one at University Parks. The Clarendon Building is a listed building and the project involved modification of the second floor which required a listed building permit. For the University Parks project I needed to prepare the documents necessary in order to move an existing gate to another location, on the same road. Both projects were very interesting, as they involved dealing with listed buildings as well as with site work. All my colleagues were very helpful in explaining to me the details of the processes and the necessary drawings.

Daily Life

I lived in student accommodation at St Hilda’s College for most of the placement, before moving to Harris Manchester College for two weeks. I woke up early every morning and rode my bike every day to the office. After work I sometimes went to the gym, or meet friends, and did work for my dissertation.

Lasting Impressions

This internship was quite unique for several reasons. Firstly, it gave me the opportunity not only to live in Oxford for three months (I am a part time student), but also to understand more about the architecture and history of the city. As an architect, it is amazing to get access to the important buildings and develop understanding of their evolution and their present problems. The people I have met were incredibly kind and helpful, and a solution was always found for anything I asked for. I am very happy to have been accepted on this internship.

Anca-Simona Georgescu, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe), Christ Church College

Work Projects

I helped complete the University’s Access Guide. My responsibilities included undertaking audits of university buildings to check the availability of accessible facilities, and taking photographs of them. Based on this, I completed a write-up of my findings and built a page for the building on the Access Guide website. I was also responsible for content published on the Access Guide social media feeds.

Daily Life

I worked regular hours of 9 until 5, depending on my schedule for that day and overall progress with the Guide. As my work often involved visits to different university departments, I didn’t spend all my time in the office. My colleagues were incredibly friendly and helpful.

Lasting Impressions

It was great to have the chance to stay in Oxford outside of term time and enjoy the summer after a very busy final year. I found it very interesting to explore otherwise closed areas in some of the most iconic buildings in the university. Finally, learning from the experiences of my colleagues was truly inspiring. I feel like I was a part of building a very valuable tool for students and visitors to the university, whilst I gained a good insight into property management, and developed transferable skills in website management and social media.
Matthew Li, First Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Balliol College

Work Projects

The project involved running three seven-day long residential camps in a small village in rural Thuringia called Unterweißbach. In each camp, there were eight children. The overarching aim of the project was to get the children to see that learning English can be fun. In contrast to school, there were no formal lessons in English, but rather, we engaged in fun and practical camp activities using English. These activities include: cooking, building, film-making, cricket, rugby, rap-recording, gold-washing, capture the flag, making natural paints, flag making, bonfire games, and excursions. The other intern and I were very well supported by Alex, the host. We were treated as equals in the running of the camp, so there was a large degree of independence to plan activities for the camps in the ways that we wanted.

Daily Life

Normally, we would wake the kids up at 8:00am, and sent some of them off to the bakery to collect breakfast, while getting others to lay the table. Breakfast was at 9:00am, and after breakfast, I would often take a group of two or three to do cooking for midday while the others would do outdoor activities with the other intern. After lunch, we would all usually regroup and do an activity together, usually outdoors. After dinner we would sometimes have a bonfire or a film. Once we even went midnight swimming in the local pool.

The activities were nonetheless very flexible, and we would often have to make our decisions in the morning as to what the plan would be according to the weather, and depending on what the kids expressed interest in. Sometimes we would have day long excursions as well, which obviously changed the routine around.

During the camp, almost all of the time in the day was spent with the kids and the other camp staff, since we all lived in the same house, and there was no time when work really ‘started’ or ‘ended’. That being said, I did not feel like I could not take an hour or so out to relax when the kids had free time, or when they were washing the dishes. In the four days in between each of the camps, the host took me sightseeing in the local area which was very nice. After the camps, the family of one of the children invited me to stay with them in their village for two days which was very nice, and I also travelled to Frankfurt and Erfurt to do some sightseeing.

Lasting Impressions

I loved living in Germany and exploring the culture and
food there. Running the camp was also extremely fun and a great way to meet lots of nice people. I would definitely return to work there, and would consider living there in the future as well. I also found that working with kids was an excellent way to improve my German language skills, which is something I have wanted to do since dropping the subject after GCSEs. I don’t know what my career goals are, but I know proficiency in a foreign language is definitely a useful thing to acquire.

James Mooney, Second Year, BA Modern Languages (French and German), Brasenose College

Work Projects

As a summer camp, the work projects at Kulturino mostly revolved around preparing or leading indoor and outdoor activities with the children there. Indoor activities included cooking, board games or fireside games. Outdoor activities ranged from scaled-down sports matches and typical camp games (such as ‘capture the flag’) to long walks and hut-building. Besides such activities during the camps, other work projects included the tidying and preparation of the camp and grounds before the next round of children arrived.

Daily Life

Daily life at the camp ran according to a schedule prepared in advance. After breakfast, the group of eight children would be divided into two groups of four, each to be supervised by one of the Oxford interns. One group would stay indoors, and help with cooking, the other would play outside until lunch. After lunch, there was more time for ‘English activities’, then the children were given free time before reassembling as a group for dinner. After dinner there was typically a bonfire or a film, depending on the weather, before the group went to bed, which was always at a comfortably early time. Despite scheduled breaks for free time, all of the time spent at the camp was spent in the company of the hosts, the children or both. For some, that might seem overwhelming but, thanks to the group this year, it was a pleasure.

I was surprised and delighted by the friendliness of the children.

Lasting Impressions

The internship at Kulturino left me with a fond impression of the people and the area of Thuringia. As a teacher, I was surprised and delighted by the friendliness of the children. As a foreigner and a guest, I was made to feel welcome by the hospitality and the friendliness that seem to prevail in that part of the world.
Neelakshi Tewari, MSc Education (Higher Education), Kellogg College

Work Projects

During my internship I worked on launching the new website, which involved creating and migrating content and images, and figuring out the structure of the website. I also become involved with web migration to the new website. Everyone was incredibly warm and welcoming, and my Line Manager in particular was superb: she knew everything so could answer any question that I had. There were detailed guidelines from past interns, and I was able to liaise easily with different members of staff. What was so fantastic was that I got to work independently and see a project through from start to end while also earning some money and feeling supported by warm and friendly colleagues.

Daily Life

I got to the office at 8am and work until 4pm (to avoid rush hour!). My morning was mainly data sorting as all the details for the Class Profile Books had to be completely correct and within a word limit. The Class Profile Books are a hugely important publication, as lots of students get jobs based on them so it was important to get everything right. The afternoons were hugely varied. I attended a seminar on migrating websites, arranged photographers, built mail merges with over 200 recipients, helped with office relocations and attended a summer party with colleagues (and lots of Pimms!). Settling in was extremely fast and easy. I was able to get started right away, and the work was really interesting. Data processing may not sound glamorous, but I know the resource I made is invaluable, so for me there is a real sense of pride in the work that I did.

Lasting Impressions

I undertook this internship as part of my mission to gain experience in university administration, towards the aim of being a Higher Education specialist. I love the UK and would love to come and work here again at some point. For now though, it’s back to my country for me!

Rebecca Henderson, Second Year, BA English and Modern Languages (French), St. Anne’s College

Work Projects

I managed the creation of the 2015-2016 Class Profile Books for BCL/MJur and MLF postgraduate courses for the Law Faculty. These books are sent out to major donors to the Faculty, all the students and potential employers. I also become involved with web migration to the new website. Everyone was incredibly warm and welcoming, and my Line Manager in particular was superb: she knew everything so could answer any question that I had. There were detailed guidelines from past interns, and I was able to liaise easily with different members of staff. What was so fantastic was that I got to work independently and see a project through from start to end while also earning some money and feeling supported by warm and friendly colleagues.

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Lasting Impressions

I had never considered a career in Academic Administration but there are so many roles and such variety that actually I’ve really come around to the idea of working ‘behind the scenes’ for education.
Work Projects

I was commissioned as a Monitoring and Evaluation researcher to evaluate GFP Projects in 3 sites in Kyrgyzstan. My work involved me getting trained at HQ in Amman, developing a research question and going to Kyrgyzstan for the data collection. I am now involved in Skype meetings with HQ where I give them progress reports on the compilation, analysis and reporting.

Daily Life

In Amman, I got to meet a lot of people from HQ which was quite interesting in terms of building my professional network. In Kyrgyzstan, I interacted with a lot of volunteers.

Lasting Impressions

This experience has cemented my career ambitions in terms of wanting to work in the development sector and pursue more research-based positions.

Seham Areff, Bachelor of Civil Law, Keble College

Work Projects

I have received tremendous support from GFP both in the field and back at HQ. I would return to either Jordan or Macedonia. They are both interesting, lively places.

Saad Hafeez, MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

I was assigned a field research project. I have received tremendous support from GFP both in the field and back at HQ, and it looks as if it will continue as I write up my report.

Daily Life

Everything was great. There was another Oxford intern who I lived with in Amman, there were many young volunteers in Macedonia and the staff at the GFP headquarters were very warm and welcoming.

Lasting Impressions

This experience has cemented my career ambitions in terms of wanting to work in the development sector and pursue more research-based positions.

Alexander Dyzenhaus, MPhil Politics: Comparative Government, University College

Work Projects

The project I am involved in for GFP is conflict mapping the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the city of Sarajevo. In preparation for the field visit I went through a pretty intense research design phase in Amman, Jordan (at GFP headquarters) where I
developed my research questions and planned surveys and focus groups to be used in the field. Once in the field I ran these focus groups and surveys with groups of participants from the three main ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosniaks, Bosnian Serbs, and Bosnian Croats. The conflict mapping framework I am working with to guide my research focuses on inter- and intra-group perceptions and interactions. So it was important for me to keep groups stratified according to ethnicity, age and gender. Support from Generations for Peace was given at every step in the process (with ongoing assistance occurring during the write-up phase now). I was accompanied by two supervisors for the first few days in the field. These two supervisors also helped me plan and develop my research design in incredible detail. It is a very hands-on internship which I appreciated since this was my very first time doing research of this kind.

Daily Life

Daily life in Amman was pretty standard: walking to the office (which was up the road from the accommodation provided), working, coming back and socialising with the other Oxford intern and with GFP staff. Everything is quite intense but really fulfilling in terms of work and play. In the field I spent the days collecting data (by running focus group interviews and surveys with participants), debriefing with the research team and GFP headquarters, and then socialising with the research team at night.

Lasting Impressions

This internship was incredibly challenging (because I am new to the field) but also incredibly enriching. I learnt so much from GFP within a really short space of time. And although the learning curves were steep and numerous, the lessons learnt are important and have definitely added to my skill set as a researcher. I am also now deeply emotionally invested in Bosnia and Herzegovina -- I spent all my time in the field listening to stories of sometimes despair and disappointment but mostly hope and change. I’ve grown really close to the team in Amman and the team in Sarajevo, and I wouldn’t hesitate to return to either city to live or work.

Eva Steketee, MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

The internship involved conducting field research on the GFP programme in Accra, Ghana and writing up a research project of around 15,000 words. To prepare for my arrival, I was sent various documents to read
through regarding GFP’s curriculum and literature on the topic I would be researching. I then wrote a literature review and conflict analysis which I presented on arrival in Jordan, and which was reviewed by GFP staff. Throughout my internship I had two supervisors guiding me with my work. The four-month internship started with a week of inductions at the GFP HQ in Amman. I then conducted research in Accra for two weeks, including surveys, focus groups and interviews with programme participants. One supervisor accompanied me to Ghana for the first week. During the two weeks in Accra I de-briefed with at least one supervisor every day either in person or on Skype. I then travelled back to Jordan for a series of de-briefs and evaluations in which I was able to give my feedback regarding the internship. I am currently completing the research project at home and am able to email or Skype with my supervisors whenever I need support. As such, I can say that I received continuous support and guidance throughout the internship process and my role was very clearly outlined from the start.

Daily Life

The research part of the internship was split into three parts, one week of inductions at the GFP HQ in Amman, Jordan, two weeks of field research in Accra, Ghana, and one week of de-briefs back in Amman. The second part consisted of me working on writing up the research project from home. For the first week in Amman, my days consisted of going to the office every day, meeting with staff in various departments, receiving inductions and designing my research project. During this week I was also taken out to dinner by the GFP staff and was able to visit the centre of Amman, as well as take a day trip to Petra. The two weeks in Ghana consisted of going to the school where the GFP programme was based every day and carrying out surveys, focus groups and interviews, up to seven a day. Throughout this time I was accompanied by various local GFP volunteers and during the first week my supervisor from HQ was also present and helped me settle in. After carrying out the research every day I went back to the hotel to summarise and analyse my findings and de-brief with my supervisors on my progress. During these two weeks I was also able to explore the city during some afternoons and we went out for various dinners and lunches with the volunteers. The second week in Amman consisted of various de-briefs in the mornings, and visiting sights in the city or on one occasion the Dead Sea in the afternoon. Furthermore, I was taken out for dinner by local staff twice during this week.

Lasting Impressions

GFP is a great organisation and I had a wonderful experience with them. The work of GFP is very important and the team consists of very engaged, dedicated and helpful people who made my experience a truly valuable one. I had two supervisors guiding me in my work who were very clear as to the outputs they expected and always ready to guide me where necessary. I therefore would recommend this internship to anyone applying. The experience of combining a trip to HQ in Jordan and field work in Ghana made this experience truly complete and I very much enjoyed both places. I would definitely return to live and/or work in either country. This internship helped me in securing a job offer from another organisation due to the confidence, skills and experience that I developed. It has also confirmed my career goal to work in the NGO sector in the fields of peacebuilding or international development.
Diana Avadanii, Second Year, MEarthSci, University College

Work Projects

The main aim of the internship was to get an insight into a geological survey and its responsibilities and into the research world. As a research intern, I worked directly with some of the best petrologists, Sam Weatherley, Troels Nielsen and Thomas Kokfeldt. I was lucky to get their full attention and guidance and they helped me to immensely improve my knowledge, my critical thinking, and my lab skills. The team at GEUS is great and there is a lot of emphasis put on teamwork, shared responsibilities, and welfare support. Even though I was much younger than most of the people I was interacting with I always felt treated as an employee and a fellow scientist, rather than a student. Their work atmosphere is great and I was integrated from the first days. My main responsibility was to do optical petrology work on samples collected from the Ikaasartivik Intrusive Complex, S.E. Greenland. I analysed igneous textures in an attempt to understand how those particular samples were formed and emplaced in the continental crust. They proved to be really interesting and challenging and I gained a lot of knowledge by reading specific papers on the topic and talking to the experts from GEUS. The understanding of those samples is particularly important as they display magma mixing and mingling features and they offer an insight into fluid dynamics, magma chamber processes, the role of chemical and physical process during cooling, mineral growth and much more. All the processes above are important for understanding where and how ore deposits form and how we can efficiently extract them. At the end of my internship I produced a written report.

All in all, my internship was great, it was a career-changing experience!

Daily Life

Copenhagen is a great city and although I was quite busy reading and doing lab work, I enjoyed cultural and artistic events going on during my stay.

Lasting Impressions

All in all, my internship was great and it was a win-win situation for me and GEUS. I am really grateful for having the scholarship, which facilitated this internship, as it was a career-changing experience!
time at home where I had access to the necessary technology and support. Daily life was very pleasant- I enjoyed having set working hours, and time off in the evening and weekends (something I rarely enjoyed as a student!). The first week that I was there, there were very few people in the office. Everybody apologised for this and tried to help as much as possible, but I actually felt it was a good way to start and settle in as I got to grips with my work quite easily, and it gave me space to feel at ease in the organisation and meet people gradually. The people at the organisation were all really lovely, and an excellent work environment was created there. Each person had their own tasks, but regularly met with team members to discuss short- and long- term objectives and ensure that their work was in alignment with others. This allowed autonomy in work, but also a supportive environment and the feeling that your work was contributing to bigger goals. The flexibility to plan your day was also a very respectful and productive way to work, and a welcome change from the structured and hierarchical work environments I’ve experienced working in shops and restaurants.

**Lasting Impressions**

I worked in Oxford, so wasn’t experiencing a particularly new place. However, being outside of Oxford University gave me a new perspective on the city and its lifestyles. I felt more at home in this new environment in Oxford than the University structure, so would perhaps consider living in Oxford again with a career in this sector. In terms of career goals, it has confirmed my desire to work in an environmental NGO and not to work in the corporate world. I felt very at home with the people I worked with, and could see myself being happy in that environment. I mostly appreciated the calm respect and support people gave each other.

**Lucie McMurtry, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, Hertford College**

**Work Projects**

I was involved with the Global Canopy Programme’s Forest 500 project, which identifies and assesses...
the 500 powerbrokers of deforestation - that is, 500 companies, investors, or jurisdictions that are the key players in the global supply chains for commodities relating to deforestation (such as palm oil, soya, or timber). Every year, the Forest 500 project assesses each individual powerbroker on their deforestation policies, based on publicly available information, and assigns them a score out of 5. As part of this project, I assessed various companies and in the process learned a lot about global supply chains and commodity training.

Daily Life

My internship was in Oxford, so I was already in a familiar place. However, it was interesting to explore Oxford outside of term time, without the pressures of a looming essay deadline or countless other students about! I cycled along the canal to get to work, which was much nicer than having to dodge buses on the way to my lectures. Everyone in the office was really friendly and welcoming, which made a big difference.

Lasting Impressions

Because I’m going into my final year, I’ve started thinking about what I want to do once I finish university. I was therefore really happy to have been selected for this internship, as it is in a sector I was considering going into. I’ve had a really positive experience and learned a lot, and while I’d like to continue in the same area (relating to the environment and sustainability), I’m considering further study and research rather than going straight into employment.

Andrea DoCouto-Azcarrate, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, St. Anne’s College

Work Projects

My internship involved retrieving and uploading relevant resources to the REDD desk website, as well as editing, verifying and writing material for Gender and REDD+ country summaries. I carried out research for Gender and REDD+ country summaries, and then uploaded Gender and REDD+ country summaries and their references to the REDD+ Desk. In total I completed and uploaded 12 summaries. I regularly updated the news feed on the REDD+ Desk website, managed the REDD Desk’s email account, and also summarised the relevant outcomes of the Bonn Climate Change conference and uploaded this to the website. I also verified the REDD Desk’s record of projects under Voluntary Carbon Standards and Social and Environmental Standards, and produced an encyclopaedia article for the Ad Hoc Working on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Finally, I produced content for the REDD desk manual—a guidance document that will enable incoming staff to carry out tasks on the REDD+ Desk website.

Daily Life

I walked to work for 9:30am, and I would start the day by checking my emails and updating the news on the REDD+ Desk website. I ate breakfast in the office and was given an hour for lunch, whenever my colleagues were going out for lunch together I would join them. I left work at 5:30 or later if I had something I wanted to finish. I socialised with my housemate, and weekday evenings were usually spent cooking and training for a triathlon.

I loved the friendly environment and the thing that I will take away is the insight I gained into the NGO sector.

Lasting Impressions

I loved living in Oxford as a non-student. It’s a wonderful place in the summer, without the term-time pressure. I loved the friendly environment at work and the thing that I will take away is the insight I gained into the NGO sector. It has informed my career ambitions but not necessarily made my options clearer. Talking to my colleagues and flourishing in the working environment has reassured me that I am better suited to the working world than academia.
Lasting Impressions

I feel I know Serbia in much greater depth now than I did before: I always liked the country since I travelled there two years ago but now I understand the political situation and daily life much better. This understanding has encouraged me to stay and do what I can to help, but also to be increasingly thankful for my British passport and EU membership. I’m not sure if I would like to live here long-term but will probably stay here for a few months after my internship ends. I am increasingly drawn to working in tourism and think it’s a very positive area of government that benefits many people. However, other aspects of living in Serbia - such as being constantly aware of the streams of refugees passing through the country and realising the impact of human trafficking - has made me even more interested in NGO work.

Oliver Ditthardt, MPhil Russian & East European Studies, University College

Work Projects

My internship involved analysing the current tourism strategy of Serbia, researching and elaborating a new plan for destination management in tourist destinations, and creating a plan for AirSerbia package holidays. The internship is still ongoing: I am due to be involved in the national tourism organisation’s social media strategy and will develop a plan for training information point employees. The host organisation has given me a large amount of freedom with my work but has been accommodating and welcoming. I am looking forward to having more feedback on the work I have done so far.

Daily Life

I am splitting my time between working at the Ministry for Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications (sector for tourism) and the National Tourism Organisation of Serbia. These are two very different organisations, both in terms of focus areas and work environment. The ministry is housed in a socialist block in ‘New Belgrade’, fairly far from the centre of town and rather dingy. The overwhelming impression of working there is hundreds of unmarked, shut doors that can seem fairly impenetrable. The people there are nice, and determined to speak to me in Serbian. The NTO is a very different story: it’s been recently renovated and feels very modern: the air conditioning works fantastically, it’s very light and airy, and most importantly the doors are made of glass and for the most part kept open. It’s a more sociable place to work in, but the working language tends to be English. As I live out of town it takes me the same amount of time to get to each destination: half an hour on a very overcrowded city bus. I live near a ‘beach’ on the river Sava, so often when I’m not at work I’ll walk round there or socialise at the bars on the riverfront. Otherwise, the city centre is a great place to meet friends (Belgrade is pretty famous for its nightlife). I tend to travel to different parts of Serbia at the weekend.

Catherine Tyack, MSt Slavonic Studies, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

I have written a couple of reports on tourism-related topics that gave recommendations on how to improve Serbia’s potential as a tourist destination and the work of the National Tourism Organisation of Serbia. Other than that, I supported my colleagues in organising a blogger trip and wrote proposal and letter drafts.

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Lasting Impressions

Although I will not work in tourism in the long run, my internship confirmed my goal to move to the Balkans and try to find work there in a different sector.
Green & Away (Stroud, UK)

Alexander Grigg, Second Year, BA Modern Languages (German), St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

I was involved in many projects and day – to - day activities. The daily activities were certainly the most time - consuming and, at times repetitive, but even they gave me a greater understanding of how the organisation worked and ran. The longer-term projects the interns were given were often more rewarding and interesting. The two months that I was in Green & Away were a pivotal moment for the organisation in terms of the direction the trustees wanted to move in, and decisions for the current period. Being in the centre of some of these decisions was certainly a fantastic experience. Some examples of these projects were figuring out new ways to advertise the organisation for next year as well for the current year, and also doing some research into grants that Green & Away could get for its ethical and hard work.

Daily Life

At Green & Away, social life was at the core of the experience, and although much of the day was spent working, a high level of interaction with the volunteers and other interns was key. The day began at 9 am with a meeting for the interns and trustees slightly before to decide what was to be done that day, I then spent the day in the office dealing with questions, daily tasks (such as getting the post and doing attendance numbers for the kitchen) and long - term research. The working day normally ended before 6, shortly before dinner. After dinner was when most of the socialising between volunteers and interns occurred, with singing round a fire, talking in the bar, and occasionally seminars and debates (which were part of the newly instated education program).

Lasting Impressions

The internship certainly gave me a fresh insight into sustainable living and the fact that it was as efficient and capable as any other event venue. Not only did the internship teach me about sustainability but also about some key administrative and managerial skills for the future - with tasks and mind sets which I found quite hard at the beginning - certainly beginning to become much easier by the end of the internship.
Magdalena Kohut, Penultimate Year, MChem, Worcester College

Work Projects

I spent four weeks interning at the Hang Seng Management College in Hong Kong, which is an emerging private business university. It is important to mention that the internship was initially meant to last for 6-8 weeks and I managed to shorten it to the length that suited me due to my later summer plans. I was involved in two projects during my time there. Firstly, the College was organizing the Symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo, which gathered international experts in the fields of sustainability and architecture. My role was to write the opening speech, the vote of thanks and the dinner speech for the Symposium to be then presented by the President of the College. I then took part in the Symposium and wrote a summary article for the College magazine as well as the Symposium proceedings. Apart from this task, I was also involved with the Careers Office. The Careers Office helps students in writing CVs, cover letters and preparing for interviews. I corrected some of the materials that the Office provides, and helped to restructure the Mentorship Programme offered to the students and the Careers Leap Club programme. On the whole, my internship provided a wide range of experiences, and in contrast to my scientific degree at university - it was great to practice writing skills.

Daily Life

It was very convenient that the accommodation was provided by the College and I received a room just for myself (which initially was meant to be shared between four people) on the College campus in the building right next to the office, where I worked. This meant that I saved the time and money that I would otherwise have had to spend on commuting to work. My working hours were 9-5:45pm with a long lunch break during which I could use the College gym, swimming pool or go to yoga classes. The College is located around 30 minutes by underground or bus from the centre of Hong Kong, so a convenient distance to go sightseeing there in the evenings and the weekends. The people in the office were very kind, and often invited me for lunches or dinners after work, even at their homes. Apart from the people I directly worked with, I got to know other students - who lived on campus- both local students and other interns.

Lasting Impressions

Before arriving in Hong Kong, I imagined it as a very modern city filled with skyscrapers. It is true that there is this part but what I didn’t know before is how much nature there is! I spent most of my weekends hiking in the mountains, going to see temples and fishermen villages on the surrounding islands, staying on beaches or practicing tai chi at the local park. It was a great opportunity to spend a relatively long time there and to really get to know the local people, a very different experience to what I could have got from being there just on a holiday. For me it is a nice city to work in for several months but I wouldn’t want to permanently live there as it is too crowded, too loud, too hot and too humid. However, as just an internship experience I couldn’t recommend it more!
Daily Life

The firm generously put me up in an apartment on the top floor of the firm, which provided numerous benefits, not least of which was the avoidance of the 35 degree heat before work. There were a number of other interns, most of whom were Cypriot. This ensured not only a pleasant working environment, but also good social and cultural immersion. Outside of work I took the opportunity to explore Cyprus a little, as well as to socialise with the other interns. There was consequently also great value beyond the internship.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was a fantastic experience in multifarious ways. Not only was the work interesting and challenging, but the exposure to a different culture and new people was enlightening and enjoyable. The programme was an excellent opportunity to conduct research on an area I had little experience in and refine a number of skills, as well as to explore a country I was previously unfamiliar with. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and am grateful to Harris Kyriakides LLC for providing the opportunity, as well as support throughout the programme.
Charlotte Juckes, MSt Women’s Studies, Oriel College

Work Projects

During the internship I worked as a junior account executive at Hawthorn’s office in central London, supporting the team in their dealings with local and international clients in the management consultancy, oil and gas, and media sectors among others. Hawthorn is a young, rapidly growing agency and I quickly got to know the whole team well since we all worked in the same office. I was greatly supported by every member of the team, who made me feel like they had a genuine interest in my career development. Having never previously worked in public relations, I was helped by my colleagues to learn about the industry, including the media landscape generally and across client sectors.

Daily Life

My daily life at Hawthorn began at 8.15 when I arrived at the office. Every morning begins by grabbing a newspaper and reading it through, highlighting any stories that concern any of our clients, or that might be of interest to them. I’ve learned that when working in PR, it is highly important to be aware of the latest news from around the UK and around the world, and particularly business news. The team comes together to have a meeting at around 8.45 where we share the items of interest that we’ve highlighted for our clients, along with any other thoughts on the day’s news. For the next hour or two, we compile the media monitoring and send off relevant pieces to clients. What I did for the rest of the day would vary greatly, but might include conducting research for briefing purposes, managing clients’ digital presence, sourcing appropriate media opportunities and events for clients, or compiling media lists for press releases. My day at work would generally end at 6.30, after which I might go for drinks with some of my colleagues, or meet other friends in various parts of London.

I was greatly supported by every member of the team, who made me feel like they had a genuine interest in my career development.

Lasting Impressions

The internship had a huge impact on my career development. I was offered a permanent position at Hawthorn mid-way through the internship, and started as a full time Account Executive at the beginning of September. Having completed my undergraduate degree in London, I knew the city well already and was excited to return, particularly since many of my friends are there (from Oxford and elsewhere). The media and PR industry in the UK is focussed on London, and I believe that it is the best place to start your career - the most high profile clients, journalists and events are in the city. Hawthorn is a fantastic, incredibly well-connected agency that has given me an invaluable platform from which to launch my career in media and public relations.
Wolfenbüttel in Germany meant that at the weekends I could explore cities such as Hamburg and Berlin, both approximately two hours away. It thus gave me the experience of a small town in Germany as well as the opportunity to explore the big cities.

**Lasting Impressions**

The work at the library was fascinating and the people enormously supportive. It gave me the feeling that research does not have to be a lonely business but can be a wonderful cooperative experience. I would love to return to a library like Wolfenbüttel. The experience certainly has changed my views on the work of a library in a positive way.

**Daily Life**

Because I shared an office with three other research assistants I immediately got involved in the day-to-day structures of the library, even though the work I did was independent research. Every day the library organized a ‘coffee round’ for all the guests, which was a great way to socialize and network. Through this coffee round other social activities were organized, making the evenings and weekends a lot less lonely. The town was a small town and the house they provided was very close to the library, making the whole experience very inclusive. At the same time the central position of
Daily Life

I was given a very warm and friendly welcome at the HAB and my mentor introduced me to most people I would be in contact with during my stay. The HAB provided me with a small apartment directly located at the main library building, so I basically had a one-minute walk to work. Since the HAB has a large number of scholarship holders over the summer, I was able to socialise with them very quickly and I also became friends with some of the people working in the IT and Tech-Department.

Lasting Impressions

Since I am German, no great adaption to the country and people was necessary. I did, however, gain more surety in my career goals and my ambitions have similarly shifted in a more concrete direction. I definitely see myself working in Digital Humanities now and would like to pursue this new interest more deeply when returning to Oxford in Michaelmas.
This was exacerbated by the complications of changing wallpaper manufacturing methods, as well as the nature of paper application and changing tastes. With the initial guidance of my supervisor, the Foundation’s curator - Pandora Hess - I was able to pursue a multitude of threads to create a broad background of historic context and manufacturing changes that informed my research. My employers also provided me with details to contact similar heritage institutions in our area, notably Winterthur, to visit and explore their wallpaper collections. The project culminated in a public lecture, which was well attended and received, and may be published with the work of my fellow interns. As well as this main project, I was involved in the ongoing development of an exhibition on the history of the city as expressed through objects. It was very interesting to experience the different opinions, designs, and emphases of the company’s employees, and of the local community. Through a series of meetings with the research department, community advisors, and an exhibit design business, my research for the initial objects chosen was well informed.

Fern Brereton, Second Year, BA History, St. Anne’s College

Work Projects

My main project during my internship was based on interpreting and dating wallpaper fragments found in the historic house our office was based in. As the house had undergone construction and renovation over a period of 300 years, seemingly a rather long time for its American inhabitants(!), the process was hard-going.

Gareth Bromley, Second Year, BA History, Lady Margaret Hall

Work Projects

I undertook a research project of my own choice, into any area of Annapolitan history. My research focussed on a local African-American oriented radio station, which involved multiple trips to archives in Washington D.C., and numerous oral history interviews, culminating in a lecture and academic paper. My supervisors at Historic Annapolis were brilliant, supervising the entire project and giving suggestions on avenues of research, but always allowing ample freedom to pursue my own ideas.

Daily Life

The host organisation found a home-stay family for me, with whom I stayed for the entire length of the internship. The family was incredibly warm and welcoming, as was everyone at the organisation itself. The social calendar was packed with events, from curator-led tours of local museums, to theatre trips, baseball games, meals and yacht-rides.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions of the internship will be incredibly positive. It was a brilliant experience all round, made me reassess my understanding of American culture, and spurred me on to pursue postgraduate education.

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It’s a very interesting institution and added a unique
dimension to the city through the diversity of students
and the discipline of the program. After a short bike
ride into work in the humid August weather and a good
day of research, the other interns and I would often get
dinner together at a local restaurant, of which there
were many! We also spent a lot of time with each other
and our employers, often the president and the curator
of the Foundation, or with the other host families, who
were wonderful, not to mention hilarious, people. This
mainly incorporated dinners, such as a traditional pig
roast or a dinner in one family’s 18th century home,
but we also experienced a lot of local sports, to my
delight, like watching the Baltimore Orioles play, or
sailing on the Chesapeake Bay.

**Lasting Impressions**

While I struggled initially with settling into work after
some time off post-Trinity, the whole experience was
generally a joyful one. It was fantastic to experience in
person a way of life so omnipresent in popular culture,
and my perspective was definitely informed by what
I saw. It was interesting to see the scale of American
consumerism, and their unique religious, political and
economic standings, which perhaps put me off moving
there indefinitely. But the internship also educated
me somewhat on the workings of the heritage and
historical interpretation sectors, as well as opening
my eyes to some great American universities and
institutions with attractive programs to study the kind
of decorative arts my internship work pinpointed. With
this all in mind, I am eager to pursue applications to
some of these courses for postgraduate study and
to continue exploring the American society I was
privileged to glimpse in my time within and outside of
my internship at Historic Annapolis.

*Thomas Holker, Second Year, BA History and Politics, St.
Catherine’s College*

**Work Projects**

I essentially completed two major work projects. As
I was participating in a research internship, the bulk
of my time was spent conducting a research project
on Annapolitan history; we were given a good deal of
freedom as to what we precisely chose to study, with
my research focussing on local loyalists during the
American War of Independence. I was given a great
deal of support by the Senior Historian, and I was able
to conduct research both in the many libraries and
museums in Annapolis, as well as the nearby Library of
Congress in Washington. The project culminated in my
presenting a short paper and 40 minute lecture to the
general public, which was a really enjoyable experience.
My other project was identifying and researching
objects for an upcoming exhibition, contacting local
archives, museums and historians in order to locate
and research the objects further. We were able to sit
and participate in the museum design meetings, which
gave a really interesting insight into the process of
creating an exhibition.

The internship was a fascinating insight into museum work and helped hone my research skills.

**Daily Life**

We were all really fortunate to have been given host
families during the internship, and I lived with them
for the eight weeks; they had a beautiful historic house
which was just a five minute walk to work. One of
the best things about the internship was the care they put
into ensuring we all had great experiences outside
of work and were involved in the local community.
We attended baseball and American football games,
Maryland ‘Crab Feasts’, local theatre performances and
even a ‘Hog Roast’. A particular highlight was a plane
flight over Manhattan, which one of the other intern’s
host family arranged for us. When we were less busy, I
would often go for dinner with the other interns, either
at one of the restaurants in Downtown Annapolis, or at
one of our own homes.
The internship was a fascinating insight into museum work and certainly helped hone my research skills; I was really pleased that each intern got the chance to present their research individually to the public. Both America and Annapolis itself were incredibly welcoming places to visit, and I’d certainly be happy to work in the US again. As far as my career goals are concerned, it has definitely encouraged me to pursue postgraduate study, and the museum industry remains a sector I am interested in.

Thomas Wilson, Second Year, BA History, Exeter College

Before arriving at Historic Annapolis, the curator had asked what my academic interests were and suggested a number of different research projects that would be of use to Historic Annapolis. As a curatorial intern in a historic house, my research had to be directly linked to the collection and its interpretation, so I chose to research a room that was underdeveloped and underappreciated, which culminated in suggesting a completely fresh interpretation of this space. My research took me to various libraries, including the Library of Congress, and I was able to discuss my ideas with the curator and various local historians. After delivering a lecture on my work, I then moved on to researching various items for an upcoming exhibition. Outside of research, I spent a great deal of time working with the curator and learning about current museum practices. This was remarkably useful and rewarding, as I was able to meet conservation and preservation experts, assist in the care and handling of the collection items, and truly experience life as a curator in the heritage sector. The staff at Historic Annapolis valued the interns’ input in all meetings and took our research very seriously, giving us each our own evening lecture, complete with a canapés and drinks reception. We also travelled to a large number of other historic houses, museums, and art galleries (including an overnight trip to Philadelphia) to meet with curators in other fields, in order to learn as much as possible about this sector.

Daily Life

This internship was incredible because it not only gave me a fascinating insight into working in America, but also living there. Historic Annapolis arranged host families for all its interns, which gave us all a more social (and much more fun!) experience than if we had tried to rent accommodation and at a more reasonable cost. My hosts were remarkably generous and treated me as part of the family, involving me in dinner parties and introducing me to their friends. Their house was on the shore of the Severn River, off the Chesapeake Bay, which is famous for the sailboats, yachts, and water-sports it attracts. It was roughly a half-hour walk to and from work, which was very nice (except the heat and humidity at times!). Outside of work, I spent almost every spare moment with the other interns from Oxford and a number of colleagues from Historic Annapolis, who introduced us to their friends too. I think we really experienced the full spectrum of American culture, as our internships took us to a large number of museums and historic houses, but we also ate burgers, made s’mores on an open fire, and went to a baseball match. Our host families were all so welcoming and friendly, and they regularly had us all over for dinner. My own host had a four-seater airplane and flew us up to New York City one morning, where we were flying down the Hudson at the same height as the skyscrapers! There were quite a lot of evenings filled with events related to work, which were sometimes bizarre, but always good fun.

Lasting Impressions

My internship with Historic Annapolis gave me a great insight into living and working in a country that is surprisingly different from the UK. Before this summer, I would never have considered migrating to the US. Although I can’t imagine moving there for good, I would definitely consider future study there. This summer has certainly clarified my professional ambitions and I sincerely hope to pursue a future career in museum and gallery curation.
Lasting Impressions

My internship experience has given me a deep admiration for the work ethic and organisational skills of the Hong Kong people. I would definitely consider returning to live or work here in the future. I felt at home here from the moment I stepped off the plane. My career goals haven’t changed all that much, although this placement has done much to shine a torch on an area of the world that was previously unknown to me.

Work Projects

My role involved expanding the internship base and connections in Europe for HKIEd, as well as teaching English lessons, writing memos and newsletters from the Student Affairs Office, and researching information valuable to promoting the interests of HKIEd students.

Daily Life

It was a very friendly working environment. On the first day there was a tour of the premises, followed by a meet-and-greet and lunch (at the host’s expense). Colleagues were very helpful and the 9:00am-5:20pm days flew by as a result.
two other Oxford interns there, normally going out for meals with them. In the second stage, we were each sent to a host family to experience local Hong Kong life. I saw the other interns (HK or Oxford) very rarely then. My days consisted of following the family around in their daily activities, and capturing footage of memorable or sweet moments, as raw materials for the video that I was to make. By the end of the fourth week, I was well under way to making this video, with the help of facilities at the university. In the last stage, we moved out of the host families’ homes and back into the university dorms. This was the busiest stage by far as I had to complete my 4000 words, edit two Hong Kong interns’ reports, and finish my video, as well as completing presentations for the summary events at the end of the internship. Daily life in the first part of this week was very busy, with us often staying at the office until 9pm. But it was also a great time for me to get to know the other interns more, so we socialised in our spare time. The last week of the internship was very much relaxed as, after the work had finished, we had time to enjoy parts of Hong Kong we had not before.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has not affected my career goals. I would now consider coming back to Hong Kong for further study or to work.

Xiaodan Cindy Yu, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Christ Church College

Work Projects

The main project of my internship was to write a report of 4000 words based on the qualitative research conducted over the course of the six weeks. The research was heavily supported by the host organisation, as they enabled us to interview the relevant parties extensively. Side projects included making a short video on our research topic and the host family we stayed with, as well as editing the reports of other interns.

Daily Life

The internship was completed in three stages. In the first fortnight, we interviewed relevant parties daily. Our days consisted of travelling across Hong Kong to these various organisations and conducting filmed interviews with them. I mainly socialised with the
Adrian Pun, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), Christ Church College

Work Projects

The LLIC interns were assigned to intern at various firms in Shanghai, covering a range of sectors and industries. I was assigned to a local Chinese law firm, along with one of the programme participants from the University of Hong Kong. Responsibilities of the interns included attending client meetings and producing follow-up documentation, drafting business plans and correspondence to clients and translating contracts and agreements from Chinese to English. We also proofread documents which had been translated offered an English law perspective on issues affecting a Chinese client, conducted in-depth comparative law research on anti-monopoly laws and legal cultures, and other miscellaneous work such as Intellectual Property registration searches.

I have always been fascinated by the Chinese commercial and political environment and this programme provided the perfect opportunity to explore these interests.

Julian Gray, Second Year, BA Oriental Studies (Chinese), University College

Lasting Impressions

I have always been fascinated by the Chinese commercial and political environment and its changing role in the global economy, and this programme has provided the perfect opportunity to explore these interests more directly – both during the two-week Contemporary China course at HKU, and the subsequent internship in Shanghai.

Daily Life

All programme participants (both international and HKU students) were housed in the same accommodation block, so we often socialised, ate, and travelled to/from work together. We travelled to work by metro. Outside of work, there was plenty to explore in both Hong Kong and Shanghai, and our weekend travels took some of us as far as Beijing, Macau, the Yellow Mountains, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Nanjing.

Work Projects

My job was generally to perform research and produce reports in order to assist my supervisors in reporting...
the viability of entry into new foreign markets. These included South Africa, Turkey, and Algeria. I researched the specifications of vehicles that are already popular in these markets and made spreadsheets to show this information clearly. I carried out analysis of the Turkish market based on data from a database of sales from 2010 to 2014 and created a report that would help indicate whether SAIC Motor (the company I was interning with) should consider exporting MG vehicles to Turkey. I also made reports suggesting configurations for potential Turkish and Algerian versions of a new MG vehicle based on the specifications of the most popular competitor vehicles in the Turkish and Algerian markets. I also gave suggestions on certain aspects of marketing strategies such as slogans, based on my opinion as an outsider from the UK. I was also sometimes called upon to check Chinese to English translations, as well as translating information written in French.

Perhaps best of all for me as a student of Chinese, was that I was able to use this internship as an opportunity to practise speaking, reading, and writing Chinese.

Daily Life

My experience of living in Shanghai was a pleasant one. It was easy to find places to go and have fun on the weekends and I enjoyed exploring the city with fellow interns. The SAIC Motor complex was situated quite far away from the hotel: we had a one and a half hour bus journey every morning and afternoon to and from the complex.

Lasting Impressions

Through this internship, I gained a view of the particularities of the working culture of a Chinese state-owned enterprise. Perhaps best of all for me as a student of Chinese, was that I was able to use this internship as an opportunity to practise speaking, reading, and writing Chinese in a new setting over a prolonged period. As a result, my language ability increased noticeably, particularly as I was able to pick up business-related vocabulary. I would consider working in China for a time in the future.
and in our spare time we visited cultural sites, for example one weekend we went to Hong Kong, as it borders Shenzhen. There was a good balance between work and sightseeing.

Lasting Impressions

I had a really enjoyable and unforgettable month in China, meeting lots of students and businesses, and seeing what life would be like in Beijing /Shenzhen. I would definitely recommend a visit, and hope to go back to explore more of the country in the future and maybe work there for a bit. I also hope I can continue to learn Mandarin.

Matthew Deakin, Final Year, MEng, Christ Church College

Work Projects

There were three things that we got involved with on the trip. (1) Mandarin classes for one week and cultural visits (2) an ICT course on Huawei’s core technologies (3) Visiting other businesses to give an insight into working in China.

Daily Life

In general, whilst in China we started the day at 9am and spent the morning on an activity, then 1-2 hours for lunch, then another couple of hours in the afternoon were spent finishing the morning activity. Evenings were generally free to socialise with the other interns (40 students went, from universities around the UK and Ireland). All students were pleasant to be around. There were only about five free days in the time we were away however, and so the trip was quite prescriptive for the most part. There was also only one real chance to socialise with local people - mostly, time was spent exclusively with the group (although people were good at finding things to do in the cities we visited).
evenings free to explore. Some trips were arranged for us e.g. to the Great Wall which was really useful. Huawei really looked after us and we got to see some incredible things.

**Lasting Impressions**

China was incredible, however I don’t know if I could live there. I think it would be very difficult with the language barrier and without the support of the internship staff.

_Freddy Bruce, Second Year, MEng, Christ Church College_

**Work Projects**

I undertook an intensive week long Mandarin course in Beijing. This was followed by an ICT course at the Huawei headquarters in Shenzhen. This gave me an understanding of their products and services. As well as this I visited a number of companies such as Arup, BT, BGI and Tencent.

**Daily Life**

In Shenzhen I stayed in the company’s hotel on campus. They provided rooms for the entire group (40 people). I would walk to work at 9:00 then finish around 16:00. After this a group of us would travel into Shenzhen to explore, then have dinner in a local restaurant. In Beijing we were staying in a hotel. Again similar to Shenzhen in the mornings we had Mandarin classes, after which we were free to explore the sights in Beijing.

**Lasting Impressions**

I loved this country, it is so different to Europe. There was a lot to see and buy as everything is made in southern China. Experiencing the food was fantastic—each region has noticeable different styles of cooking. I also had the opportunity to travel to Hong Kong. The internship has opened my mind to working abroad and in China there is a lot of exciting work out there.

_Amy Ford, Second Year, MChem, Balliol College_
Max Swann, Penultimate Year, MEarthSci, St. Peter's College

Work Projects

During my internship I was helping out a Masters student with his experiments. We were doing experiments on the growth and productivity of micro-algal biofilms, trying to determine the optimal conditions for their growth. The ultimate aim of this project was to test whether growing algal biofilm is an economically feasible way to produce algae to use as biomass fuel.

Daily Life

I lived in an international student block in the middle of the university campus. The accommodation was really good, it has everything you need. I would usually eat in the campus canteens that had a great selection of food for a decent price, usually about 10RMB (£1) per meal. I worked in a lab about half an hour’s walk from my accommodation. I usually worked hours something like 10am to 6pm, and work was very relaxed. On the weekends the other interns and I would explore the city of Wuhan. I also occasionally explored the nightlife of the city- it was pretty hard to find bars or clubs but after making friends with other international students we found some. I also had time to visit a few other cities in China which was good fun.

Lasting Impressions

China is a very interesting place, I’d certainly like to visit again and see some other cities that I didn’t have time to see on this trip. Working in the labs there also made me consider academia as a likely career choice.

Oliver Robshaw, Penultimate Year, MChem, Wadham College

Work Projects

I worked in a research group and was paired with a supervisor who set me a project doing computational modelling. He provided lots of assistance and direction initially whilst I learned the software and then in later weeks was much more hands-off, but always available and helpful whenever I had a problem.

Daily Life

I was met at the metro station by a colleague and shown to the (relatively very nice) accommodation that had been arranged for interns. The next day I was again met and lead blindly through the excessively bureaucratic and un-navigable registration process with the various departments and authorities. The accommodation was a five-minute walk from the office and about five different canteens all serving incredibly cheap but tasty Chinese food. At lunch everyone in the office would go to eat together and in the evening the interns would meet to eat dinner at the canteen or off campus if the desire for Western food was too strong. At the weekends we would go on trips into the huge city to the riverside, museums, theme parks or to visit tourist spots. Occasionally colleagues would also organize trips, activities or meals out.

Lasting Impressions

Overall the internship provided a very immersive experience of Chinese culture due to both the less touristy location and the length of time. I probably wouldn’t actively seek to return to live or work there, but on the hand I wouldn’t object to it either. The
The internship has probably only served to confuse my career goals and ambitions by presenting yet another viable alternative.

The internship provided a very immersive experience of Chinese culture.

Jamie Jian Hui Saw, Second Year, MEng, Keble College

Work Projects

I was involved with using a computer simulation program called ANSYS Fluent to simulate multiphase (gas-solid) flow in a cylinder. This was a small part of an existing project which was the designing of a biomass burner. I was placed under a supervisor who introduced me to various contacts for help regarding the use of the program. I would also meet up with her regularly to present my results and clarify certain points.

Daily Life

HUST is a campus university, albeit a very big one. It has facilities and shops to cater for students and staff alike, so all necessities can be obtained within the campus. As it is a campus, all facilities and labs are within walking distance. Most students in the labs work longer hours than in the UK, however there was no obligation for us to do so. I generally worked from 9 to 5 in the laboratory. Due to the nature of the project, my supervisor also organised a site visit to the biomass gasification and burner facility. Outside of work, the other Oxford students and I would explore the campus and the city life as Wuhan is a very large city. During the weekends, we would also go on trips to various museums and the theme park. We also frequently socialized with other students from the lab by going for dinners with them and joining in with the local entertainment, be it sports or more commonly, KTV (karaoke- a very popular pastime in China).

Lasting Impressions

A lasting impression of China is one of awe as it is a country on a rapid rise. They have a very strong (although some may find it strenuous) work ethic and they are very diligent.

Hiu Fung Kevin Lee, Second Year, MChem, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

I looked into the literature to find ways to reduce slagging and fouling in biomass fuel combustion chambers and boiler pipes. I also did quite a bit of proofreading of essays of Chinese postgraduate students.

Daily Life

Work hours were very flexible. Essentially I had someone I was mainly assisting, and I could work in my room or in the office. I went to the office at least once a day to discuss the progress of work with that person. Food is very cheap; we mainly got food from the canteens around the campus (which is huge). We mainly socialised with the postgraduates working in the same office as we were, and we would go out together to explore Wuhan.

Lasting Impressions

People in China start work in the lab from very early until very late, even after dinner, and personally I wasn’t sure how productive it was to work such long hours. The people were in general very nice and helpful, in particular the young generation of Chinese who can speak English to varying degrees, and we had many very meaningful discussions about science and technology, about politics, about China, about Hong Kong, about food, etc. The best part of the internship was getting to know and chatting with the postgraduates in the lab.

The internship provided a very immersive experience of Chinese culture.
Samuel Peacock, Second Year, BA Human Sciences, Mansfield College

Work Projects

My internship involved working in the Office of Sustainability writing a report on Yale's first 'Materials Management' outlook.

Daily Life

I lived in a Yale-owned accommodation block. I walked to work each day, a five minute walk. I was able to eat in four or five of the 12 Yale colleges. I socialised with people living in my accommodation block, and Yale has an office for international students which organised social events that I attended e.g. visiting the city of Boston.

Lasting Impressions

I very much enjoyed America, I had never visited before. I also enjoyed learning about how the Yale undergraduate system works in comparison to Oxford. I would return to live or work there, and the experience has made me consider my future career in this area.

Anna Cuckow, Final Year, BA Geography, Worcester College

Work Projects

During my four-week internship with the Green Campus team at the University of Copenhagen, I worked on researching student engagement with a view to improving opportunities for volunteering related to campus sustainability. It covered my suggestions and recommendations for motivating and recruiting new volunteers, project inspiration from other universities internationally, and some thoughts on the practicalities and longer-term independence of a new student group. Research was undertaken through discussions within Green Campus, an online survey and interviews with Copenhagen students and other IARU and Oxford students, plus personal experience of involvement in similar student initiatives and organizations in Oxford. I was not expecting a task with such a wide scope, but it will be rewarding to see (through social media) the development of more activities over the next year on campus, and hopefully the emergence of a more visible engagement strategy. The office team was welcoming, enthusiastic and ready to help with all sorts of practical questions. Admittedly, I struggled with supervisors who were on leave in the middle two weeks of the internship, but this gave me greater freedom to conduct the research as I wished.
The team was also fantastic at giving tips for places to visit and willing to discuss Danish life and university sustainability more generally.

**Daily Life**

The working day in Copenhagen, in the summer at least, is surprisingly short, being 9am to 4pm (sharp). Our accommodation was close to the office, and once we had hired bikes, took about five minutes. I lived with another IARU exchange student from the National University of Singapore. She arrived two weeks ahead of me and sharing a flat proved an interesting and enjoyable experience. Work was normally a mixture of emails, interviewing Copenhagen university students, discussions with Green Campus staff, plus visits to different campuses and university buildings to get the bigger picture of campus sustainability. At the weekend and after work, we explored Copenhagen and the surrounding area (North Zealand), including the major attractions of the royal palaces and museums, plus we lazed around on sunny days in some of the many city parks and nature reserves. Copenhagen is generally touristy, with excellent public transport, a good number of quirky shops and bars, but was fairly expensive (living costs were covered by the IARU stipend though).

**Lasting Impressions**

Copenhagen was an easy, relaxed city to spend a month in, and it was a good combination of interesting work experience in a useful sector, plus a bit of a holiday in Scandinavia! I would definitely consider living in Copenhagen, but learning Danish would make the experience much more enjoyable even though there are many fluent English speakers. The internship confirmed my interest in sustainability as a field, and it was interesting to understand some of the practical complexity behind issues such as meeting carbon footprint targets, even where institutional motivation was strong, because of the challenges of behavioural change and communicating about sustainability in a relevant way. In my research, I received considerable responsibility as this was a new area for the team and there was much encouraging interest in my research, both from students and Green Campus. I look forward to seeing how the student engagement strategy develops in the coming year.
Elizabeth Raine, DPhil Environmental Research, St. Edmund Hall

Work Projects

I was involved in several projects during my internship with Imaflora. I first was involved with developing an advocacy strategy for the organisation to become more involved with influencing public policy with regards to forest product commercialisation, protected areas and conservation. This involved researching other NGOs and organisations that are involved in advocacy work to identify areas where Imaflora could be involved. One of the projects that Imaflora is involved with is the commercialisation of non-timber forest products in the Amazon region of Brazil. To assess the impact that the introduction of the activity had on local people, Imaflora had carried out a questionnaire. I helped to analyse the results from this questionnaire to identify areas where the intervention had been a success, and areas for improvement. Imaflora also wanted to know what the impact the commercialisation intervention had had on the surrounding environment. I researched potential environmental monitoring methodologies that could be used to assess the impact of commercialising non-timber forest products, and developed a report to synthesise these results. This provided an overview of the different ecological research methods, their strengths and weaknesses and also how these methods could be applied to the commercialisation projects in the Amazon.

Daily Life

Imaflora is based on the outside of Piracicaba, a medium sized town in Brazil. I would walk to work every day, but most people take the bus or drive in. Sometimes I would get a lift. I was living close to the centre of the town, which is close to supermarkets and restaurants. I lived with one other person in a house, which was really lovely. In the evenings I would practice Portuguese, learn to cook Brazilian food or go to a restaurant with my housemate. Piracicaba is a lovely city, and I would often go for runs around the university or along the river. It is really easy to get to Sao Paulo by bus from Piracicaba, so at the weekends I would visit the city, or go further to the mountains.

Lasting Impressions

Living and working in Piracicaba was a great experience. Imaflora is a fantastic charity and everyone is really friendly. The work I did with the charity will be really useful for me in the future when I try to find work.
Alastair Glennie, Penultimate Year, MCompSci, Magdalen College

Work Projects

During my internship, I worked on multiple projects relevant to the company’s progress. I began with a solo project that allowed me to get used to some of the other projects done within the company. My work led me to talk to and receive help from others which was a really great way of getting to know people on the other side of the office. In later weeks I got to work on the bigger company projects with the rest of my time. I really valued this experience because my contributions were at the forefront of the company’s achievements and I had responsibly in the company’s success.

Daily Life

On an average day, my work would begin with a stand-up meeting when everyone arrives, discussing the previous day’s achievements and plans for the coming day. This involved everyone in my team of roughly six or seven people, where we’re all working on the same project (for the latter project I worked on). Most of the time I would then get on with some solo work on whatever feature I was developing, though the nature of the team work meant sometimes I had to spend a whole day working with others. We all went out for lunch together sometimes and it was a nice hour-long break to talk about anything besides work. The morning was much the same as the afternoon, though normally one would have targets set during the morning for the end of the day so work is maybe a bit more focused. I got to work by cycling. Outside of work I either visited friends in the office or spent time in the office (a very relaxed environment open 24 hours) and did my own thing.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions are that I was very satisfied with the internship. I enjoyed living in London and definitely want to return there (and to the same company) in the future to work. Working there has confirmed my career goals in wanting to be part of the industry and that I really enjoy the work.
I really enjoyed being involved in a project with real-world relevance; the adulteration of coffee is one of the most economically important issues in the food industry.

a lot of data, I also did some analysis of the spectra. I completed a lot of the work independently, but there was always someone on hand to answer any questions I had. It was great to be trusted to run samples and make my own conclusions about the results.

Institute of Food Research (Norwich, UK)

Ella Wren, Second Year, MChem, Keble College

Work Projects

I spent most of my internship using low field NMR spectroscopy to investigate ground coffee. There are two main types of coffee beans— one of which is considered to be superior and is more expensive. I was looking at whether we could use this new technique to identify the difference between the two types of beans in order to detect potential adulteration in ground coffee. The majority of my time was spent making up samples and running them on the machine, but towards the end of my internship, when I had acquired

Daily Life

I usually worked from 9 until 5, but the working hours were flexible so I could arrive later if I wanted. I lived in a student house within walking distance of the research park, although unfortunately I ended up living there alone for a few weeks as the other students moved out. Everyone I worked with was very friendly and I got on well with them. At the weekends I either went home or explored the city.

Lasting Impressions

Norwich is a very rural, historic city. Although living there for two months was very pleasant, I’m not sure if I would want to live there permanently as it isn’t particularly accessible to the rest of the country. I am definitely still interested in a career in research, as I really enjoyed being involved in a project with real-world relevance; the adulteration of coffee is one of the most economically important issues in the food industry. Many of my colleagues had previously worked in schools so I was also able to get an insight into teaching, another career path I am considering.
São Paulo is famous for). I have a short walk to the bus, which takes me almost straight to the Institute. After a morning of experiments, shadowing, or reading papers, I’ll go to lunch either with members of my lab or the other Oxford interns here. There is always a lot of rice and beans, among other options! After more work (and coffee) in the afternoon, I’ll head home and generally try and do something in the evening - trying a new bar, maybe a concert or a restaurant. São Paulo is an impossibly large city, which can seem a bit daunting at first, but once you get used to the metro and buses it is incredibly freeing.

Lasting Impressions

I am so glad that I did this internship, and although I didn’t quite know what to expect, it really has been a great experience. Brazil is another world - and such an enormous country I am unfortunately only seeing a small slice of it. Similarly São Paulo itself is so massive, and while not a pretty city it certainly has its charms. One thing I was not expecting is the hot, sunny weather we’ve had - it has been their winter! I would definitely consider living in Brazil for a short period, maybe a couple of years. One obvious drawback is my pitiful Portuguese, and distance to visit friends and family in the northern hemisphere. But it is an amazing, vibrant country with its own rhythm.
Working Projects

The host organisation was very helpful, ensuring we felt settled in our labs as well as giving us lots of information on places to visit in the city. They also checked up on us regularly to ensure all was going well. My project involved ligating a GFP-cassette into a phasmid to be used in the detection of TB in a sputum sample.

Daily Life

In the morning, I would catch the bus to work as I decided to live further away from the institute but door-to-door the journey took no more than 30 minutes. The start time was relaxed and depended on what experiments I needed to do in the day. Whilst at work, I would spend my day experimenting, be that purifying DNA for later experiments, transforming E.Coli, running PCRs or many other techniques involved in molecular biology. I learned and used a wide range of techniques in my projects. Near the end of the day I would talk with my supervisor about the experiments I had done that day, what we could interpret from them and where to go next over the next day or few days. I had a lot of independence during this project but my supervisor was always contactable, and if he wasn’t around there were many others in the lab who were able to work. During the day I would socialise with those in my lab as many spoke good English and would often meet with the other students from Oxford over lunch. Outside of work, I would be a tourist in the city of São Paulo, visiting the sights often at the weekend and going to local restaurants or botecos (read local bar with beer, the national drink caipirinhas and many tasty deep fried snacks) either with the other students from Oxford, friends I had made through my journeys or people from work.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed my internship. I have never done molecular biology research before so it was a real insight into the very early stages of research that occurs. It has definitely made me consider my options for the future and the possibility of further study as a master’s student after I have completed my BMBCh. Although I really loved Brazil, and especially São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the possibility of me returning to live or work there is small due to the large distance from the UK where my family are based. To return to travel- or to work for less than a year is now a possibility I would definitely look into.
Work Projects

I conducted pharmacokinetic studies involving a proteasome-activating peptide. This involved injecting mice at different times and dissecting them to obtain their tissues. The tissues were then analysed for the presence of the peptide at different hours, allowing us to find out the peptide distribution within the body. I also volunteered to write a review on the relationship between CNS behaviour and the proteasome. This will hopefully be submitted to a journal by the end of the year.

My supervisor was very encouraging by allowing me to do the review. When it came to the practical work however, although a project had been prepared for me, I do not feel that enough went in to making sure that I adjusted to the lab quickly and picked up essential techniques. This was mainly because I was following someone who did not speak English and my supervisor was not involved much in teaching me the lab work, meaning that it took me a lot longer to learn than it should have done. On the plus side however, my supervisor also brought me to the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology which was one of the most eye-opening and inspiring experiences of my career so far. It really was one of the highlights of the internship.

Daily Life

The Institute was great at helping us settle in. The interns were offered a tour of the Institute and given many maps as well as information about places to visit in São Paulo. My supervisor and the women in charge of organising the internship took me out for lunch or dinner several times to make sure that I was happy and to check how I was doing. The Institute found us accommodation very close by, meaning every morning I only had a 20 minute walk. However, it was quite far away from the main attractions in São Paulo so when I went to see the city, it would take me much longer to leave and return at times - this often meant that I was not keen to go out and explore after dark as it would take me too long to get home.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed the lab work during the internship. As I am only a first year student, I had very little experience when I entered the lab so everything I learnt in the lab was consequently very exciting for me and all new information. However, I found the language barrier very difficult at times and whilst this impeded my learning, it also made my time as a tourist less easy. As a result, I would not return to live or work there (despite being offered a placement there next summer), but I would return for a holiday. Working with mice was uncomfortable for me, and made me reconsider my career goals. I now have a much greater understanding
of what research is like in basic science however, and I think that I would overall still like to continue down this path.

Tom Graham, Final Year, BA Cell and Systems Biology, New College

Work Projects

I worked in the Pain and Signalling group at Instituto Butantan. My project tied into one of the main areas of research for the lab: developing drugs that alter the activity of aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 as potential analgesics. Specifically, my project investigated whether an increase in reactive aldehyde load was observed across a range of different inflammatory and neuropathic pain models. During my Oxford degree I had spent just two months in a lab, and that was in a virology lab, so I needed to be shown the ropes. People in the lab were very helpful, but I was also allowed my independence. There was only one problem I had not anticipated, which was that not many of the people in the lab spoke good English. On the whole they can read it, but not speak or understand it. A couple of colleagues spoke good enough English though, so it was not a great problem, and really it just encouraged me to learn Portuguese.

People in the lab were very helpful, but I was also allowed my independence.

Daily Life

Instituto Butantan is a heritage site. Spread over a hill in the middle of the mad sprawl of São Paulo it is a strange little oasis. Walking there every morning the pollution was such that it felt like smoking a dozen cigarettes, but once inside that changed completely. It is half jungle, half conserved early 20th century buildings with flaking white facades. It could hardly be more different from the John Radcliffe. Inside the buildings things are more familiar, but the labs were a little ramshackle compared to what I had grown used to in Oxford. But this was part of the fun: the electricity would cut out during dissections and we would proceed like cavers, dripping without air-con, under the torches from iPhones. Generally I would get there at 9am and leave at 5pm. But it was relaxed - I came and went as I pleased. During the day I either got on with the wet-work for my project, prepared presentations of my work in Oxford, or got on with reading for and writing a review article on the role of reactive oxygen species in neuropathic and inflammatory pain models. I think they also rather enjoyed having an Oxford student there, and I got tours of all the other labs that I was interested in. Some of these were like impromptu tutorials. In one, I spoke for two hours with one of the doctors in charge of the phase III clinical trials for the NIH/Butantan Dengue vaccine. In truth it was probably one of the best tutorials I have had, and it was extraordinarily kind of him to give me all that time. Beyond work, I really tried to explore São Paulo. I set up a couple of English/Portuguese language exchanges. São Paulo has a really lively modern art scene. The international film festival also took place while I was there. On some weekends I went to the beach houses of people in the lab; on others I found Paulistas to go out with. Back in the UK I talked everyone’s ears off about this trip in the months leading up to it, so by the time I left I had some extremely tenuous but nonetheless useful people to contact when I got out there. And that initial foothold is all you need, really.

Lasting Impressions

São Paulo is dirty, dangerous, imbalanced - and thrilling. I would have liked to explore it even more than I did. Afterwards I travelled around Brazil, to Rio, Brasilia, etc. I will definitely be heading back for longer in the future. I don’t know if I would work in Brazil as a scientist because, ultimately, there are better places to be, but perhaps in some other capacity. That said, the experience overall has certainly reminded me why I want to study for a PhD.
Qi Pan, Second Year, MBioChem (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry), Brasenose College

Work Projects

I was given a range of projects to choose from by my principal investigator (PI), and after discussing which ones would be most beneficial and could be completed within 8 weeks, I chose to undertake one project looking at whether short chain fatty acids (SCFAs) could transactivate the EGFR, and another project where I knocked down some ER membrane complex proteins. I was given lots of support from the people in the lab, who were there to answer all the questions I had, and who demonstrated lab techniques I had not encountered before. I also met with my PI at stages during the 8 weeks to update him on my work and to discuss further steps.

Daily Life

The accommodation was under a 10 minute walk from the Institute, which was very convenient. I went to work at around 9:30, and aside from the lab work, I went to seminars which were twice a week. Work hours were quite flexible and entirely up to me, so there were days when I left at 17:30 and other days when I left around 19:00. It was always nice to sit in the courtyard of the Institute after lunch to have a coffee and chat with the others in the lab. I went out for some meals with the lab staff, which was great. Outside of work, I cooked in the evenings and relaxed with the other interns. On weekends I went to the beach, went shopping, or travelled to other places recommended to me - Setubal, Sintra, Cascais, and Lisbon which is only 25 minutes away by train.

Lasting Impressions

I got the impression that Portugal is a very relaxed country, and that definitely rubbed off on me during my time here. The people were very friendly and the weather is perfect - hot during the day but not humid, and cool in the evenings, and there were only a couple of days where the sky wasn’t blue. It has not confirmed my career goals, although doing a PhD is certainly a possibility, and I definitely recommend Portugal as a great location for a summer internship.

Megan Milarski, Final Year, BA Cell and Systems Biology, Lincoln College

Work Projects

I was involved in investigating the pathway by which the influenza A virus genome - viral ribonucleoproteins (vRNPs), is trafficked from the nucleus to the plasma membrane. It is known that vRNPs bind Rab11-vesicles are involved in transport to the membrane, but this process is not fully defined and the role of Rab11 family interaction proteins (FIPs) is also unclear. I was involved in investigating the interactions between vRNPs, Rab11 and FIPs in infected and uninfected cells. My project was to optimise the protocol and carry out pull down assays to detect the binding of FIPs to Rab11 and to determine if vRNPs bind Rab11 directly. I had so much support from the lab and I was put to work straight away. After going through the protocols with one of my supervisors I could soon carry them out independently but was always offered help whenever I needed it. In between experiments, other lab members also taught me new techniques that I could observe and help out with.
Daily Life

Most working days would run from 10am to 6pm. My first week was spent going through some of the protocols with my supervisor which also helped me learn how the lab worked and where everything is. Once I knew the protocols and became more independent I would try and plan my experiments at the beginning of the week. One thing that was really nice is that the whole lab would try and go for lunch at the same time. Outside of work, I spent time with some of the other interns on the programme; we went for dinner, spent time at the beach or visited some parts of the town. On the weekends I tried to visit as many nearby towns as possible as the train made it so easy. Also, a lot of people like to go to the beach after work.

Lasting Impressions

The Lisbon area is a great place with some lovely places to visit. I found it really easy to travel around and people at the lab could always offer suggestions of where to go and how to get there. I would definitely love to return and spend some more time exploring the rest of Portugal. I wanted to carry out an internship of this nature to help me decide whether I liked the idea of research or not as I had been unsure. My time in this lab genuinely made me realise that I do enjoy lab work and I would be happy to consider a masters or something similar. However, I also realised that I probably wouldn’t want to do a PhD and would also really enjoy a career applying my scientific experience in another way, perhaps academic publishing, for example.

Olga Zadvorna, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Corpus Christi College

Work Projects

During my internship I did a small project on network modelling. I found the project quite interesting, even though I knew nothing about Gene Networks when I arrived. Because my background is not in Biology, but in Physics, I did a project in Computer Science (Computational/Theoretical Biology). Even though there are a couple of cool groups that do research connected to Physics (Biophysics, Physical Principles of Nuclear Division), they were not taking students during the time I was there. I was given a choice of three groups: Network Modelling, Population and Conservation Genetics and Science and Policy. This is worth bearing in mind for future students doing Physics/Maths etc.

The internship confirmed that I am definitely a more experimental than theoretical scientist.

Daily Life

I socialised with another intern who also came from Oxford and with the people in my group. Weekends were fantastic, but I was normally too tired to do anything after work on weekdays. The IGC was not far from my accommodation (you pay for it at the very end by the way). There was one other permanent PhD student in the group and a couple of people who came by a couple of times a week. There was one other person from Oxford at IGC at the same time as me, and one more who arrived at the end a couple of weeks before we left. I enjoyed spending my free time with my fellow intern - going to the beach, to Lisbon, Cascais and watching her burn her porridge every morning. We are going to meet up in Oxford when we are both back.

Lasting Impressions

Portugal is a great sunny country, which I enjoyed, however the ocean is quite cold to swim in. I don’t think I would want to live or work there though. The internship has confirmed that I am definitely a more experimental than theoretical scientist. This internship is the perfect thing for people who study biology or biomedicine etc., and would enjoy doing labs every single day.
Miriam Broeks, MSc Comparative Social Policy, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

I was primarily involved with the development of the organisation’s pan-European project which extends its Intergenerational Fairness Index to the EU-28 Countries. As well as that I wrote blogs and policy briefings and attended meetings with other partners together with my direct supervisor.

Daily Life

The team was very friendly. It was very nice to be part of the monthly meeting to get to know everyone who is part of the organisation. Most days I worked alongside my supervisor and the other intern. Lunchtime was a chance to socialise with the other members of the organisation. I came to work using the tube and the train.

Lasting Impressions

It was a great opportunity to experience how a small think tank works. I was able to work on various projects, which made the work diverse and never monotonous. It was also nice to be able to consult with my supervisor whenever possible since we were in the same office. Being here has made me realise that I have a strong interest in influencing social policies and that I would like to continue doing work related to it, whether it is for a think tank or for a government or other organisation.

Thomas Anderson, First Year, BA Philosophy, Jesus College

Work Projects

I had a range of tasks and activities. These included writing public consultation submissions, research reports, blogs and internal reports. I also attended various meetings with academics, journalists and politicians.

Daily Life

I live in London so the commute took about 40-45 minutes each way on the Tube and National Rail. I would then work on projects in the office or go to meetings. IF were very flexible on hours, as long as I completed my work, so I usually worked from 10am-6pm. There were always lots of extremely friendly faces in the office, including one or two other Oxford interns, who I got along with really well!

Lasting Impressions

I would definitely recommend this internship! Everyone was really friendly and the work was interesting and varied. I was absolutely treated as a full member of the team doing independent work that IF would otherwise have been doing, so I didn’t feel like I was wasting either my or their time.
The school day is from 8 in the morning to 3:15. As my family live in Bangalore I stayed at home for the most part and would commute into school on the school bus. However, I did spend a week in boarding while I was planning the assembly. The school provides free Indian breakfast, lunch and dinner and the room is en-suite. On weekends I often went travelling. I spent

The skills I learnt through regular teaching: patience, leadership, organisation, etc. are invaluable.
one weekend in Mysore with my family and another in Pondicherry with some friends - I would thoroughly recommend both places. Bus and overnight bus travel are relatively cheap and very worthwhile. I went out with the other interns, staff members and some friends I had in Bangalore already. There is a lot going on in the city so it’s great to explore.

Lasting Impressions

The internship really solidified my love of teaching and of working with people. Since, I have been actively involved in my college and university communities through being part of the Fresher’s Committee and three societies. The skills I learnt through regular teaching: patience, leadership, organisation, etc. are invaluable in these roles. It was also a fascinating place to work because many of the staff members and students are international. The students were very friendly and confident, and usually fairly well behaved and excited to learn. I would welcome future applicants who get this internship to get in touch - I would be happy to answer any questions!

Jeevan Dhillon, Final Year, BA Economics and Management, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

My internship involved shadowing and teaching classes of interest to me at the school.

Daily Life

School was 8am till 3pm which was spent in various classes either shadowing or teaching. After work, time would be spent socialising often with the intern co-ordinators. On the weekends, time would be spent exploring Bangalore.

This internship was a really great experience that has encouraged me to want to return to India in the near future to work.

Lasting Impressions

This internship was a really great experience that has encouraged me to want to return to India in the near future to work. I was particularly lucky with the co-ordinators on the programme who were brilliant in making the adjustment to life in India so good.
IT Services, University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)

Lawrence Okoth-Odida, Second Year, MCompPhil, St. Hilda’s College

Work Projects

My internship involved various projects such as working on the Javascript File Browser, where I researched different existing Javascript file browsers that can be integrated with CKEditor. I contributed to the elFinder file browser project by improving documentation, fixing bugs, adding new features and producing new themes/skins, and finally I integrated elFinder with WebLearn’s Sakai 11 software.

Daily Life

I cycled to work from Iffley (roughly 15 mins). I worked roughly 9-5/6 from Monday to Thursday and then had a half day on Fridays. I already knew most of the office from having worked with IT Services last year and was even issued with the same machine as last year, so settling in was simple. Occasionally I had lunch with another intern, and I went to London every other weekend.

Lasting Impressions

I would certainly consider a long-term contract with the Weblearn team if they would have me. These last two internships have made working in Oxford post-graduation seem quite enticing, and have directed my career goals towards software development/engineering.

Emma Espinosa Sanchez, First Year, MCompSci, Worcester College

Work Projects

I worked on the implementation of a multifactor authentication system to be added to the existing University authentication infrastructure. This involved programming in Python and quite a bit of server administration. My main source of support was the Identity and Access Management team within IT Services who helped me get a better understanding of the existing services and the requirements the new

It has made working in Oxford post-graduation seem quite enticing, and have directed my career goals towards software development/engineering.
use of technology in education.

**Daily Life**

I carried on living in college for the duration of the internship, which was very convenient as it was only a short walk to and from the office on Banbury Road. Everyone in the office was very friendly - always willing to help me and give advice when I needed it. And they were very willing to give me the feedback I needed to ensure that the reports I was producing were the best I could make them, and to help me in my future endeavours. We even went out to lunch together on a few occasions. The IT Services also had a number of other interns, and while we were all working on different projects, we did establish a small, but close, intern-community. I’m still in touch with some of them.

**Lasting Impressions**

This internship helped confirm my interest in software development, and it also sparked an interest in areas I hadn’t really considered before such as server administration or frontend web development. It also provided a very interesting perspective on what happens “behind the scenes” at the University, in particular all that goes on behind the familiar “Oxford Webauth” page!

Matthew Gracey-McMinn, MPhil Traditional East Asia, St. Anne’s College

**Work Projects**

During the internship I worked on the Video Capture Project. Some departments around the University had been trialling new lecture capture software for a year and my role within this project was to gather feedback from such departments, members of staff, administrators, and students, concerning their experiences of the software and to then create reports that would detail what was working, what wasn’t working, and how to resolve or avoid issues going forwards. I received a lot of support, for which I was grateful, from the staff members in my office. This ranged from teaching me how to use the video capture software, through to writing advice from professional editors (which has been very useful in my studies since), and teaching me about other projects they were working on. This guidance helped me to expand my knowledge of the multifactor system should fulfil, in addition to lots of other general help with the Linux server.

**Daily Life**

My college provided me with accommodation during the summer, so settling in was not a problem as I already knew where I was going. Being in college also had lots of advantages, the main one being the possibility to get to work in just a 15 minute walk. Outside of work, I was able to enjoy Oxford without the pressure of deadlines and exams, and the lack of College Hall food meant I had to discover lots of new places to eat!

**Lasting Impressions**

As I mentioned above, the internship has massively helped me with my writing skills, due to all the feedback from professional editors - and I’ve found this to be a very useful skill when writing essays. Similarly, working on ‘technology in education’ has given me a much better insight into the ways in which such technology is installed, the effects it can have, the problems it can solve, and the issues it has to overcome. Also, being able to discuss other projects with the others in the office gave me insights into where educational technology is going in the future, and how people are trying to improve and innovate. It is also really nice to see the effect of my work on the University at large and I can feel proud when my fellow students praise the project on which I worked for its positive impact on their studies.
Living in China for two months has given me a much more global outlook and more confidence to explore working in other countries.
living in China for two months has given me a much more global outlook and more confidence to explore working in other countries. During the internship we had a lot of freedom in terms of choosing and enacting our lesson plans and topics. This was brilliant for me as it has allowed me to explore my strengths and weaknesses in a way which university and previous work experience did not. This experience has afforded me greater clarity on what I want from a job as well as about my career goals. I now have the confidence to pursue what I wish to do wherever in the world it may take me.

**Petr Vilím, First Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, St. John’s College**

**Work Projects**

The internship involved teaching classes - with an hour-long introduction for training purposes. IVSC also sent us on a TEFL course, which I found helpful.

**Daily Life**

The interns socialised with one another, I also made friends among the students and school staff. The food was very spicy and temperatures high.

**Lasting Impressions**

If all else fails, I’d go and teach there. I liked the diversity of the country, which made me consider returning there as a traveller.

**Esben Wilken, First Year, BA Economics and Management, Keble College**

**Work Projects**

As the school we were teaching English at had very little experience running a summer camp, we were able to gain a lot of responsibility in terms of arranging the summer camp, preparing the teaching schedule/curriculum etc.

**Daily Life**

The amount of work was a bit overwhelming. It took us some time, negotiating back and forth with the local school and our agency in the UK, before this was limited to a reasonable amount, allowing us to have a little free time, which we often used in the local gym or exploring the city’s restaurants and attractions.

**Lasting Impressions**

I was surprised by how different the working/office culture is in China. A lot of tasks seem to be done on an ad-hoc basis, where you can never expect an undisturbed day, or even hour, working on your assigned projects. Working out here requires a great deal of flexibility and willingness to jump in and out of the projects you are working on.

**David Parton, First Year, BA Jurisprudence, St. Hilda’s College**

**Work Projects**

I taught English immersion classes to between 1 and 30 young adults of varying ability at three different schools across Chongqing. I was provided with hotel accommodation by the host organisation and given a teaching assistant to look after me while I was in the city, helping me overcome the language barrier.
Daily Life

I usually ate breakfast at the hotel and would often begin the day by planning my upcoming classes, often on PowerPoint. I would then commute to the schools - two had an hour commute through the city, usually by metro, whereas one was right next to the hotel. After class I would then spend time with my teaching assistants, and go to dinner at a local restaurant, before returning to the hotel and continuing to plan my lessons.

Lasting Impressions

Through my day off excursions and my travels after my teaching I was able to see more of traditional and ancient China, which gave me a lasting insight into a distant and ancient culture, whilst my teaching showed me modern, contemporary China, at the forefront of the global economy. The students showed me the ambitions of a developing country, and every day, just through my daily commute, I could witness a country developing in front of my eyes, with so much ambition and hope for the future. I would most definitely return to China and Chongqing in the future, to see them once their development is more complete.

Richard Lloyd, Final Year, BA Oriental Studies (Chinese), Pembroke College

Work Projects

While at Dahuwai in Yangshuo, I taught children English and led activities such as kayaking, fishing, cycling and hiking. IVSC was very helpful in organising flights and visas and helping resolve any issues we had at Dahuwai (mainly organisational).

Daily Life

A normal day at Dahuwai consisted of teaching English for roughly two hours in the morning and then leading activities such as rock climbing, hiking and caving in the afternoon. Sometimes we took part in activities like making dumplings or bonfires in the evening. However, on many evenings we had free time and often went to bars in town, to meet other travellers and IVSC volunteers from other schools. As well as socialising in the evenings, we also went rafting, cycling and swimming with other volunteers and explored the beautiful Yangshuo countryside. It took a bit of time to settle in and find my way around Yangshuo but I have had a fantastic time overall.

Lasting Impressions

The internship at Dahuwai has helped further my understanding of China and has made me want to work or study for longer in China to get under the skin of the culture. I have really enjoyed the food and interacting with local people. The internship has confirmed that I want to work both in and with China in the future.

Jordan Banting, Second Year, MMath, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

My internship was based on teaching English as a foreign language. Besides the obvious English lessons, other projects included talent show preparations, teamwork and leadership exercises and outdoor activities. The combination of these additional projects allowed the foreign teachers to form stronger bonds with the kids, which in turn enhanced communication and so improved our ability to teach. With all these additional activities, the host school (Beijing Royal School) was able to provide all necessary equipment.

Daily Life

The daily life centred around the English lesson, with some additional activities including a talent show and ‘foreign culture night’. Some days would last from 8am
to 8pm, with a long break after lunch. We were based on the school campus, so there was no travel involved. There were 10 foreign teachers, four from Oxford and six from the US. It was very interesting to see the cultural differences and backgrounds between people from the UK and America. Out of work we had plenty of opportunity to experience China and Beijing, from visits to the Forbidden Palace and Great Wall to finding some great bars and clubs.

**Lasting Impressions**

China is an incredible place, Beijing is constantly busy. On our first visit into the city we were warned that Beijing is ‘wild’. I certainly have to agree. I don’t think I will ever go back to Beijing, but could easily see myself in a more modern Chinese city like Shanghai. After this internship I doubt I will pursue a career in teaching. This is because I found that teaching the kids was almost like a factory. Once you finish with one group another comes in. I really bonded well with the first group of kids and it was hard to see them go. Only three days later we had an entirely new set of children to work with and I don’t think I would be able to let a class go, especially after teaching them for a year. The one thing that I think will last the longest from my internship is my friendships with the people that I have met. The other foreign teachers were fantastic, and I know that I will see most, if not all, of them again.

**Molly Beck, First Year, BA Jurisprudence, Brasenose College**

**Work Projects**

I taught English for a month at a school in Chongqing. I was provided with a teaching assistant who, despite not actually being present in lesson time, was available to answer any questions I had and help me settle in.

**Daily Life**

Every day there was a complimentary breakfast at the hotel at 8.30, this was buffet style with dumplings, fried rice, sausage, corn-on-the-cob, cabbage, rice porridge, Chinese cakes and toast! From 9 am until 2 pm I would spend the morning sight-seeing in the local area with my teaching assistant, other students undertaking internships or students from my class I had made friends with. Often we had local noodles for lunch. At 3.30 pm I took the metro to the centre to teach. From 4.30 until 7.30 I taught two one-hour classes with an hour break in between. At 7.30 pm I took the Metro back to the hotel which took an hour. After this I would eat at a local restaurant with other students undertaking internships, and then spend the evening socialising with other students undertaking internships. Usually we’d go to a bar, do karaoke, or play Ma Jong.

**Lasting Impressions**

I really enjoyed my internship! I learnt a lot about China and the people that live there. It helped to negate some of the stereotypes I had ingrained about the country. The people were very hospitable and surprised me constantly with the sheer level of generosity and willingness to help. I probably wouldn’t return to live or work there as the culture, although fun to experience, would not be one I could see myself living in for a prolonged time in. It’s made me consider teaching as a career goal.

**Haley Lemieux, First Year, BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, St. Hilda’s College**

**Work Projects**

The projects mainly revolved around teaching, I taught 37 English classes to Chinese students. The teaching process involved planning lessons as well as being responsible for my own classes. The host organisation provided training, a TEFL certification, and resources
as well as an invaluable teaching assistant to translate for the children when necessary.

**Daily Life**

I only taught for about 4 - 6 hours per day; however sometimes my travel took a fair bit of time commuting via bus or metro in Chongqing. I also spent some time preparing lessons. I socialised a lot with the other Oxford students on the internship (there were seven of us doing the same programme) as well as the Chinese teaching assistants (who were all generally college students in their 20s) and the Chinese students.

**Lasting Impressions**

Going to China ultimately gave me so much more confidence in myself and in my own independence, although at first it did feel like a culture shock. As I so enjoyed China and meeting the lovely Chinese people, I would consider returning to work/live there although only temporarily. I am also thinking of tailoring my degree to focus more on China as a region and even learning Mandarin.

*William Dudley, Penultimate Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Brasenose College*

**Work Projects**

I worked at a school in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. Most of my work involved teaching classes (groups and individuals) and preparing them for the IELTS English Language test. Besides providing me with accommodation and highly satisfactory meals for the duration of my stay, the host organization provided me with plenty of materials and advice on how to prepare students for this particular test.

**Daily Life**

I was working at a foreign language school in the centre of the city, about a 20 minute or so walk away from my hotel. I was required to be at the school for at least 5 days of the week, but although some of these days would be spent mostly teaching, on others I would have a lot of time simply being in the office and marking work. I got on very well with my colleagues and we would occasionally go out to dinner together etc., although at that time of the year they were seriously overworked and because not everyone had the same days off (weekends differed hardly at all from weekdays) we were rarely together as a group. As we were in the city centre there were plenty of things to do outside work: restaurants, bars, karaoke, exploring the city, and a water show that took place regularly during the evenings in the city’s main square. We also travelled to different areas of the province and country during our days off to visit mountains, sites of natural beauty, and more touristy cities.

**Lasting Impressions**

I think that an incurable interest and curiosity for China - its people, landscape, history and language - has been awakened in me by my internship there. The
experience of living abroad in a strange land and very slowly coming to terms with its culture and language has persuaded me to try as hard as I can to seek a career that will give me the opportunity to visit such places again, and perhaps stay there for an extended period. I would certainly consider working there, but only once I had reached a respectable level of proficiency in the language.

James Borne, First Year, BA Physics, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

The company we worked for, XDF, was a private tuition company, meaning the students in our lessons were school students wanting extra English lessons during their summer holidays, people preparing to go to high school/university abroad and older students who needed English for their careers. My main work was centred around 10 hours of teaching ‘immersion’ lessons. The aim of these lessons was to engage the students in conversational English, allowing them to talk with a native speaker. Also, there were several hours of one-to-one lessons each week. XDF were very supportive – they provided staff dedicated to looking after us and arranging our schedules, as well as taking us out to meals every few weeks. However, they gave us little advice to prepare for lessons and telling us what/how to teach. Planning a two hour lesson normally took one hour.

Daily Life

There were three different teaching centres we taught at: one was a very short walk from our hotel, whereas the other two required an approximately 40 minute commute on the Chongqing subway and 15 minutes of walking. Outside of teaching, there was lots of time for tourist activities, trying out restaurants and spending time with the other interns. For example, I visited a waterpark, frequently ate dinner with students and went to UNESCO world heritage sites on my days off (normally two consecutive days).

Lasting Impressions

Living in Chongqing for two months was an amazing cultural experience and all the people we met were incredibly friendly and welcoming. I would strongly recommend visiting China and I would consider working here again when I graduate.
Julie’s Bicycle (London, UK)

Harry Begg, Final Year, BA English Language and Literature, Corpus Christi College

Work Projects

I was primarily working on a research project focussing on how the arts and cultural sector is valuable to society. This research stems from the Warwick Commission’s recent report on cultural value. Julie’s Bicycle was preparing for a cultural value dialogue in collaboration with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, both of which I contributed to. This was a great way for a humanities student to contribute to climate change debates without needing a sustained grounding in science.

Daily Life

Julie’s Bicycle was an exceptionally welcoming place to work, and I forged good friendships which I see lasting over coming years. The office was at the Bush Theatre, where there was a buzzing artistic community, something permeating into the office space. After we moved to Somerset House, there was also a burgeoning cultural community into which we were welcomed. I often ate lunch with colleagues, and at the Bush Theatre there was also a ‘Bush Party’, a great way to get to know colleagues. I cycled to both the Bush Theatre and Somerset House (a journey of 25 mins each way).

Lasting Impressions

I am now living in London for a master’s course; working here over the summer was a good introduction to London living. My time at Julie’s Bicycle has informed my master’s degree research areas, and has given me a lot of food for thought for PhD research. There were also considerable networking opportunities and the programme gave me a good insight into the diverse nature of the arts and cultural scene in London.

Kimberly Paige Johnson, MSc Biodiversity, Kellogg College

Work Projects

My supervisors on this internship were eager to provide projects that fitted with my skills and interests. I researched and created policy reports and briefs on UK and EU energy and climate policy. I wrote case studies for the website, and edited and proofread several documents, including a large-scale progress report.

Daily Life

I travelled to London from Oxford three times a week using the Oxford Tube. This was the only unpleasant aspect of the internship. I worked 10am-5:30pm and everyone there was extremely welcoming. I met with everyone individually to learn about what they did and about the industry, and to find out about projects I could get involved in. I ate lunches with co-workers and they held a special going away lunch for me on my last day. I also attended relevant workshops and talks in London with co-workers. I worked from home two days a week on ongoing projects.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed my internship and would be happy to work in the environmental sustainability sector. I was very impressed at the level of friendliness and the welcoming environment, and how much time everyone was willing to take to teach me about the industry. I enjoyed working in London but would note that the travel between London and Oxford was difficult as the journeys were long and sometimes the time it took was unpredictable.
Emily Martin, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Brasenose College

Work Projects

I was given two research projects to work on during my time with KeepCup - one looking at sustainability in business and one looking at areas for improvement for KeepCup itself in terms of their own sustainability and internal business practices. I was brilliantly supported throughout my internship with regular check-ins with my supervisor, and my internship (not yet finished) will culminate with a presentation to the CEO on my findings.

Daily Life

I settled in very quickly with KeepCup as I was given lots of training and orientation during my first week, and everyone was really friendly. I had quite a long way to travel each day (my journey was two hours door to door) which did make it quite difficult managing studying as well. However I did thoroughly enjoy my time with KeepCup and feel I benefited a great deal from it. There were opportunities to socialise with the staff in the evening but unfortunately because of my commute I wasn’t able to join in. The office did have a communal area for lunch though which was lovely. Plus - as the company works a lot with specialist coffee - we had an espresso machine and lots of other coffee gadgets in the office which for a coffee-lover like me was fantastic!

I settled in very quickly with KeepCup as I was given lots of training and orientation during my first week, and everyone was really friendly.

Lasting Impressions

My internship with KeepCup has definitely confirmed to me that I would really enjoy consultancy work. Although my role was officially in marketing, the type of research and presentations I conducted were very similar to working on a consultancy project.
Olivia Jones, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I worked for Kelmscott Manor as a research intern. I worked on a few ongoing projects at the Manor, contributing to their background research on occupants, tenants and owners of the building, along with the aesthetic of the interior and exterior throughout the Manor’s history. I was also involved in sorting through archives and making inventories of contents. I had excellent on-site support from the friendly team at the Manor along with expenses.

Daily Life

The Manor is open Wednesdays and Saturdays so on these days the site is very busy with visitors and volunteers. The latter are very welcoming. Interns are expected to help out with the staffing of the Manor and site on these days if volunteer numbers are low, as all the staff at the Manor do. Besides stewarding duties on open days the interns are free to work independently on site on the various projects - and to focus on that which they found interesting and enjoyable. I drove to work, a commute of around 30 minutes and worked 10-5/6. Every week was different, as we also visited various archives in the area.

Lasting Impressions

The beauty of Kelmscott and the Cotswolds impressed me and will stay with me. I would certainly love to work in this area. The internship has confirmed my ambitions to work in heritage and opened my eyes to the numerous roles that exist.

Olivia Jones, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

As I was working on the Manor’s market research and audience analysis project, I mainly built on the surveys that investigated audience experiences of the Manor last summer, a project which mainly involved survey (re)design, data collection, entry, and analysis. The project aimed to provide Manor staff with information on the demographic backgrounds of visitors, and what they felt about key issues such as accessibility, age-suitability, and other areas for development/improvement. The purpose of the research was twofold: (1) to inform the staff about the backgrounds and experiences of visitors; and (2) to allow staff to evaluate spending priorities and future plans against visitor experiences and suggestions. This was in anticipation of their (hopefully successful) Heritage Lottery Foundation funding bid. In addition to this main project, which made up the bulk of my work, I also analysed visitor feedback from online sources; set up several online surveys which continued to be sent out after I left; and liaised with Society of Antiquaries’ staff at Burlington House, producing a report based on survey data they had collected from their 2015 Magna Carta and 2014 ‘Portraying the Past’ exhibitions. I really
enjoyed the work I did, and it was valuable experience of quantitative research in a non-academic context. The working atmosphere was also very pleasant - all the staff, volunteers, and interns are friendly and seem to take an interest in the work that you do.

Daily Life

On an average day I would begin work sometime between 9.30 and 10.00, and would often work until sometime around 5-5.30pm, depending on what I’d been working on during the day. The staff members at the Manor are quite flexible, and often more than willing to let you leave early or keep the office open slightly longer than normal if you have a task that needs to be completed by a specific date. The work I tended to do varied according to whether it was an open day (Wednesday and Saturdays) or closed to the public (Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays). On open days, I would generally be conducting or distributing surveys to visitors; on closed days, I would enter data from open days and analyse it alongside other ongoing projects. I also had the chance to go to Burlington House for the day and liaise with staff there, which allowed me to produce several reports on the data they had collected from their 2015 and previous summer exhibitions. After work, I would normally head back to Lechlade, where my accommodation was; though I also got involved with a local hashing (running) club, and managed to visit several restaurants and pubs - the Monday half-price gin night at Colleys in Lechlade is particularly good. On weekends, I managed to get out and see more of the local area, and visited friends still in Oxford a few times too (there is a very cheap and convenient bus to Oxford from the nearby town of Faringdon).

Lasting Impressions

On the whole, staying in Gloucestershire for six weeks was a pleasant experience, and I would thoroughly recommend the internship to anyone interested in getting experience in the heritage industry, as well as anyone interested in market research or looking to develop their quantitative research or analysis skills. Although there are probably better networking opportunities if you are already looking to pursue a career in the heritage industry, the market research and audience analysis internship will also help develop more generally useful transferable analysis, communication, and research skills outside of an academic context. I probably won’t return to Gloucestershire to work, though that’s more to do with the dearth of opportunities than anything to do with the Manor itself. Overall undertaking this internship has led me to seriously consider a career in market research, although probably not related to the heritage industry - which this internship has allowed me to effectively rule out as a future career path.

Jennifer Pitt, MSt History of Art and Visual Culture, Kellogg College

Work Projects

During my internship I worked on researching the history of the Manor, I received excellent support from the staff.

Daily Life

The staff and volunteers at the Manor are all exceptionally friendly and welcoming. I was given support when needed, but also the freedom to work independently.

Lasting Impressions

Kelmscott Manor is in a beautiful location and I would be happy to live or work in that area permanently.

This internship has led me to seriously consider a career in market research.
Joanna Raisbeck, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages (German), Somerville College

Work Projects

I worked on the research project concerned with Goethe’s private library, which involved using a database of loans and looking for digital copies of texts not in the holdings of the library in Weimar. I was assigned a supervisor at the library who was also able to advise me on my academic work. I also attended a two-day project meeting, visited the library’s restoration workshop for books damaged by a fire, and transcribed a variety of library records in German ‘Kurrent’ handwriting.

Daily Life

I was given accommodation owned by the library and shared a floor with two other interns, and it was only a short walk to and from the library every day. Settling in was straightforward since I am familiar with Germany and I socialised with the other interns. Over the weekends I visited the various attractions in Weimar and travelled throughout Germany and central Europe.

I plan to return to the library to do further research since it has excellent holdings and it is very user friendly.

Lasting Impressions

Although Weimar is rather provincial, I plan to return to the library to do further research since it has excellent holdings and it is very user friendly. I still wish to pursue an academic career.
Josephine Steidl, Second Year, BA Literae Humaniores, Queen's College

Work Projects

My internship was divided into two parts. I spent about half the time with the Goethe Autorenbibliotheken-Projekt. This is a research project that aims to create an online database for Goethe's loans as well as his personal libraries. Since digitalised copies of the books are to be made more accessible through the database, I assisted in finding digitalised copies which are already available online. Further database-related tasks involved looking up the Latin names of places of publication, and checking online entries. I was also very excited to be allowed to handle some of the books Goethe took out to check these for stamps and marginalia. Moreover I attended research meetings as well as talks hosted by the Stiftung (ranging from book publications to debates which were part of a Summer School for secondary school students from all over Europe). For the other part of the programme I worked on my own project on Nietzsche and the Sophists. I was extremely lucky to be able to make use of the vast library resources on Nietzsche, as well as the expertise of those working on Nietzsche at the Stiftung.

Daily Life

During my time in Weimar I was living at the Nietzsche-Archiv, which is where Nietzsche spent his final years, a very exciting place to live while working on Nietzsche. My working day usually lasted from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm, though I would occasionally attend talks in the evening, or squeeze in a visit to one of the many local museums into a slightly extended lunch break. My workplace at the modern Studienzentrum of the Anna Amalia Bibliothek was only about 15 minutes away by foot, and provided me with a lovely walk through the city of Weimar every day. I usually divided my day into equal parts working on the Autorenbibliotheken and the Nietzsche project. Since Weimar is rather quiet in summer it was great to have two other interns there at the same time. The three of us ventured out to the local museums, and spent most of our working and free time together. I especially enjoyed taking in the stunning scenery just outside the Nietzsche-Archiv on our daily evening walks.

I very much enjoyed working together with my colleagues and have not in the least been put off academic work in the future.

Lasting Impressions

I spent a lovely two months at the Klassik Stiftung in Weimar. It was great to have time to get to know a town that is so closely linked to Goethe, Schiller - and Nietzsche. It was also wonderful to have a mix of nationalities (Austrian, English and German) and subjects (History, German and Classics) amongst the three of us interns, as it meant we often had very interesting discussions on the things we saw and experienced during our time in Weimar, since each of us had a slightly different perspective. Through my time at the Klassik Stiftung I learned a lot about how academic research works on a day-to-day basis. I very much enjoyed working together with my colleagues and have not in the least been put off academic work in the future. As a Classicist I found it extremely stimulating to look at how Goethe and other German authors made use of Classical ideas and themes. This has greatly increased my interest in exploring a reception studies-related topic for my postgraduate degree.
I took their sketches, learned how to draw models in 3D and made one for their floating station. I then rendered the sketches into some pretty images which will be sent to the researchers. While talking to the life quality research group, which has a project for delivering clean water in the jungle communities, I came up with an idea for wireless control of the pump. Another electronics-related project came up in my last week. Another supervisor, Cesar, received a request to build an automated backup power system for a chicken farm’s incubators. I found a way to build an automatic switch between the grid and the battery power using just one relay component.

**Daily Life**

I walked to the Institute early in the morning (8 am). Sometimes I used a moto-taxi to get there. I worked until lunchtime with some coffee breaks, and the cafe offers excellent lunch. Then I worked until about 6 pm. In the evenings we sometimes went out with Jonathan,

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_Maris Serzans, First Year, BA Physics, St. Catherine’s College_

**Work Projects**

When I arrived, I thought I was going to work with drones and communication technologies, but it turned out that they had largely outsourced these projects, and they would not come to Tefé until next year. I therefore had to find my own projects around the Institute. Jonathan, our supervisor, introduced me to his work, looking at sponsorship and funding opportunities. First I worked on improving the sponsorship and funding database for the Institute, putting it on the open-source ‘Base’ software. I then set out to make an online searchable database. For about a week I learned the rails framework for web-development. I then started writing the html, CSS and embedded ruby with some search plugins to make this work, and put it online, so it’s accessible to everyone at the Institute. I also had several meetings with people from other departments to figure out how to help them. For example, a colleague was researching turtle eggs, and wanted to measure their sizes from pictures, so I found appropriate software (ImageJ) and taught her how to use it. I also updated the Institute’s Tourism Lodge website, as well as building a new website for the Institute itself, using WordPress. In my fifth week, two researchers from a different institution came into the office looking to build a floating research station.

The internship convinced me that I could work in information technology if I wanted to.
our supervisor or socialised at some house parties.

**Lasting Impressions**

I definitely want to return to Tefé – especially the jungle parts. I also want to return, because I’ve made many friends in this town. On weekends I had the chance to go to different parts of the jungle where I saw wild animals, beautiful nature, and the local way of life. I tasted exotic fruit and fish which I will never forget. The place certainly has its charm, but I would not want to work there, because I felt that the pace of work is too slow and that the management is not sufficiently open-minded. The internship convinced me that I could work in information technology if I wanted to.

**Charlotte Smyth, Second Year, MCompSci, Oriel College**

**Work Projects**

I helped look into the international outreach of the organisation. This is in its infancy, so I carried out research on similar companies, my main focus being on their website and its importance. I worked in an office with my two supervisors - they guided me through and gave me things to research. Ultimately, they did not have the authority to act on this research which was not taken forward by the general director.

**Daily Life**

Working hours were 8am-6pm. The hostel where I was staying was about a 30 minute walk so I commuted by mototaxi. At lunch there was a two hour break (12-2) where some of the employees went home. However, as the other intern and I had no method of transport, we spent this break in the office. At first it was extremely difficult settling in - not only the massive culture shock, but also not knowing where to get drinking water or where to eat for example. As a girl on my own I didn’t feel safe to just venture out and explore an unknown town when it was already getting dark! The hostel I was staying in provided breakfast, and lunch was bought at the Institute. In the town (Tefé) there wasn’t much to do - a few pizzerias and some churches. This meant that it could be boring to stay for such a long period of time. Ultimately it took about three weeks to feel settled in.

I socialised with fellow workers. I didn’t speak much Portuguese and they didn’t speak a lot of English, with only one or two being near fluent. The locals spoke no English so talking to them was near impossible. I made a special effort to make friends as the only thing to do in the evenings was to meet up. There were a couple of small parties - mainly drinking beer and mingling with the co-workers. Again, fine if you are already friends but hard if you don’t know who speaks English! As it was such a remote area, the option of day trips was out of the question, however, I did get to go into the Reserve to see the flooded forest and the animals a couple of times.

There was practically no internet in the area, apart from at the Institute. We worked Monday-Saturday but would end up going in on Sunday as well so we could contact our family, and because there wasn’t really anything else to do. The weather was very hot, which was beautiful but unbearable to spend more than a few minutes in! This meant most days were spent in an air conditioned office.

The highlight of my trip was that I got to spend time in an eco-lodge, teaching English for an hour a day. This was not directly part of my internship - instead it was an opportunity that arose while I was there.

**Lasting Impressions**

Having spoken to the workers who lived there, I can gather that the rest of Brazil was very different to the area I travelled to. It was so expensive to travel anywhere, so I didn’t get a chance to see many other parts. It is not an area I could live in, due to the lack of internet, or at least without friends, as it is so remote it got lonely at times. I would love to go back one day with a friend to visit the people I met - they were the highlight, and I love the Brazilian culture of being open and friendly. I would perhaps live in a different part of the country when I am much older. In terms of career goals, the internship has not confirmed much, apart from that my eyes have been opened to how the dynamic can be in the workplace, and I now know that I wouldn’t like a job where I’m at the desk all day, which is helpful.
and limited travelling or socialising - this of course was clear from the internship summary on the website.

Lasting Impressions

The internship corresponded with a specific academic interest of mine and has been greatly helpful to my planned undergraduate thesis. It was fascinating and enjoyable, but also demonstrated that similar work is not a career path I would pursue for my whole life. It was an enlightening experience, relevant to my interests, and deepened my perspective on the areas I worked within.

Lilah Howson-Smith, Second Year, BA History, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I tidied up the PREM files- the most used files on the Thatcher Foundation website. This enabled me to get to grips with the database, understanding how it worked and specifically how it was organised in order to enable easy usage by the public. Following this I had the opportunity to catalogue files that were yet to be uploaded to the Foundation website and pertained to possible undergraduate thesis ideas. This was fascinating because again I was invited to think about the way in which people might be using the documents,
but I was also able to have first-hand experience with primary sources that few other people will have handled. Chris Collins, who runs the Foundation, was incredibly accommodating in this regard. He set up the two tasks so that I would understand how the website worked from the inside. The second task, in particular, he catered towards my thesis interests. He also advised me on practical matters such as finding accommodation in Edinburgh, where I had to stay for a period of time while I got to grips with the software used by the foundation.

Daily Life

I stayed for a little under two weeks in Edinburgh. While I was there I saw Chris regularly, if not daily, then every other day. But, I was able to work from both my accommodation there and later in the six-week period, at home, as once you’ve got to grips with the software you are able to do the work pretty much anywhere! I did tend to work to the normal 9 to 5 structure, but provided I kept in contact with Chris I could have worked more flexibly.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was a really nice opportunity to see Edinburgh. I’d visited the city before, but I got to know it a lot better over the period I stayed there. The internship helped to focus my thoughts about my undergraduate thesis and hone in on the particular sources I wanted to look at. It also increased my desire to pursue postgraduate study, on the basis that I really enjoy independent, primary source-led research.

MarineTraffic (Oxford, UK)

Daily Life

My boss was very friendly and helpful. I didn’t have any problem with settling in. Work started at 9, and lunch time is flexible, usually around 12:30, and back home at 17:00.

Lasting Impressions

I worked in West Oxford, just a bit away from the train station. It was a very friendly workspace, and I would definitely recommend the experience to others thinking of doing an internship with this organisation.

Work Projects

My work mainly involved Data Analysis on Port Congestion.
we got to know each other pretty well. There would often be meetings during the week which we were a part of and would be encouraged to contribute to. The day finished around 6pm, sometimes later depending on what we were working on, usually earlier on Fridays. We were also taken out for dinner and to see a theatre show. On weekends I explored New York and went to Washington DC for a weekend as well.

**Lasting Impressions**

This internship at Marketfield in New York was an amazing opportunity. I had a very insightful and immersive experience and I have learnt a lot both from working at Marketfield, and from living and working in New York. I got to know the city really well and plan on returning. The experience has made me open to the idea of living and working in New York in the future. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone.
Work Projects

I was given the task of redesigning the computer filing system for the HR team. This involved spending time with each member of the team to discuss ideas for the new layout, as well as researching online. Once we came up with the design, I made a back-up of the files and began moving them into the new layout. The team was very helpful, answering any questions that I had about where files belonged. The new system is now in full use.

Daily Life

My journey to and from work was half an hour by bike. When I arrived, a member of the team would find a desk for me to use. I was at a new desk every day which was great because it allowed me to meet lots of people. Everyone I met was very friendly and really made me feel part of the team.

Lasting Impressions

I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent at the Medical Sciences Division, and I feel that the whole experience has improved my confidence in a work environment and taught me some valuable skills.
Valery Charachon, First Year, BA Ancient and Modern History, St. John’s College

Work Projects

I assisted the Collections Manager and Conservator of the Museum with the review and regularisation of outgoing long-term loans from the Museum of the History of Science (MHS) to institutions and organisations in Oxford, London and elsewhere in the UK. In addition to this, I assisted with the management of electronic and hard copy loan files. I participated in Museum activities which included helping the Education Officer of the Museum in a Year 6 Summer School Education session, which gave me insight on the correlation between teaching and museum work. I was also involved in collaboration between the various museums of the university in a media project. This involved approaching visitors and presenting them with devices containing gallery item information which could become future additions to Museums. The support received from the hosts was very helpful.

Daily Life

My working days were Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5:30pm. These were spent in the Museum Office in the Clarendon Building in central Oxford. On Thursdays however, I met the Collections Manager and the Conservator of the Museum at the Museum Stores, where all the non-displayed items of the Museum are located. On these days, we re-arranged several items from a collection, in order to find objects more easily, and to clear up space in one of the rooms. The Museum Office was a fun place to be- surrounded by helpful members, work went smoothly, and the discussions I was involved in were all extremely interesting. I was given the responsibility of my own Museum login account with rights to edit the database, which honoured me greatly as the importance of the records and data entries is very high. The office was a pleasant but busy and intense environment. I spent the evenings after work relaxing and researching historical matters of interest that I may have come across in the working day, and spent the rest of my free time and the weekends exploring Oxford, London and meeting with friends.

Lasting Impressions

I was astounded at the responsibilities the Collections Manager and the rest of the office gave me, and I am immensely grateful for their trust. My only regret is that the internship lasted only six weeks. Staying in Oxford over the summer was also very interesting, as it enabled me to experience the city not as a student, but as someone working full-time. The MHS itself was a great place to be, and the experience enabled me to discover the mechanics of Oxford University itself in a way few students have the opportunity to see. The tasks given to me were absorbing, and I developed awareness of what working in the Collections department of a Museum implies, including the legal considerations attached to museum items in the UK. I would highly recommend this experience, especially for anyone interested in Museum work, as it offers a great insight into the sector. My time at the MHS in Oxford has certainly made me interested and keen to discover more about work in this field, and to consider it as a career choice for the future.
Victoria Mayne, Second Year, BA Oriental Studies (Chinese), St Anne’s College

Work Projects

At the museum, day to day tasks included giving introductions to school groups and taking part in running family events. The skills I gained in doing these tasks enabled me to plan and run my own event for the museum towards the end of my internship. All the people in the Public Engagement Team were experienced in teaching, and so could advise me on how to create activities that would appeal to children, and how to capture their attention. I was also involved in visitor research, mainly a project finding out what the visitor response to a new contemporary science exhibition was. I conducted visitor observations and face to face surveys in order to gain data and put this into a report. My recommendations will be shown to the next exhibition team to improve future exhibitions in the series.

Daily Life

My work in the museum was varied since I had two different aspects to my work. I planned and prepared for events which were at designated times, while also preparing my own independent work in visitor research. Some days I would work completely on my independent work and others I would be helping with an event all day. It kept the work varied and was a nice balance. The team were all really friendly and I settled in very quickly.

Lasting Impressions

Working in the museum has helped me to better ascertain what kind of thing I might like to do in the future as there were some parts I enjoyed a lot more than others. I really enjoyed working in a science environment and the museum is by far the best place I have ever worked in as the building is absolutely beautiful.

Maria Dance, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, St John’s College

Work Projects

I worked on a project to sample-sort and identify 6000 specimens of dung beetles for Dr Slade’s research, from the SAFE project in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. I also helped run a ‘Spotlight Specimens’ workshop, part of the museum’s public engagement programme. The museum was very supportive to us interns; my supervisor especially was patient and encouraging of me in my work.

Daily Life

My hours were generally 9:30 till 6. The museum was a short walk away from my accommodation, which was useful. I settled in to a routine quite quickly. The starting point for me each day was material collected from...
and more to my own devices. Many of the techniques I was using didn’t require supervision once I’d learned how to complete them, but I still had to present my results and conclusions to my supervisor. Some of the minerals could be identified by eye, but most could not and all required verifying to be absolutely sure! To do this I used a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). I loaded a set of small samples on a slide into the SEM and did point analyses in order to return the elemental constituents. Sometimes, if the mineral needed further work to pin down its identity, I used a Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectrometer which allowed me to see how similar certain minerals were to each other and the collection material.

Daily Life

I was lodging in a house in Headington, so my day began with a fifteen to twenty minute cycle ride across Oxford in order to arrive at the museum at 09:00. Once there, I would start working on whatever was on my agenda for the day - this could be sampling material for the SEM or FTIR spectrometer, checking locality data, physically comparing minerals with minerals in the collection, or using the SEM or FTIR spectrometer. If I ran out of work to do for the day, there were always new collections which needed integrating into the main museum collection, which meant navigating the many drawers and cupboards which house the museum’s 30,000-strong mineral collection! Although I spent most of my time working on my own, I spent my lunch and tea breaks with the other interns and members of staff at the museum, so I did manage to meet people and make friends. We went on a couple of trips to the pub, and also on some fascinating tours around the museum. I usually finished work at just gone 17:00 and would cycle back up to Headington where I spent most of my evenings entertaining the seven-year-old daughter of my hosts.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed my time at the museum, and am now seriously considering a career in curatorship and/or research. The staff members I met were friendly and welcoming, and the interns quickly became part of the team. It was surprising how quickly the six weeks went!
Aaditya Shankar, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Lady Margaret Hall

Work Projects

During my internship I worked in the Deal team, assisting with the execution of fundraising mandates. This involved the preparation of marketing materials and sales work. I also worked on Deal origination, assisting with the due diligence of potential general partners.

Daily Life

I worked from 8-8 on average. Breakfast, lunch and supper were all provided, and if I had to work late then I could get a taxi home. Although there are few social events, and no one really takes lunch breaks, the office is a pleasant place to work and the people are friendly and interesting. I was also treated to free tickets to big sports matches.

Lasting Impressions

It was in many ways exactly what I expected - private equity is a fascinating industry but to succeed you need to commit. I am seriously considering returning to the firm after I finish because I am drawn to private equity, and MVision is at an interesting stage in its development.
to travel, including a nearby rainforest, and a chance to go on safari.

**Lasting Impressions**

I felt that I was very lucky to be involved in an exciting and unusual project. I regretted not having more time to travel around Kenya, which was surprisingly cool and comfortable in the summer months. The people I met were incredibly welcoming and friendly. I would definitely consider returning if I was involved with work that was equally as motivating and interesting as this project. The internship also confirmed to me that I could add more value to NGOs by working in a different sector first for a few years, in order to gain useful skills and experience.

**Xuchen Yang, First Year, BA Biomedical Sciences, Queen’s College**

**Work Projects**

I worked with the charity on a project to set up a farm producing a nutritional supplement called spirulina. Spirulina is an algae with high nutritional value, as it has the highest protein content of any natural food. It is cheap to produce, and effective in tackling malnutrition and boosting the effectiveness of anti-retroviral drugs in those living with HIV. I carried out research on the market for spirulina in Kenya to identify the best places to sell it. I was also heavily involved in the design of the farm because of my language abilities - many of the relevant manuals we were using were in French. The support from my manager, a long-term volunteer from the UK, was excellent, and she made an effort to provide me with work relevant to my career plans.

**Daily Life**

There was a lot of variety in my daily life because of the nature of the project. I lived with other volunteers in shared accommodation owned by the charity, which was simple but surprisingly comfortable. Most days I would have a meeting with the rest of the team after breakfast to talk about our progress and what needed doing. Whenever I had some time I would work on my market research, reading reports and articles and writing up my conclusions. On many days there was travel to visit other spirulina farms, and interviews with people involved in the industry, or a trip to the nearest town to stock up on supplies (45 min away by Jeep on a dirt track). In the evenings I socialised with the other volunteers I lived with. There were also opportunities to travel, including a nearby rainforest, and a chance to go on safari.

**Lasting Impressions**

I felt that I was very lucky to be involved in an exciting and unusual project. I regretted not having more time to travel around Kenya, which was surprisingly cool and comfortable in the summer months. The people I met were incredibly welcoming and friendly. I would definitely consider returning if I was involved with work that was equally as motivating and interesting as this project. The internship also confirmed to me that I could add more value to NGOs by working in a different sector first for a few years, in order to gain useful skills and experience.

**William Hodgkins, Penultimate Year, BA Literae Humaniores, New College**

**Work Projects**

I worked with the charity on a project to set up a farm producing a nutritional supplement called spirulina. Spirulina is an algae with high nutritional value, as it has the highest protein content of any natural food. It is cheap to produce, and effective in tackling malnutrition and boosting the effectiveness of anti-retroviral drugs in those living with HIV. I carried out research on the market for spirulina in Kenya to identify the best places to sell it. I was also heavily involved in the design of the farm because of my language abilities - many of the relevant manuals we were using were in French. The support from my manager, a long-term volunteer from the UK, was excellent, and she made an effort to provide me with work relevant to my career plans.

**Daily Life**

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Nasio Trust (Oxfordshire, UK)

Rosemary Dickinson, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Magdalen College

Work Projects

My internship involved report writing, strategy work, website design, newsletter production, financial analysis.

Daily Life

I rented a room in Oxford, and caught bus to work which took 40 minutes from Oxford to Chalgrove, where I worked at Jennings Business Park. Evenings and weekends I had free from work (except for the odd meeting). I got on extremely well with everyone in the office.

Lasting Impressions

The Nasio Trust has a wonderful team, who are doing fantastic work. I have never worked with a team who were so positive and supportive in their attitude. I have come away with a real sense that anything is possible through sheer determination!

National Institute for Public Health and Environment (Utrecht, Netherlands)

Olga Kuznetsova, DPhil Pathology, Brasenose College

Work Projects

I revised a mathematical model of influenza virus genetic drift. My supervisors at the RIVM helped me with the code, discussions about the new model, and technical details along the way.

Daily Life

My working environment was enjoyable, and my colleagues helped me to settle in right from the start. I worked regular working hours and spent some time socialising with my colleagues at lunchtime. On weekends I usually travelled out of Utrecht and explored the nearby cities.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was a fantastic experience, and it was a pleasure to spend two months in the Netherlands. I would certainly consider returning to live there in the future. The work was an interesting insight into disease modelling, and has given me some skills that will no doubt be useful to me in the future in a health-oriented role.
was taught how to use. After lunch I would meet with my supervisor to go through any questions regarding the data or just to discuss how the research was going. Living in the town was an experience because none of the residents speak English and it meant learning Portuguese extremely fast - an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and will continue to practise when I return to England.

**Lasting Impressions**

I thought that the internship was incredible. It enabled me to learn and develop my knowledge of climate science, as well as providing a rich cultural experience in a country I had not previously travelled to. I would love to return to visit the people I have met and to practise my Portuguese!

Jacob Morgan, Penultimate Year, MEarthSci, University College

**Work Projects**

I worked at the Cachoeira Paulista branch of the Earth System Science Centre (CCST), a sub-department of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). INPE also has a head office in nearby São José Dos Campos. In my time there I was asked to contribute to a new area of research that CCST was starting. For the first few weeks I researched climate changes in the past two millennia (especially The Little Ice Age and The Medieval Climate Anomaly) and the internationally co-ordinated modelling groups that were studying them (PMIP3 and CMIP5). I then was introduced to the computer programme GrADS which is used to process climate model results. I was given the outputs from five climate simulations of the past thousand years and I investigated the different features present in the different models. The overall aim was to investigate whether The Little Ice Age and The Medieval Climate Anomaly were global climate events that are visible in the Southern Hemisphere and are synchronous with the well-documented events in the Northern Hemisphere. At the end of the internship I presented my findings to the research group and their colleagues.

Charlotte Dormon, Penultimate Year, MEarthSci, St. Edmund Hall

**Work Projects**

I began by researching climate models and the motivations for projects such as CMIP and PMIP. I discovered more about how the modelling community is working together to solve problems associated with the reconstruction of past climate and to better simulate the future. Looking specifically in the last millennium (850-1850 CE), I read papers to find out what is already known from climate proxies regarding the Medieval Climate Anomaly and the Little Ice Age in the Southern Hemisphere, in particular for South America. Using data from five climate models, I looked for evidence of regional change in temperature and precipitation anomalies using the software GrADS. Upon studying the boundary conditions of the individual models, I attempted to understand the differences between the simulations, and investigated time periods that deviated strongly from the normal trend of the data. The findings were presented in a lecture at the end of the internship.

**Daily Life**

I cycled to work for 9am every morning and started by looking at the data using the software, GrADS, which I...
Daily Life

The internship was fairly relaxed in terms of working hours. I preferred to work from about 9.30am through until 5.30/6.00pm but on some days I was able to leave early and make up for it on another day. I stayed in a hotel in the town with another intern so we would cycle to work together on the bikes that INPE lent us. At lunch we would cycle back into town to eat lunch at a cheap local restaurant or in our hotel, or sometimes we would bring lunch and eat outside in one of the many green spaces within the INPE facility. In the evenings we would relax in the hotel, do some reading in the hammock, or socialise with some of the friends we had made, either other PhD students in our office or local people we had met in the town. All the Brazilian people we met were very welcoming and friendly and we played football and volleyball with them and were invited round for dinner parties and out to bars most evenings. There wasn’t much to do in the local town so after a few weekends hanging out with our local friends and going for a few bike rides we took buses to Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Ilha Grande on the Costa Verde between the two. There are lots of good places to visit within a bus journey distance from Cachoeira Paulista/ São José Dos Campos and we could have gone to many more places if we had had time.

Lasting Impressions

Brazil is a beautiful country but its highlight is the fantastic people. Barely any people in the town spoke good English but they were always patient with my poor Portuguese. The few people that did speak English were happy to help me and practise Portuguese. I am excited to return to Brazil to visit the friends I made there and to see more of a country with so many various sights to see. In terms of a career, I feel the internship was more like a PhD position than a normal job, which was useful for me as I am considering applying for a PhD after my degree. I enjoyed the research I did at INPE and presenting and discussing my findings with my supervisors so the internship has made me certain that I will apply for PhDs after my fourth year.

Gemma Wardle, Penultimate Year, MEarthSci, St.

Edmund Hall

Work Projects

I was working at the INPE main site in São José Dos Campos, in the Earth Systems department. My project was looking at relocation of Amazon deforestation to the savannah region, particularly Matopiba (a combination of four states). I chose a range of spatial drivers that could be affecting the location of deforestation and analysed how these had been affecting the location of deforestation since 2000. Once I was happy with my spatial drivers I carried out statistical analysis and then created a model to see where the deforestation would be concentrated in the future, up to 2040. Throughout this time I was also provided with papers to read to give me a better background understanding of the topic. I learnt how to use lots of new software, such as MapInfo and GeoDa, but I was also helped through this. The project was really enjoyable and if I had been there for longer, we would have written and published a paper about the work.

Daily Life

I was living with two women that also work at INPE, this has been very helpful because they were able to show me which bus to take to and from work, and also means that they are home in the evenings when I am. We often eat together in the evenings, either cooking or eating at a restaurant. Many of the people that work at INPE are PhD students or are undertaking research before continuing with further education - this means that most people are only a few years older than me and are keen to socialise in the evenings. Sao Jose dos Campos is located very well for visiting lots of places in Brazil, so at the weekends I have been to the beach and the mountains.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions of the internship are very good and I had a great time in Brazil. I would love to go back to Brazil and explore more of the country.
limited, they did their best to make me feel at home. The rooms are big but very basic. There is also a touristy restaurant beneath the guesthouse where you can interact with those eating there and also get discounted food if you are bored of the cafeteria (as it is sometimes easy to be.) Outside of work, people sometimes invited me along to their homes or to social functions although this was rare, probably about once a week maximum. My evenings were spent mainly reading quietly at the guesthouse and I tried to do something exciting every weekend by travelling around (something quite difficult when you are a single female in India).

Lasting Impressions

I am still here currently so I cannot make any lasting impressions but this experience will certainly mean that I am ready to tackle anything London has to throw at me. Jodhpur is a lovely place, but quite small and not much going on for young people especially since the cultural values restrict the young women from leaving their homes after 6pm. I love India as a country and it has been an incredible experience but I am unsure if I could ever live here, unless it was in one of the international cities; Delhi or Mumbai. It has opened my eyes to travel PR (even though this is a tailor-made travel company) as a career option as I have been interested in the research I do every day.

Work Projects

I was mainly involved in producing campaigns for the company to promote new travel ventures. These were created on Powerpoint and required a few days of research each. On top of this I was teaching English for one hour a day to my colleague and one hour a day to the front office staff at RAAS, the nearby luxury hotel. There was not very much information given on the tasks, but my colleagues were happy to answer any questions I had.

Daily Life

My accommodation was in a nearby guesthouse which is a two minute walk from both the office and RAAS (where I was also given breakfast, lunch and dinner in the staff cafeteria.) The family who run it are very hospitable. Although their knowledge of English was
My time with the U.S. Naval History & Heritage Command has definitely shaped my career ambitions. It has, perhaps disappointedly, made it clear to me that I probably don’t want to work in a museum - or at least one that is government run. The atmosphere was far less creative and interesting than I had expected it to be, and little emphasis was placed on innovation or the use of primary sources. On the positive side, however, my internship confirmed to me that I want my career to involve writing. I really enjoyed condensing my research into four-sentence captions, as this involved great analysis and selection skills. I am now looking into journalism as a career, as I think that this caters to this and will perhaps be more creative and exciting than museum work. My internship also made me realise that I could easily work in America in the future. I enjoyed a very high quality of life in Washington, and I found the people incredibly friendly and welcoming.
Kit Owens, Second Year, BA History, Oriel College

Work Projects

Most of my work involved researching and planning for the World War One Centennial Events that will occur in 2018 at the Navy Yard. I worked in partnership with another intern and, after receiving a thorough list of ideas from our supervisor, we delegated tasks between us and carried out independent research. I mostly worked on crafting a film and lecture series and planning a large dinner to commemorate the Navy’s involvement in the war. I enjoyed the work as it allowed for real-life application of historical research and knowledge, meaning the work was varied and different to anything I have ever done before. For example, for the dinner I spent a long time reading through secondary literature and then primary sources (diaries, accounts, cook books etc) to get an idea of the typical culinary experience at sea c.1914-18. I took those ideas and crafted a draft menu for a five-course-dinner, as well as having to learn how such dinners should operate in the Navy.

Daily Life

I lived in a house in the Atlas district, and so my commute was never too long, I could have walked it in 40 minutes if I so wished (but it was never cool enough to do that!). All the interns worked together in an area that soon became known as ‘Intern Land’ and it was a nice and relaxed atmosphere. Most of the time I spent the morning researching, either in the Navy Library or at my computer, breaking for lunch around noon before returning later to work on the application of my research to the Centennial plans. I finished at 16:30 every day so had plenty of time to get my work done and then do stuff after work if I wished, either with other interns or by myself. By the end there was quite a large intern cohort so it was great fun, a particular highlight was going to watch a baseball game. We also had regular field trips that broke up the week and allowed us to socialise as one big group, visiting some attractions I wouldn’t have immediately thought to go to, such as the Building Museum or the Botanical Gardens.

Lasting Impressions

I loved my four weeks in Washington and really fell in love with the city. If I was ever offered the opportunity to work in DC for an extended period of time, I would definitely take it! It’s also opened my eyes to the working environment and culture of the USA which is valuable knowledge to have for my future career. I’m not sure whether I want to work in historical research or curatorship, but I did enjoy the event planning side. As a result the experience has opened up a whole new career path I never would have previously considered.

Emma Parker, MSt English (1900 - present), Brasenose College

Work Projects

I was responsible for helping the Education Department deliver daily workshops to visiting summer schools. I also developed my own education pack on the theme of ocean exploration. This pack was designed to allow young visitors to interact with U.S. Naval History in new, creative ways.

Daily Life

I lived in accommodation located thirty minutes from the Navy Yard. I generally walked or took a bus to work. On the weekends I visited nearby cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore and explored Washington’s museums and art galleries. I enjoyed living on Capitol
Hill and generally getting to meet other interns from all over the world in my accommodation.

**Lasting Impressions**

I enjoyed living in Washington D.C. but would not want to live permanently in the city. Having the opportunity to work on a U.S. naval base was fascinating and gave me a new perspective on U.S. history that I felt lucky to experience. Interning in a museum has confirmed for me the difficulty of obtaining full-time work in the heritage sector, but also the wide variety of roles available in a single museum.

*Margherita Bellucci, MPhil Modern British and European History, St. Antony’s College*

**Work Projects**

During my internship I worked with the Director’s Action Group (DAG). This office works on long-range strategy for the NHHC and is the check point on work leaving the Command and going to Congress, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Chief of Naval Operations. My supervisor was the head of DAG and I worked with him full time. As part of my internship I was involved in the production of briefs and papers for the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy. In addition to the daily work, I contributed to three special projects: an analysis of the policy or lack of policy for burial at sea, the long range strategy for the USS Constitution frigate, and an analysis of the value of history and heritage to the Navy and the Nation.

**Daily Life**

Finding accommodation in DC is not easy, especially if your internship takes place in August, when most places stop offering accommodation. For the first two weeks of my internship I lived at a friend’s house in Fairfax, Virginia. During this time I had to commute for an hour and a half to arrive to work. However, I moved to Thomson-Maekward Hall for the last three weeks of my internship and my commute became a lot more manageable – I took a bus that left me in front of the entrance of the Navy Yard. My work schedule was 9-5 each day. While there were no other Oxford interns in my office, I still got the possibility to socialize with my fellow co-workers and with the other interns. My senior colleagues were extremely helpful and supportive. DC is a wonderful city, full of museums and events: I spent most of my free time exploring the city.

**Lasting Impressions**

While work was not always exciting, I learned a lot during my time in the US. I am still uncertain about what I want to do after finishing my MPhil, but I am now much more aware of the variety of options available. I loved DC, it’s an amazing place to be an intern. In summer, the city is full of students working in Capitol Hill and there are an infinite number of cultural events, art exhibitions, and trips available to young people. I would more than happily return here to work for a longer period of time.

*Eleanor Grange, Final Year, BA History, St. Hugh’s College*

**Work Projects**

Whilst at NHHC I was given one large assignment by my supervisor, the Senior Historian of the US Navy. He asked me to translate a report sent to Paris by a French count, detailing his fleet’s participation in the American Revolutionary War in 1778. The translations were challenging and it took me the entire length of my internship to complete them. I worked in the same office as my supervisor who checked up on me regularly and was always able and willing to answer any questions I had or help me when I was struggling. I had little contact with the organisation’s intern coordinators and was managed solely by my supervisor.

**Daily Life**

I worked in an office at the Navy Yard from 8 to 4.30. I lived in a shared house (formerly Lofstel) and commuted to work on the metro which was fast and easy to use. I was very fortunate that my American housemates were very friendly and made me feel at home straight away - I spent my evenings and weekends with them.
DC has lots of free museums, galleries and events.

**Lasting Impressions**

I was fortunate to really enjoy both my internship and my time living in Washington DC. My work at NHHC supported my aspirations to further study and I loved the city and the friends I made there. I would definitely return to live and work in America as soon as possible!

*William Glover, Final Year, BA History, Corpus Christi College*

**Work Projects**

My supervisor suggested that I create some sort of educational game for kids based around a naval theme. After some research I settled on the topic of pirates, and began to create a choose-your-own-adventure game centred around a day in the life of a pirate. Each ‘choice’ also included a history section designed to dispel common myths and illuminate the historical reality of the pirate lifestyle in the 18th century.

**Daily Life**

I lived in the International Student House in Dupont Circle, which is located on the other side of the city centre from the Navy Yard. Fortunately I had a very easy metro journey to and from work each day of 40 to 50 minutes, with my typical hours being from 9.10am until 3/3.30pm. I worked in the Education Department, which meant that I only had to work three days a week (with one day off and one day reserved for group field trips). Days varied quite a lot - some days I would do nothing other than work on my project, whereas on others I would be given certain simple tasks to do. I would highly, highly recommend ISH as a place to stay, since the relatively high cost of staying there is more than mitigated by being situated in an exciting, well-connected and very pretty neighbourhood, and getting to meet and befriend dozens of people from all around the world working as either students or interns in the city. Socialising often took place over breakfast or dinner, both of which were put on by the house every weekday for no extra fee, but I also got the opportunity to do many other things with the students there - highlights included watching the Republican Primary debate in a packed TV room, playing heated games of table tennis in the basement, going kayaking on the Potomac River, attending a free concert at the Kennedy Center, catching the sunrise on a run to the Lincoln memorial, midnight karaoke, and going out for dinner on Sunday nights at interesting restaurants. I also greatly enjoyed hanging out with my fellow Oxford interns and with the Oxford Alumni Society in DC, who put on several events, including a memorable trip to the baseball stadium.
Lasting Impressions

All in all, life in DC was delightful and my biggest regret is that I didn’t stay for longer - five weeks was much too short! There was so much to do in the city. I would absolutely consider returning to DC to work or study further, because it’s such an exciting place to be! As far as career goals are concerned, working at the museum made me realise that museum work is probably not for me - but it did reaffirm my desire to work more generally in the education sector, since I found working with kids to be one of the most satisfying aspects of the internship. Living with so many international students or interns, most of whom were a few years older than myself, also made me realise that I still have several years ahead of me in which to work out what to do with my life, and that pursuing further study or work overseas would be a very interesting and worthwhile process whilst I figure out my next step.

Daniel Bayliss, Second Year, BA History and Politics, Trinity College

Work Projects

I was assigned to work in the History & Archives Division of the NHHC. My supervisor was a Civil Service historian. His role is to analyse the past successes and failures of the US Navy and to advise the current Navy through writing policy papers today. This was perfect for me, as it seamlessly combined both History and Politics to reflect my undergraduate degree. It is worth pointing out that I had no prior knowledge of US naval history, and this did not matter. I worked with two other American interns, and we were essentially doing most of our supervisor’s preliminary reading, weeding out the bad, boring and irrelevant material to his research, and photocopying and highlighting the more relevant, interesting and important material. At first I found this difficult, for fear that I may overlook something that may seem unimportant to me whereas to my supervisor it could be vital. Yet I quickly grasped the contextual background and was soon able to tell the difference between an unrelated discussion and a pivotal, revealing, and potentially argument-changing source. Initially my supervisor asked me to read through congressional hearings from the 1950s for any discussions on Polaris or guided missiles. Shortly after, I got the exciting opportunity to work in two different archives on the Navy Yard, searching through the “Officer bios” (biographies of former Navy personnel) for information about key persons of interest to my supervisor’s project. This led me to develop my own research project, pursuing something that fascinated me but also something that would certainly be of some direct use to my supervisor. This was the creation of a database of Admirals, and a history of their time at the United States Naval Academy. One thing that my supervisor also permitted me to do – which was especially kind and understanding – was that he allowed me two days to conduct research in the Navy Yard archives for my thesis. He was especially friendly, funny and very easy-going; he even took us out for lunch several times. My supervisor would typically visit me twice daily to discuss my progress; I was situated either in the Library or one of the two archives on-site (away from his office). This said, he was always available to contact via email at any time to ask questions. However, the work you conduct there as an intern is incredibly independent. I would say the staff merely accommodate and guide you, more than requesting specific tasks from you. This was a very different but
ultimately very formative and original experience. For me personally, the most interesting part of my work projects was seeing the real-world application of historical research. This internship showed me the purpose of research in a new, refreshing light and it has taught me that the laborious and admittedly sometimes dull research process is worthwhile and has an exciting and rewarding end result.

**Daily Life**

My internship with the NHHC was five weeks in length. I stayed at the summer housing providing by the George Washington University in Foggy Bottom. I shared a room with one other person, an American student interning at Congress. I chose GWU because it has an incredibly central location: it is just across the street from a metro station and supermarket, and there are plenty of restaurants nearby. However, the accommodation was very basic, and pretty minimal considering the large cost. My hours were great, and very flexible. I usually worked from 8am until 3pm. At the Navy Yard everyone is very easy-going, and the atmosphere is very slow-paced and laid-back. People were not too serious, and the work was mostly interesting and not too demanding at all. There is an abundance of food options at the Navy Yard, and we often gathered on picnic benches outside to eat lunch together. As the J-1 intern visa is described as a ‘cultural exchange’ it is mandatory for British interns to go on a field trip at least once a fortnight. Washington is an amazing place, and my hours also allowed time for me to explore the city after work every day. There is a lot of incredible architecture to see, and there are many spectacular monuments and war memorials to visit. One of the highlights was Arlington Cemetery; the size of the site, and the emotion it conjures, is truly astounding. There are also numerous museums – and most are free to enter! I would highly recommend the Holocaust Museum and the Newseum. I made the most of my weekends by going on trips and visiting new places, such as Georgetown and Mount Vernon, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Annapolis. All this said, it would be easy to spend every weekend just in Washington itself.

**Lasting Impressions**

This internship has been an incredible experience. It has taught me much about the working world and the importance of building rapport with colleagues. It has also been exceptionally useful for teaching me the skills that I will need to conduct the research for my third-year History thesis, such as experience with archival processes and documents. Furthermore, it has offered me the brilliant opportunity to get a taste of what it might be like to live and work abroad; I loved it! In DC, I felt very safe overall, even at night. DC has plenty to offer for those interested in both culture and politics, and I wouldn’t hesitate to go back there again – either as a tourist, resident or worker! Most significantly, this internship has confirmed to me that I would like to live and work abroad in future. In terms of my future line of work, even though I found the archival research interesting, it was neither as fast-paced nor as varied as I would like. Yet it has not dissuaded me from academia / historical research as a potential career option. I would strongly recommend seizing this wonderful opportunity; this internship offered me experiences and memories that I will cherish forever.

Fay Watson, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Mansfield College

**Work Projects**

During my internship I undertook research projects which would support the future exhibition on WW1 planned by the Navy Museum. I researched for potential events that would be run in conjunction with this, including researching Navy uniforms that could be
used to create paper dolls, researching and compiling a cocktail menu of ‘WW1-influenced cocktails’, and potential lecturers and WW1 dances. I was given a document briefing what I needed to do and given access to the Navy Museum and the Naval History and Heritage Command library. It was also my job to organise weekly field trips for myself and my fellow interns. The necessity of fortnightly field trips was stipulated in the visa we travelled on - the J1 Visa. In order to do this I was given folders of where previous interns had gone. I organised trips to a number of cultural points of interest in Washington D.C., including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the U.S. Botanical Gardens and the Newseum.

Daily Life

My work hours were relatively short, from 9am to 3pm. I stayed in WISH accommodation on Capitol Hill in a room shared with 3 other American interns who were all working for Congressmen. The commute to work was therefore relatively short with a bus taking 15 minutes or a 35 minute walk. I completed my research tasks in the communal work area dubbed ‘intern-land,’ which was essentially a warehouse. We had every Wednesday off in order to go on field trips, and on other days off from work I spent the majority of my time sightseeing with my fellow interns, who I made good friends with. I visited just about every sight in D.C. In the summer there are also a number of organised events, such as weekly free jazz and film screenings on the National Mall. We also went to see baseball, and the 4th of July Concert at the Capitol. There was plenty to do, including going to dinner with my roommates and fellow interns! One weekend I took a bus to New York to explore there.

Lasting Impressions

Overall, the internship allowed me the opportunity to explore an amazing city and develop a deeper cultural understanding of America. I cannot say that I agree with a number of the more conservative views I came into contact with but it was fascinating to learn more about U.S. culture as a whole. Living in a dorm with three American interns was especially interesting as they taught me a great deal, including a lot about the political system. I don’t think I would like to live in America, but would still love to explore it more. In terms of my future career, the internship highlighted that I do not want to pursue a job in heritage work. Instead, I want to pursue a career in journalism. However, I do feel like it has helped me understand the process of applying for and undertaking work. This will be invaluable when applying to graduate courses and work placements after my degree.

Catherine Canning, Second Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), St. Edmund Hall

Work Projects

During my internship I worked in a publicity and social media capacity for the Museum on the base. I was involved with developing strategy for raising awareness of the museum and events it was running over the summer. Apart from this I was also sent to help other
departments mostly with curation or education to help them with larger tasks.

Daily Life

Normally the interns were expected at work for 9am, and as I stayed in an Airbnb next to the Nationals Park baseball stadium I could walk to work. My day would usually involve being based in ‘intern land’ a room with internet at the back of the gallery. I worked on how to promote the museum with no budget so I would research advertising in the local area and send emails about upcoming events to any promising leads. I would also research whether there was online presence for the museum through people talking about their experiences. Usually the interns would all eat lunch together outside, enjoying the sunshine as the offices was very well air-conditioned. After work finished around 4 I would travel into the centre and explore museums or famous sites with other interns. We had weekly enrichment which meant that interns would spend Wednesday at a place of cultural interest and after lunch we would have the day to ourselves. Weekends would be spent exploring slightly further afield with museum interns or friends who lived in DC. The transport system was fairly efficient and that was very beneficial for exploring but also for work tasks that sent me to engage with the local community.

Lasting Impressions

My internship was a very interesting experience. My eyes were definitely opened to the social issues that are prevalent in the news. I met some lovely people but I found the glaring inequality of the city frustrating especially when it was just accepted by people who lived there. From a tourist perspective DC is a lovely city but living in the local community away from the tourist spots was different. I would now be less enthusiastic about living in the States. In terms of working I enjoyed both the opportunity of the internship and also the chance to meet people in other fields through organised alumni nights. I would still be interested in working in PR and media in the future.

Mariana Sontag Gonzalez, MSc Archaeological Science, Linacre College

Work Projects

I was involved in research of naval documents pertaining to the American Revolution. More specifically, I surveyed records of the Spanish government and selected documents that referred to naval operations of the Spanish in their alliance with the colonies. Afterwards, I located these documents from microfilms at the library and transcribed as well as translated a few of them.

Daily Life

Since my private accommodation was reasonably close to the Yard, I was able to walk to work in 15-20 minutes. Working hours were very flexible, so that I could come and go whenever I wanted to, as long as I completed my hours. I was able to leave in the afternoon and still have a bit of time to see the museums and walk around town.

Lasting Impressions

Working at the Navy Yard was a great experience; everyone was very friendly and it’s a pleasant place to walk around in during lunch. Working independently was a good learning experience and showed me how doing research can be fun.

Zoe Thomas, Second Year, BA Ancient and Modern History, Wadham College

Work Projects

I carried out academic research related to a centenary dinner marking the end of WW1 which the museum was hosting in 2018. I had to research the music and dances of the period, and also improve on previous interns’ work, for example by scanning and incorporating line drawings of military personnel in their uniforms to a primer about army uniforms. I was also the Field Trip Coordinator, which involved researching and organising field trips for the interns,
which were compulsory for foreign interns due to the terms of our visa.

**Daily Life**

I took the Circulator bus to work from the Union Station metro station, a 10-minute walk from my house, and it dropped me off outside the Navy base. I worked from 9 to 3 Monday to Friday, although we were frequently away on Wednesdays on field trips. The museum closed at 4 so my work day ended fairly early, and I took this opportunity to explore the city of DC, including visiting most of the Smithsonian museums. There were a lot of Oxford interns involved in this project and so it was easy to socialise with them during my time there.

**Lasting Impressions**

I enjoyed my time in DC, although it took a while to settle in and get used to the place. I would still like to work in the heritage sector but I would still like to find out more about specific options, for example archives, curation, or education.

*Mary Bateman, MSt English (650-1550), St. Cross College*

**Work Projects**

I was working on updating the museum’s Polar exhibit to include details of events since the 1970s and 1980s; principally, the declassification of Cold War operations in the Arctic, and the issues facing the region on account of climate change opening up new possible routes and allowing access to previously inaccessible under-ice resources. The research varied from traditional historical research to report reading and scanning news articles, and I was in touch with historians and politicians alike as I collated my information. I was amazed at the quality of the museum exhibits and the knowledge and dedication of the people who worked there. In particular, my supervisor Ed Furgol and his colleague Jennifer were exceptionally welcoming and supportive, and I never felt out of my depth despite the newness of everything - I always had somebody on hand I could email with any questions.

**Daily Life**

I was invited to lots of events outside of work, and had the good fortune of being introduced to Washington D.C’s Oxford Alumni at their bar night - I felt proud to see and hear about what my fellow Oxford alumni were going on to achieve in this beautiful and exciting city. My time in D.C beyond work was also wonderful; I feel like I’ve had a thorough introduction to U.S culture, history and gastronomy. Future interns should make sure they take advantage of the circulator bus system - most go from Union Station, and journeys only cost a dollar. I’d also recommend getting a Library of Congress reading card as soon as possible; the sheer amount of useful resources that this massive library houses, as well as the beauty of its reading rooms, makes it an unmissable part of any research internship here.

**Lasting Impressions**

Interning at the Naval Heritage and History Museum has been a wonderful experience, and I am amazed at how much I have been able to learn in only five weeks. I came to this internship as a medieval literature graduate, with no background in U.S military history at all, but quickly settled in, taking everything on board. The novelty of the history I was covering meant that the research never got boring!
Work Projects

I mainly took the research on Chinese companies’ M&A activities in Europe and did profiles on them. Meanwhile I helped profile other local businesses for ongoing projects.

Daily Life

Commuting to the office was very fast and convenient. The work started at around 9 am and finished at 6-7 pm. As summer is not busy, many colleagues were taking vacations and the working hours were reasonable.

Lasting Impressions

London is a large and busy city, even though I wasn’t living in central London. Oghma Partners is located in Mayfair, so during my lunch break I had the opportunity to explore Oxford Street and the surrounding area. This internship confirmed my career path in the financial industry and I would like to return to London to further my finance career in the future.
**Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (Okinawa, Japan)**

*Thomas Fay, Penultimate Year, MChem, Worcester College*

**Work Projects**

I worked in the Quantum Systems Unit on problems in theoretical physics. Specifically I studied vortex states of Bose-Einstein condensates. My supervisor and the head of the unit were very supportive and I had many useful discussions with them.

**Daily Life**

I personally lived in the hotel which might not seem as nice but it had lots of benefits such as an easy to access beach and lots of restaurants and convenience stores nearby, which I would not have had if I had lived on campus. There was a free shuttle bus which took all of us to campus, which was easy enough to use (especially since it does the trip several times in the morning and evening so you can choose when to go and leave). In the evenings I mainly socialised with the other interns or relaxed in my room. It was really good meeting the other interns especially since they came from all over the world (America, Spain, India, France, New Zealand, etc.) and so I could learn about their different cultures and backgrounds. The university has a student support section which held two excursions while we were there. On these we went to two castles, an aquarium and Naha (the biggest city on the island). These were great fun and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to explore Okinawa. OIST also offers the possibility to hire a car for a day and the interns use this to explore the island even more if they wish to. There were also

*Shaun Bailey, Second Year, MPhys, Wadham College*

**Work Projects**

I worked on electron tomography, which is where a 3D model of an object is reconstructed from a number of images taken at different angles in an electron microscope. I had to find a way to optimise the technique by looking at different algorithms, and which angles to choose for the images. I then tried to implement the algorithm which I had discovered to be the best. My supervisor helped me to understand the concepts that I needed to know and pointed me in the right direction. I was also provided with books to help me in my research.

**Daily Life**

Some of the interns at OIST lived on campus while the others lived in a hotel off site. I personally lived in the hotel which might not seem as nice but it had lots of benefits such as an easy to access beach and lots of restaurants and convenience stores nearby, which I would not have had if I had lived on campus. There was a free shuttle bus which took all of us to campus, which was easy enough to use (especially since it does the trip several times in the morning and evening so you can choose when to go and leave). In the evenings I mainly socialised with the other interns or relaxed in my room. It was really good meeting the other interns especially since they came from all over the world (America, Spain, India, France, New Zealand, etc.) and so I could learn about their different cultures and backgrounds. The university has a student support section which held two excursions while we were there. On these we went to two castles, an aquarium and Naha (the biggest city on the island). These were great fun and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to explore Okinawa. OIST also offers the possibility to hire a car for a day and the interns use this to explore the island even more if they wish to. There were also
a number of facilities on campus (community kitchen, meeting room, etc.) that the interns used for socialising and parties. The student support section also offered free survival Japanese classes which were really useful in getting to know the language and using it around the island.

**Lasting Impressions**

I really enjoyed this internship and I would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of a career in research. The island is really nice to explore and there was plenty to do which means that in the evenings and weekends it felt like being on holiday. Personally I would not like to do a PhD here as I don’t think they have a group doing the subject I would like to go into. However, doing this internship has confirmed my ambitions to go into research as I have really enjoyed looking into a subject that is new and that not many people have looked into.

Anna Kobayashi, Second Year, MPhys, Christ Church College

**Work Projects**

I worked in the Quantum Dynamics Unit, and the experiment I was involved in was to create a device that enables electrons on the surface of liquid helium to act as a classical simulator of the Frenkel Kontorova Model. My main project was to use COMSOL to create a model and simulate the physics of this device, and later on helped with and learned the actual fabrication process and experimental set up. I was under the supervision of the professor, two postdoc researchers and a PhD student and while I had much freedom in how I did my work, they were always there to give guidance where I needed. I got to have a very balanced experience of learning new programs, investigating the theory behind the experiment, and learning the procedure creating nano to micrometer scale devices.

**Daily Life**

Many interns were accommodated in an apartment hotel off campus and for us the day started by catching the 8:30 shuttle bus provided by OIST to head to the main campus, which was a 15 minute drive away. There were several buses in the evening so you could leave earlier or later depending on work progress and other activities. They offered gym membership free of charge to those who live off campus and we could also book kitchen rooms, meeting rooms, bicycles, and cars. The accommodation is less than a minute away from the beach so it became very much a part of our daily life. OIST organized trips to see main sites in Okinawa and we could experience the local culture and cuisine throughout our stay. There were plenty of opportunities to meet students and researchers from around the world and the cultural exchanges were one of the most interesting parts of my time out of work.

**Lasting Impressions**

OIST is an incredibly well-organised establishment and it has great appeal for PhD and postdoctoral studies. My internship here has definitely confirmed my wish to pursue further studies and helped expand my ideas for the future.

Darya Shchepanovska, Penultimate Year, MChem, Worcester College

**Work Projects**

My group focused on developing perovskite solar cells, and my project focused on using a simpler roll-coating method for their production on flexible substrates. I worked with a post-doc who has been extremely helpful in teaching me how to use the equipment and answering any questions I had.

**Daily Life**

Living off-campus meant that we had to get the bus to work every morning, but also that we were five minutes from the beach where we would go after work. It was great to get to know interns from all over the world, and explore the island over the weekends (For future interns, I would definitely recommend getting an international driving license).
Lasting Impressions

Okinawa is very different from mainland Japan, in that it has an oddly Hawaiian vibe. I’d definitely recommend travelling out to mainland Japan over one of the long weekends.

Adam Stones, Penultimate Year, MChem, Oriel College

Work Projects

My project involved an experimental and analytical/numerical investigation into the dynamics of colliding magnetic spheres (5mm in diameter). In addition to guidance from the leader of my research unit, my daily work was supervised and augmented by a post-doctoral researcher. Further support was received from other members of the unit on an ad-hoc basis, and in the form of weekly group meetings which I found to be extremely informative and useful - it was also interesting to see what other members of the unit were doing. The strong ethos of collaboration at OIST meant that other units readily provided both equipment and laboratory space for the purpose of our experiments. Outside of the project, pastoral support was provided by the Student Support section and the availability of extensive health and well-being support was well advertised.

Daily Life

The length of the journey meant that when I first arrived I found it difficult to acclimatise to the new environment, although this evaporated within 24 hours once I had slept and was able to visit the campus and get my teeth into the project. OIST hosts research interns in both on- and off-campus accommodation: I stayed in an apartment in a tourist village nearby (closer to the beach) which had plenty of amenities. OIST provided a shuttle bus to and from the campus several times a day and it was also possible to hire cars and bicycles to get into work and to explore the island. The institute also organised excursions to the capital of the island, Naha, and the north of the island, at which there were castle ruins and an aquarium. Particularly in the summer, OIST hosts many research interns (who come and go at different times) and so there were many social events to get involved with.

Lasting Impressions

OIST is a world-class research facility with tremendous access to equipment and facilities - the environment provided by the OIST campus is highly conducive to inspirational thinking and encourages freedom of expression. Okinawa is very beautiful with fantastic cuisine and a broad array of cultural experiences to offer - it has seven World Heritage sites. In particular, its distinction from mainland Japan in terms of history, culture and language is fascinating.

Benjamin Singer, Second Year, MPhysPhil, Brasenose College

Work Projects

My project concerned the construction of appropriately co-ordinated phase spaces to describe the swimming, crawling, and intermediate behaviours of C. Elegans. I recorded videos of these behaviours, and, using a combination of my own code and my supervisor’s, I created co-ordinates that could appropriately describe these behaviours. I discovered that crawling and swimming could be described as different chaotic attractors in a single space, and that intermediate behaviours would appear at an angle between these two. This supports a single-gait model of C. Elegans behaviour, that is, a model in which swimming and crawling are simply variations in a single gait, rather than distinct gaits.

Daily Life

Daily life in Okinawa was really enjoyable, and surprisingly cheap - I hadn’t expected to be able to get through the internship solely on the funds provided by the university but it turned out that food, even eating out, was very reasonably priced. Add to that the fact that our transport to work was provided, and that the availability of university cars for transport around the island, the whole thing ended up costing surprisingly little money. That said - if you wanted to go diving all
the time, or if you wanted to get out every weekend, you’d probably use up significantly more. Settling in was made very easy. We were shown all the places to buy food and anything else we needed, and the tour of the university was comprehensive and informative. I found that my lab mates were extremely helpful and kind, one of them lent me a bike he wasn’t using which was wonderful. Outside of work I mostly spent time with other Oxford interns and we generally stuck to the area around the accommodation, which had lots of beaches, but on some weekends we managed to borrow one of the university cars. Getting an international driving license before going to Japan was very useful, it meant that we got to see a lot more of the island than we could have otherwise. Food and cooking in Okinawa was also very rewarding. The cafe in the university provided lots of delicious food, including many vegetarian options, and they had tables full of fresh vegetables and baked goods to take back home. We also got to see some of the native food culture through restaurants, markets and festivals. Being in Okinawa has definitely changed the way I cook and eat for the better. At the end of the internship I took the opportunity to go around the main island of Japan for a bit. Obviously not everyone who does the internship will be able to do this - it was expensive and took a lot of involved planning. However, it was a wonderful experience that I would really recommend.

**Lasting Impressions**

Working at OIST and living in Okinawa really made an impression on me, and I learnt a lot from it. Being able to learn some Japanese and absorb some of the local culture was really wonderful, and it’s an experience that will stay with me. Living in Japan was surprisingly easy, and it was very interesting to be able to spend some of my everyday life in such a different culture. Working at OIST has convinced me that I would enjoy a career in research, and it gave me valuable experience in coding that I wouldn’t have been able to get as part of my degree. I also got an insight into how academia functions and the kind of management structure one might see in a research university. It really is a wonderful place to live and work - I would definitely consider returning.

*Amber Barton, Penultimate Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry), Corpus Christi College*

**Work Projects**

I was in the immune signalling lab investigating the role of Epas1 in pathogenic Th17 differentiation. OIST provided an impressive amount of support, having a whole Student Support section dedicated to making sure we were settled in and everything was organised. Free accommodation and flights were provided. The university also offered Japanese lessons and trips around the island.

**Daily Life**

I lived on campus so getting to work every morning was very easy! I’d get into the lab around 9-9:30, then work until 12:00 when I’d have lunch from the cafe or bento box vendors with other interns. I’d usually leave by 5:30. There were a lot of interns and we did most of our socialising together, either going sightseeing, to the beach, to restaurants or to karaoke. I also went out for meals with my lab group quite a lot, who were very keen for me to try all the Japanese cuisine!

**Lasting Impressions**

I had an absolutely fantastic time, but am not sure I would do a PhD there since I think the island is a little small to stay interesting for five years.
Stanley Mitchell, Second Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular), St. Anne’s College

Work Projects

The interns worked as assistants and teachers in the High School, practising conversational English with the students. We were initially paired with teachers to help out but as the internship progressed we were given the responsibility of planning our own lessons. We were also given the chance to do the same at the partner university which was a bit of a surprise!

Daily Life

When we first arrived we met the Principal, and Oliver Bigland (the English teacher who coordinated us during our stay) and were taken around the school before being shown the accommodation we were to stay in. We helped out at a lecture event hosted by the University of Oxford Japan Office. In general our weekends were free, which meant I could travel to Kyoto and other places.

Lasting Impressions

This was my second time teaching at Otsuma Gakuin and it has reaffirmed my desire to work abroad after graduation and teach English as a foreign language.

Amy Clarke, Final Year, BA Modern Languages (French), Keble College

Work Projects

My internship involved 40 hours of teaching over four weeks at both the high school and university, and one session teaching at a different university. The teaching was mostly in conjunction with another English teacher, although occasionally we were given the opportunity to teach our own classes. We were fully supported by the English teachers at the school, as well as by the headmistress, who was very welcoming and hospitable.

Daily Life

We were given free accommodation in the centre of Tokyo about a 30 minute walk from the school. In general we worked from 8.25pm to 3.15pm, and sometimes we were expected to work longer in the afternoon. We helped out at a lecture event hosted by the University of Oxford Japan Office. In general our weekends were free, which meant I could travel to Kyoto and other places.

Lasting Impressions

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The internship was a great chance to see Tokyo not only as a tourist, but also from a professional perspective.

Stanley Mitchell, Second Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular), St. Anne’s College

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Daily Life

When we first arrived we met the Principal, and Oliver Bigland (the English teacher who coordinated us during our stay) and were taken around the school before being shown the accommodation we were to stay in. On a normal day we walked to the school, arriving about 8:30, then we would have 3-4 lessons to teach per day and after-school practice with advanced students. Normally we left work about 5, or 5:30, and spent evenings exploring Tokyo. However, as we were in university accommodation (and as I was a man in an all-women’s dorm) we had a strict 11pm curfew.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was a great chance to see Tokyo not only as a tourist, but also from a professional perspective. We were also really welcomed by the staff and students, and the nights out with teachers, and dinners with students and their families were really fantastic experiences.
Christopher Bridgwood, Final Year, BA Theology, St. Benet’s Hall

Work Projects

The projects I was involved in alongside the other OxDev interns involved drama, art and sport with local children and young adults in the area of Gulu Municipality, Uganda. Gulu is in the far north of Uganda, an area relatively deprived compared to the developed south, and the work projects we were involved in with the CBO (Community Based Organisation) were largely beneficial to the participants involved. We taught drama and self-esteem skills in schools, developed art programmes to take place on the site of the CBO, and encouraged uptake in sports such as boxing, rugby and athletics. We also ran film projects - helping to organise the filming of a short film, written and produced entirely by locals. The support we received from the host organisation was minimal, and sometimes I wasn’t sure how relevant these projects were to the CBO’s ongoing daily activities. Though I have doubts about how sustainable any effect made on our part will be, there was doubtless an impact left by our involvement, and the projects were at least effective while we were available.

Daily Life

Daily life in northern Uganda is basic - we were accommodated on the site of the CBO, and most mornings would go out to buy fruit and doughnuts for our breakfast. Mornings would consist of working in schools and administrative meetings during the week, followed by lunch on site. In the early afternoon there would often be another class in a school, and then in the late afternoon sporting activities at schools or on site. In the evenings we would eat with the other interns at a local restaurant, and then visit a local bar or pork-joint to rest up and unwind. We’d also regularly visit the homes of local friends we made in Gulu to eat and drink. Thus, socialising was a pleasant mix of Western interns and local Ugandans. On Saturdays we would be busy from the mid-morning running activities for children all day - sports, drama and art. Often this would spill over into Sunday afternoons, too.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions of the internship were varied. On the one hand, after having travelled through many of the districts of Uganda, I would happily admit that Gulu - where the internship was based - was my favourite. The people were very friendly, and the culture relaxed.

The internship has certainly contributed to a career ambition of mine - to work with refugees.
However, if I was to return to live or work there, I would have to work with an established INGO or business, as I saw that working for a small local NGO or CBO is very challenging. The culture is not a ‘working’ one as we know it, and the barriers to progress in the region are many. That being said, the internship has certainly contributed to a career ambition of mine – to work with refugees - as talking with locals about their experiences as Internally Displaced Persons under the rebellion of the LRA was particularly fascinating.

Sophie Barnes, Second Year, BA History, Oriel College

Work Projects

I was working at a local community centre that provides art, sport, and drama activities for children and young adults who can use these skills to help with their careers, find purpose in life, and meet new people. The other interns and I went round local schools to advertise the centre, running art, sport and drama classes there. We went to the radio centre to advertise and we also set up computer classes and tried to find innovative ways to help fundraise for the centre in the long-term.

Daily Life

The project was largely self-guided, so as a team we would organise meetings with local schools to visit and set up classes there. This was mainly what we did throughout the week, although we also helped paint the wall, and set up some computer classes at the centre. Then at the weekend we ran various classes for the children, who would often walk 10km to join in with the activities. We also met many locals who worked at the centre or joined clubs there, and we learned a lot about their local culture and built valuable relationships. A few days we also went out to rural areas and helped with farming, to experience what life was like in these regions. Most of my time was spent with the six other interns. In the evenings we would go out to eat and experience life in the town of Gulu, often going to visit local friends.
Lasting Impressions

Gulu was an amazing place to visit and has had a huge impact on me. It was really fascinating and challenging to experience a culture very different to my own and to realise the exciting as well as challenging aspects to development work. I would love to return to Gulu or maybe another developing country to learn more about different people all over the world. It has also heavily inspired me to go in to international development work.

Jae-Young Park, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Queen’s College

Work Projects

I was based at a community centre in Gulu, Northern Uganda, for approximately five weeks. Essentially, my role consisted of finding ways to rejuvenate the community centre and restore it to its former status as a social/cultural hub within Gulu. We went about this by going into a host of local schools (both primary and secondary), running taster sessions and interacting with the staff and pupils to encourage the students to come to the centre to engage in various recreational activities. We were interested in establishing regular sports, arts and drama classes at the centre, and I was assigned the task of creating a regular rugby ‘club’ of sorts. By the end of the five weeks, I was able to establish contact with all of the major rugby-playing schools in the area and to organise a weekly training session, although I’m unsure as to how sustainable this will be in the long-run due to the lack of facilities at the centre. I wouldn’t necessarily say we had little support, but we definitely were in a situation where we had to provide and maintain the impetus behind our own projects in order to make any substantial progress. In my opinion this enhanced the experience if anything, as I’d personally much rather be asked to use my own initiative than to be asked to follow a rigid set of rules and undertake various perfunctory tasks.

Daily Life

Settling in was relatively easy. On weekdays the centre was very quiet, as the majority of kids were in school. Therefore our weekday routine often consisted of going into schools and taking taster classes for sport/art/drama, with the goal of encouraging students to come to the centre on weekends to engage in the same recreational activities. I personally really enjoyed going into schools. On Saturdays, we were pretty much busy all day long as we ran activities at the centre and were responsible for more than 100 school children. On Sundays, the centre is normally closed so we had a day off. Visiting schools wasn’t a daily requirement, and we had plenty of time during the week when the centre was quiet to rest, relax and explore Gulu and to immerse ourselves in the local culture. This entailed everything from reading a book under the mango tree, riding the motorbike into the beautiful countryside, painting the centre, creating makeshift chess pieces out of bottle caps, visiting the local market, eating out at different places and trying local food (which was very much centred on rice, beans and nuts), experiencing the Gulu nightlife, going swimming in the adjacent Acholi Inn, having poker nights, playing card games and so on. I feel I was very fortunate to be on the internship with the people that I was with, as I found that we were generally people with similar views, attitudes and dispositions, which made for a harmonious group with little tensions or drama.

Lasting Impressions

The Acholi people are some of the happiest and friendliest people I’ve ever met. The food is surprisingly really tasty, such as rolex, pork sticks, and beef stew. Everything is super cheap - you can get a sizeable meal for 80p, and a 500ml beer for 60p. I have a few random and disparate impressions that will last with
me for a long time. One is of boda-bodas, which are essentially the substitute for public transport in Gulu. Another lasting impression was of the Ugandan countryside, which was absolutely stunning. After five weeks at the centre, we hired a 4x4 and went on a week-long road trip working our way down and through the country, and along the way we saw some incredible scenery. My travels through the country shattered my rather ignorant misconceptions of Africa as a sparsely populated, arid land with little greenery. The thing I’ll miss most about my time there was riding the motorbike. To be able to just hop on to it and take it into the countryside whenever I wanted was just incredible. That’s essentially representative of the thing I’ll miss most about being in Gulu - just the sheer level of freedom. Would I return to live or work there? Yes, but I’d want to do work that was more intellectually stimulating and more of a challenge - this is the main and only issue I really have about my time there. My experience in Uganda, as trite as it sounds, has made me realise just how much I take for granted in the UK and has opened my eyes to the fact that there really is so much to explore in the world. My internship has imbued me with the feeling that to live in a single place for the majority of your life is somewhat a waste of potential experiences and adventures. I have also realised that I shouldn’t feel the need to go into the city and become another faceless cog in a corporate machine, and that there are other avenues career-wise than just unemployment and a corporate career. My ambition now is to hopefully do a master’s degree in Public Policy or something similar and then to go on to work in international development. This is a career path I’d never even considered before due to my fear of instability. The internship has been an enlightening and highly enjoyable experience that I’d recommend to anyone and everyone, and I'm grateful for having been a part of it and for the university facilitating this opportunity for me.

Lucy Davies, Final Year, BA Philosophy and Theology, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

The internship involved teaching taster lessons in schools (both primary and secondary) in order to encourage the pupils to participate in the after school and weekend clubs we ran at the TAKS Centre in Gulu, Uganda. The lessons included Drama, Art and Sports. In addition I taught both adults and adolescents basic IT skills and how to safely use the gym equipment at the centre. We were also involved in the production of a local film which aimed to portray the value of girls’ education in a traditional Acholi setting.

Daily Life

The group of interns from Oxford got on well from the start. We began the day at 9, had between two and four lessons in schools, did some admin and visited more schools to set up further lessons, and finally after school classes (with breaks for lunch and dinner). We also made friends with many of the artists and other people who used TAKS Centre on a regular basis. Together we often went out for drinks and/or pub quizzes at the local bars and clubs which were very entertaining. I especially loved spending time in the kitchen at TAKS Centre. I got on very well with the two people who worked there, and they taught me lots of Acholi recipes in exchange for some British ones. We also travelled just outside Gulu quite often to the more remote villages, which was interesting and fun.

It is a lovely place - small and easy to get around but still with interesting things to do and people to meet.

Lasting Impressions

I would love to go back to Gulu and am planning on doing so in January 2016. It is a lovely place - small and easy to get around but still with interesting things to do and people to meet - and everyone we met was friendly and happy.
Lasting Impressions

The internship was a really good experience overall, as it gave me a strong insight into software and hardware engineering as a profession.

Work Projects

The internship involved automating the final stage testing of Oxford Technical Solutions’ latest product. I worked closely with the Production and R&D departments to code the program as per requirements. Both of these departments were very helpful and even people not related to the project itself were very friendly. My supervisor helped me out with getting the basics of code logic straight, and pointed me to the right people if I needed specific information.

Daily Life

I took a bus to the workplace every day. In the initial few days I tried to grasp the existing system and understand my role. I settled in well after that.

Both the Production and R&D departments were very helpful and even people not related to the project itself were very friendly.
with great respect and kindness. We often went out to lunch together and tried a number of different restaurants around Quarry Bay. After working hours I would explore new parts of the city, try new dishes, and attend performances.

**Work Projects**

During my time at OUP, I researched the current market for elementary school Chinese textbooks (for non-native speakers ages 5 to 10) and gave detailed presentations in both English and Chinese to the Chinese Language Training (CLT) division. Based on my research and my own experiences of learning Chinese in both the US and the UK, I provided ideas for improving the quality of language learning materials. For instance, I provided ideas for the vocabulary, grammar and presentation of elementary Chinese storybooks (aimed at improving reading level).

**Daily Life**

I lived about a fifteen minute walk from central station in Hong Kong at a hotel. Every day I walked to the station and took the MTR to Quarry Bay; in total the commute was about forty-five minutes. The CLT division was a relatively small and new department, and I got along very well with my colleagues. Most of the time I spoke with them in Chinese, which of course improved my language level and confidence-- it proved to me that Chinese is a very useful asset in any future career. I really enjoyed the working environment; all my colleagues were very friendly and treated me socialise with my colleagues. I think the internship was incredible because it gave me a sense of what it’s like to live and work in Hong Kong. I would be very happy to return to OUP in the future should any opportunity arise. I would say that the experience confirmed in my mind the importance of using the language in daily life. I very much hope in the future to secure a similar situation in my work life.

**Lasting Impressions**

I am very grateful to have had the pleasure of working for OUP; the working environment was especially friendly and my colleagues were very down-to-earth. I found my experience very meaningful since I was constantly using my Chinese to present my findings and
James Harkin, Penultimate, MPhys, Hertford College

Work Projects

Together with my partner we set up the framework for a gazetteer of the historic gardens of Oxfordshire. This involved setting up a database and doing research into some gardens. We also took some interest in the location and area of the water bodies in Oxfordshire. We were looking into what proportion of the surface area of water is due to competitive landscape gardening.

Daily Life

I worked mainly in an office in the Oxford Zoology department. Most of the time was spent in the office with daily meetings with my supervisor. There were also site visits which I was transported to by my supervisor. I was made to feel comfortable immediately after arriving by everyone at OGT.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was a very enjoyable experience and I got an insight into a sector I hadn’t considered in-depth before.

Anna Cuckow, Finalist, BA Geography, Worcester College

Work Projects

The aim of the internship was to start the compilation of research on Oxfordshire’s historic gardens and parks into a ‘gazetteer’, i.e. a standardised record form and database. The majority of Oxfordshire’s gardens are not (yet) registered by English Heritage, and so our task was improve the way that the Trust organises its information and researches these gardens, benefiting researchers and, increasingly, aiding planning decision-making as OGT is now a statutory consultee. Historic gardens and parks are generally hugely under-researched with many scattered sources of information, and so the project is a real discovery process and will, very importantly, make this information accessible. Starting before me, the other intern did a lot of work on designing a new database, and I worked to refine the ‘record’ form and research the first 13 selected gardens as pilot examples. This involved using a previous survey of Oxfordshire gardens in the 1990s, parish records at British History Online and the local Records Centre, historic maps, images and photographs, and doing our own site surveys. OGT is a volunteer-run charity, and we were based in the university office of a committee member, who came in frequently as our ‘supervisor’. We also had a week of meetings with other members of the OGT to learn about planning and Historic England, trees, site

Oxfordshire Gardens Trust (Oxfordshire, UK)
surveying and garden history research. Our project had fairly vaguely defined objectives and no timetable of work expected of us, which was slightly frustrating and slowed progress, but did give us freedom to develop the research and methodology as we wished from scratch. Future interns continuing this work are likely to have a more defined project.

Daily Life

My internship lasted 5 weeks, starting in August. The working day was flexible, but normally 9.30-5ish, based in the Department of Zoology. Most days were desk-based, but we also had meetings at Kellogg College, training visits with various Trust members, and did several full days of site surveys in North Oxfordshire. For this, we were given lifts at the start and end of the day, and then we cycled between villages and sites, and so had some pleasant, summery days ‘working’. The other intern was an enthusiastic and helpful person to work alongside, with a great set of complementary skills, and the OGT committee were friendly and supportive. I lived with friends out of college over the summer, and got round to finally doing some of the touristy things in Oxford you never get time for in term.

Lasting Impressions

I hadn’t previously worked with archives or historical maps so this was an excellent opportunity to develop these skills, which will likely be helpful for my postgraduate dissertation next year. I also gained experience with GIS and in presenting concise information for non-specialists. It was an interesting process to develop the gazetteer methodology, and I felt that our work was truly valued by the OGT. I’m hoping to work in the environmental sector and the internship provided a good way to combine research experience with insight into the heritage sector, especially relating to landscapes rather than buildings as is more typical.

It was an interesting process to develop the gazetteer methodology, and I felt that our work was truly valued by the OGT.

The internship has developed my interest in the area, making me more aware of the need for local research as well as possible related career opportunities. I’m happy that we’ve finally started something that has been in the OGT pipeline for some time, and will have multiple benefits. I plan to keep in touch with the Trust to see how the project develops. There are 300 more gardens to go!
Maisie Satchwell-Hirst, Second Year, BA Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I was involved in a variety of projects in all areas of the office and around the different localities of Oxfordshire Mind. As an Information and Communications Intern, I took over the role of a woman who had recently left, who was in charge of Communications. Her job involved making posters to advertise groups and other design jobs. To do this, I had the opportunity to use the programme InDesign. Having never used this programme before (and not considering myself to be someone apt at “design”), I was nervous to get started in this role. However, everyone was very patient with me and gave me instructions as to how to use the software, and it soon became easy to use. I was also involved in creating a new way to access the service: Oxfordshire Mind is now committed to getting everyone to have the same entry point, and better measuring impact for their service users. To illustrate the way the system would work in future to Wellbeing Workers (those who did not work in the head office, rather who worked in the different centres or hubs), I was asked to make flow charts and descriptions of the different ways to access the service and how they could be combined. I gathered this information from various discussion groups I attended. The people in the office were very interested in my ideas about how the entry point could be improved. It was very new to all of them and welcomed ideas from all sides, which was great because it meant I felt like I was making a real contribution to the work of Oxfordshire Mind. To measure impact of the service, I was involved in creating an Excel spreadsheet which could show differences in scores across different time points and after different sessions. One week, the Short Course Co-ordinator was away, so he gave me some training about how to answer his phone and book people on to short courses. Furthermore, my supervisor was very interested in the aspects of Mind that I wanted to see. I therefore received a very full understanding of the working of Oxfordshire Mind, going to drop-in sessions for service users where they do all kinds of activities such as art, photography, meditation, and badminton, etc. I also went to see Benefits for Better Mental Health, an advice service about the benefits people with mental health problems are entitled to. I also had the opportunity to visit the Warneford Hospital and see the work that Mind does there.

Daily Life

I arrived at the office each day at 9am, having cycled there from college. Most days, I was in the office from 9-5, working on various projects which I had been assigned. Everyone in the office was very friendly and welcoming; I soon felt comfortable talking to everyone there, be it to ask questions about what I should be doing or just to chat about things generally. Some days, I went to places other than the office, such as the drop in centres, or to meetings elsewhere. These were always interesting and varied. Out of work hours was sometimes difficult because it was during the summer in Oxford, so no-one I knew was around. It was nice to do some touristy activities that you don’t really have time for during term time, though.

Lasting Impressions

I very much enjoyed the internship. It was very varied and interesting. However, I’m not sure that a full time job in the office would be as varied as my role was, simply because I was able to get involved with so many different areas. I would like to work for Mind in the future because I agree with its values and aims, and I like the way the organisation works. However, I think I would apply for the role of Wellbeing Worker, simply because these people have more hands-on work with people suffering with mental health problems, which is the area I am interested in as I come from a Psychology background. If there is a vacancy available when I leave university, I will almost definitely apply to be a Wellbeing Worker.
building. After going through my emails, I would pour myself a coffee, and get back to the scheduled tasks for the day. At around 1pm, I would get lunch from one of the many stores around the office building in Summertown, and occasionally our boss would take us all for lunch as a team building exercise. I would have a tea in the evening before leaving the office and in the evening I would visit my gym and have dinner with friends.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed working with Pamela Steele Associates as it broadened my mind on many fields, and not just international development as I had initially expected. I learned a lot about England, and how to go about setting up a small business in this country. Pam also personally invested a lot of time in me, which meant that I could learn a lot from her approach and general outlook. I really enjoyed spending my summer in England as I got to learn a lot and enjoyed working in a dynamic environment. This has confirmed my goals to work in development, while also inspiring me to one day pursue something on my own. I will always be motivated by Pam’s resilience, and passion for the sector. She is a fearless leader, and in an inspiration to anyone who wants to start their own business.
Rebecca Noble
Second Year, BA History, Magdalen College

Work Projects

An internship at Muktangan is as much designed to facilitate the intern’s growth as an individual and a professional, as it is for the intern to fulfill a role required by the organisation. As a result, I was able to personally craft the aims of my internship with the charity’s founders, ensuring that it met my professional needs and personal interests. I undertook two projects whilst at Muktangan. The first was research. I examined whether

Muktangan’s principles of gender equality were being upheld by students and teachers in the classroom, and at home. The second project was film-making. I made a series of short videos lasting between one and three minutes, that sought to highlight the various aspects of Muktangan’s approach to education through exploring the experiences of people in different positions within the Muktangan model. These ‘day-in-the-life’ videos followed the perspectives of two Muktangan students, one of which had learning difficulties, and a teacher. With both projects, I was supported each step of the way by, quite literally, everyone I met at Muktangan.

From the start, Muktangan ensured the professional support I needed to approach each project was there and, once the projects were underway, any additional support I needed from staff or students was readily given. It made working there over the summer an absolute joy.

Daily Life

Muktangan is based in Mumbai, and Mumbai can be a chaotic place to anyone unfamiliar with the city. However, within a few days I soon found my feet and felt increasingly like a local. This, again, was in no small part because of my employer: they made every effort to help me find good accommodation in the city, as well as making sure I understood how to use the public transport system, which I soon used to travel to and from work. One of the great things about Muktangan is that my colleagues not only became my friends inside work, but outside of work too. With friends from work, I visited the theatre, countless restaurants and a sea-front swimming pool in the heart of Mumbai.

Lasting Impressions

My time at Muktangan has been incredible: I couldn’t have asked for a better internship. I was able to carry out projects that mattered to me, whilst making a contribution to the organisation, and I was supported on each and every step of the way whilst doing it. Before I went to Muktangan, I thought that I would like to work within the education sector, with a particular focus on international education. My time in Mumbai has further strengthened my resolve to realise this ambition, as well as making me think that I might like to return to India for work in the future.
Yijing Cao, First Year, MChem, Hertford College

Work Projects

Our work project dealt primarily with the corrosion and hydrogen storage properties of various alloys. In the first few weeks, we were given an introduction to the theoretical framework of corrosion, and were taught related experimental techniques such as setting up 3-electrode electrochemical cells, obtaining polarisation curves, operating on X-ray diffractometer, using scanning electronic microscope, and so on. Afterwards, each of us was given one type of alloy (mine was (TiCr1.8)40V60 + ZrNi). I conducted relevant experiments to study the hydrogen storage and evolution properties of this alloy in mediums of various concentrations, under different temperatures. Finally, all of us were asked to summarise our work and analyse data and results.

Daily Life

At 9 am, I got up and had breakfast. Thanks to the convenient location of my accommodation, it only took three minutes to get to my lab, which was situated in the chemistry faculty building. The lab usually started at 10 or 11 am, and finished at 5 pm. In-between there was a lunch break lasting around 40 minutes. At times, there was also a tea break: our lab colleagues invited us to enjoy a cup of tea, some cakes and a good chat. After work, I went back to the hall of residence or went out for dinner, sometimes with Oxford students, and sometimes with local students studying in Perm State University.

Lasting Impressions

This internship offered impressive cultural and social experiences. The university organised some excellent excursions, especially the thought-provoking trip to the Gulag (Soviet forced labour camp). The Russian language and literature classes were also exciting. Socially, we were given many opportunities to interact with local students, particularly during the 10-day summer camp with many Russian and Italian students. I made many good friends in Russia and now understand Russian culture so much better through this internship. Academically, I developed a better understanding of electrochemistry and various experimental techniques, which I hope will be useful for my future study.

Miles Partridge, Second Year, MEng Materials Science, Corpus Christi College

Work Projects

We conducted electrochemical analysis of TiVCr alloys in order to observe their potential for use as a hydrogen storage medium. Slight variations in composition can change these properties greatly, and the specific alloys we were investigating had not been analysed. The long term aim was to find an optimal alloy and composition with desirable properties for hydrogen storage, adsorption, storage and desorption, for use in a hydrogen fuel cell to be used as a renewable energy source.
Daily Life

Accommodation came in the form of an on-campus hostel, with three beds per room and one kitchen, a set of toilets and set of showers for the floor of approximately 20 rooms. Thankfully, being out of term time it was all but empty, meaning the floor was almost exclusively for Oxford students. 10am starts meant 9:30 wake up as the department was only a short walk away. The department was under refurbishment, so it was an interesting mix of old wooden labs and brand new ones. Lunch was a fun experience, and often a bit of a lottery. ‘Meat’ was always on the menu, although asking ‘which meat?’ would often yield a blank faced response followed shortly after by, ‘it’s meat’. At least that was how it went when we had an English speaker with us, usually it was an exercise in precision pointing and gesturing. However on the whole the food was very nice, if unidentifiable. The few students that were around were students of English, and helped us with any translation issues we had. They were a great bunch with extremely good spoken English, having only experienced England or America for a few weeks total amongst them. Socialising with them and other Oxford interns was great fun, whether we were exploring the city, going to the beach or getting beaten at a local volleyball club!

Lasting Impressions

Russia and Perm were pleasant in the summertime and I met some really great and friendly people. I imagine that in the long winter with the extreme snow it is a bit more tricky, so I have no plans to move out there any time soon.

Nicola Oldroyd, Third Year, MChem, Queen’s College

Work Projects

I was working in the Physical Chemistry department of Perm State University, undertaking a research project that used electrochemical methods to determine the corrosion properties of a TiVCr alloy. We spent the first two weeks learning how to use the necessary equipment to carry out the experiments and the following three weeks carrying out research. We wrote up our findings in a research paper.

The Russian students were really welcoming and went out of their way to make sure we were happy and organise social events for the Oxford interns.

Daily Life

We were provided accommodation in a university hostel on the campus which was a two minute walk to the lab. During the week we were in the labs between 10am and 5pm working on our research projects. After labs we would cook dinner together and socialise with the other interns and the Russian students, who were more than happy to show us their favourite places in the city to spend the evenings. On weekends we participated in excursions to different parts of Perm that were organised for us, which was a chance to explore the city. We also had the opportunity to play football and beach volleyball. 10 days of the trip were spent on a geo-ecological summer school mainly held at the university’s research base in Preduralie. We spent the week staying all together in basic log cabin facilities and exploring the nature on the Perm Krai region during the day. This was a great opportunity to see some Russian nature. Towards the end of the trip we spent four days on a camping/rafting trip which was really fun. It was nice to get to spend some time away from the university campus and try something completely different. For my last week in Russia I spent a few days in both Moscow and St. Petersburg with other interns I had met on the trip. Both cities are completely different to Perm and it was good to see another side of Russian culture.
Lasting Impressions

Without the internship I don’t think that I would have travelled to Perm and I’m glad that it gave me this opportunity. It was great to see how the Chemistry department of an international department is both similar and different to that in Oxford. All the excursions were excellently organised for us, and gave us the chance to explore a region of the world I wouldn’t have otherwise travelled to. The Russian students were really welcoming and went out of their way to make sure we were happy and organise social events for the Oxford interns. Although I don’t think I will travel back to Perm, spending the time in the labs there has confirmed that research is what I want to do as my future career.

Daniel Price, Second Year, MChem, Oriel College

Work Projects

The working portion of the internship was spent working daily in a high-tech chemistry lab, under the supervision of an exceptional chemist who spoke excellent English. We also discussed a journal paper every day which was relevant to the work we were undertaking. The internship culminated in the publication of an academic paper based on the research undertaken during the internship.

Daily Life

We lived in a hostel in the university campus along with other interns, which meant that when not working there was always time for socialising. We also had volunteers from the university helping us at first, who became good friends. We spent a lot of time together throughout the internship.

Lasting Impressions

The internship far surpassed my expectations. Not only was the work undertaken incredibly useful and interesting, but also the country itself and the people I met made a lasting impression.

Christopher Hall, Penultimate Year, MChem, Oriel College

Work Projects

I was working on synthetic organic chemistry methodology, in other words designing new reactions. We started from work the group in Perm had previously published and then modified it to work with a wider range of substrates under more gentle conditions. Overall it was a surprisingly successful piece of research. Whilst working we were supervised by a number of Russian chemists who were very friendly and helpful. We were also given evening and weekend projects to read and analyse specific pieces of literature which I feel has helped me to develop greatly as a chemist.

Daily Life

Out of all the interns, the two of us doing organic chemistry had the longest days. Even that left us lots of time to explore the city of Perm and spend time socialising with both our fellow interns and Russian student helpers. We had excursions most weekends to locations around Perm, such as Perm-36 (a former Gulag), an outdoor anthropological museum of wooden Russian buildings and a Russian cooking class.

Lasting Impressions

Russia is a very different country - which is really why I wanted to visit, to see whether our impressions of it from abroad are really true. I can say that some things are, and some aren’t. I don’t think I would want to live in Russia, but I would enjoy visiting it again and exploring more of the Eastern side of the country around Siberia.
Work Projects

During the internship I had the opportunity to visit many protected areas, and assist in assessing their effectiveness.

Daily Life

Settling in was much easier than I thought it would be; there were many student volunteers from the University who showed the interns around and answered any questions we had. They were extremely friendly. The entire group of Oxford interns got on really well, and we often socialised with the volunteers, who showed us around the city during the day as well as introducing us to the nightlife.

Lasting Impressions

There was so much travelling involved in the internship, the lasting impression is definitely the sheer amount of Russian nature I experienced. We spent a lot of time camping and doing outdoor activities such as rafting and trail-walking, which not only led me to appreciate nature and what it has to offer, but the outdoor experience has also left me with some of my fondest memories. I am eager to continue learning the language, and hope to go back again someday. The internship itself has not helped me in deciding on a career path, but by taking part in it I met a variety of interesting and intelligent people, and hopefully some life-long friends - it has definitely been one of the best experiences of my life!
Work Projects

I was involved in several excursions organised by the Geological Faculty. At the start of the internship, I and the other interns joined a group of professors on a trip to the very north of the Perm region, 400km away. There we camped in the middle of Taiga forest, and collected samples with a view to finding diamonds for analysis. The overall aim was to determine the source of these diamonds, and therefore where they could be mined. There was a large amount of hiking from the camp in order to sample a wide area, which also allowed us to see much of the surroundings, and get a view of the Ural mountain range. Next we accompanied a class of Perm Geology students on a tour of the Khakassia and Tuva Republics of Siberia. We travelled there and back by Trans-Siberian Railway, and were transported around by a bus. This trip involved camping again, and all of the equipment was provided for us by PSU. The tour mainly focussed on the exploitation of natural resources in the area, and we saw many vast and impressive mines, as well as the effects they had on the surrounding environment and population. There was often an opportunity to explore the mines, and collect samples of some rare minerals, whilst learning about how the ore is extracted. Another focus of the tour was on the unique cultures of the region, with its unusual clash between European Russia, and nomadic tribes from the East. We visited many museums, and were given talks by specialists on the culture, including one of the builders of the Sayano-Shushenskaya Dam, the ninth-largest in the world. We also collected samples to find gold, in order to carry out a similar analysis to that of the diamonds. On our return to PSU, we carried out a study on the gold we found, being given access to the Scanning Electron Microscope and Mass Spectrometer in the university. We then wrote up a paper on the results, to be published in the PSU Scientific Journal. We then attended an international geo-ecology summer school, during which we stayed in a nature reserve called ‘Preduralye’ in the south of Perm. Here we took part in a project to create a new ecological path in the area, which would allow tourists to see the diverse flora and fauna of the area while causing minimal disturbance and damage to the environment. Finally we went on a rafting trip down the river Sylva in order to assess the impacts tourism has had on the river. PSU again provided all of the rafting and camping equipment.

Daily Life

Most of the internship was spent actually on the excursions, almost all of which was camping. We ate...
either in canteens or from food cooked over a campfire, which was very enjoyable. Evenings were generally spent sat around a campfire, or huddled up in a tent if it was raining, and playing card games or chatting. Most of the day though was spent working in the field. When back in Perm, I lived in a separate hostel to most of the other Oxford students, which was a little more basic than theirs. However it did not take long to settle in and become accustomed to it. When out of work, I generally socialised with the other Oxford students, although we also made several Russian friends who we spent a lot of time with.

**Lasting Impressions**

I thoroughly enjoyed this internship, and it gave me a very interesting insight into Russia. It truly is a beautiful country, with so much incredibly scenery to be seen. I am very glad to have had this experience, but I’m not sure that Russia is not a country I would like to return to. As far as my career goes, it has definitely confirmed my feelings against going into natural resource exploitation. Whilst it is likely a necessary evil, seeing first-hand the massive scars left in the landscape and the pollution of the environment has made me sure I want to be no part of it. Instead I will stick with my original ambition to research ocean and climate science, with the aim of protecting the environment.

*Ana Pagu, First Year, MEarthSci, St. Edmund Hall*

**Work Projects**

Our work was mainly related to collecting and analysing gold from rivers in Southern Siberia. The gold samples were brought back to the University and analysed using the Scanning Electron Microscope. Finally, we wrote a paper to summarise the results.

**Daily Life**

The accommodation during the internship was very nice and close to the University. Not speaking the language, settling in and travelling around the city were rather challenging, but the International Department of Perm State University and the volunteers were very helpful and helped us get over the language barrier. The Oxford interns mostly socialised between ourselves, but we also met some very nice Russian people. We got to share experiences, cultural aspects and made valuable memories.

**The International Department of Perm State University and the volunteers were very helpful and helped us get over the language barrier.**

**Lasting Impressions**

I would definitely recommend this internship to a friend. Russia is a very beautiful country with outstanding scenery, although I probably would not return to live or work there. Before this internship, I was not sure what career path I would like to pursue after University. I now realise I would not like a career in economic geology (which is what our work was about), but another branch of Earth Sciences. It was nonetheless a wonderful experience and I am glad I was part of it.
Gerda Kildisiute, First Year, BA Biological Sciences, Merton College

Work Projects

The first experience I had during my internship was exploring the biodiversity and ecology of the Preduralye nature reserve. In the itinerary we received before going to Russia three modules were mentioned: biodiversity and ecology of plants, biodiversity and ecology of animals and soil diversity. We mostly focused on biodiversity and ecology of plants. Our main task was surveying plants in different biomes going through an ecological path already established in Preduralye, and collecting information about their abiotic requirements as well as life history, and then comparing them. We then wrote up a report, and information in the report will be used for putting together posters describing different biomes of the ecological path. We received thorough guidance from Perm State University professors—Valery Zhuk and Larisa Novoselova during this project. The second activity I was involved in was the assessment of Rhodococcus resistance to organic solvents: in this project we focused on microbiology. Rhodococcus is a promising genus of bacteria with potential uses in bioremediation, and our task was to perform different identification tests on bacterial species unknown to us in order to find out what they were. We got to practice aseptic technique and learn useful tricks in microbiology, as well as learn new identification tests: biochemical identification via solvents and antibiotic resistance and also PCR-based methods. During each step, we were supervised by Professor Maria Kuyukina, who also gave recommendations for extra readings. We also attended the International summer school “Geo-ecological problems of Preduralye”: During these 10 days, we visited the Preduralye nature reserve again. Having chosen a botany-related project, my tasks in the summer school were to establish a new ecological trail around Preduralye and look into minimising the impact of tourism on local ecology. I worked to establish a new footpath by walking through the reserve and surrounding territories with a GPS tracker and marking areas of interest, which were pointed out by our teachers. In terms of tourism, our group put together some ideas on minimising impact and made a presentation. A few days were also spent rafting on the river Sylva; although in the itinerary it said that trip was going to be educational, it was more touristic than anything else. We rafted down the river and stopped to look at breath-taking natural objects. Finally, I worked on the assessment of berry crop capacity in the ‘Basegi’ nature reserve. When we visited Basegi, two shrub plants had their fruit: lingonberry and blueberry. We used 50cm x 50cm quadrats to look at the total plant
coverage of the quadrat by shrubs in question, and then counted the total number of individual berries in each quadrat, and then scaled up to calculate the total crop. This can be used to see how many animals (for example, bears) the reserve can feed before reaching carrying capacity.

**Daily Life**

My daily life was very different during various parts of the internship. Both times in Preduralye, it was a 9am start, lunch at 1pm and dinner at 7pm, and work (mostly outdoors) in between. In the evening, times were spent chatting with other people doing the same internship or the Russians, since I speak Russian. It has to be said that generally, young people in Perm speak very little English, and if you do not know any Russian, socialising with them is quite hard. While doing the microbiology internship, I had breakfast at my hostel, took the tram to the lab and worked 10am to 2pm – the rest of the day was spent cooking, doing sports (running – Perm has some really nice running spots). We also had organised outings for the entire group – we went out to several clubs, pubs, and restaurants. On Fridays, anyone who had a desire to could go to a levitation yoga class, and we always went out for dinner as a group afterwards. During the rafting trip and the Basegi practical, evenings were spent sitting by the fire, chatting with professors and other students.

**Lasting Impressions**

In many ways, Russia is not very different to what I was expecting, mostly because I grew up in Lithuania, which is a former Soviet Union country. However, having become accustomed to life in the UK, the differences in the way people behave, speak, spend their time and think were a bit of a shock. In general, Russia left a very positive impression in terms of its nature, peoples’ hospitality and general infrastructure; however, the behaviour towards foreigners and sexism was at times disappointing. I would definitely return to Russia to study or just visit, but probably not to live. The wide range of work I did allowed me to see for sure that I want a career in microbiology and immunology, as opposed to ecology, which will impact my future career path quite a bit. It also got me interested in bioremediation, which I also see as a potential career path.

Zoe Geraghty, Penultimate Year, MBiochem (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry), Magdalen College

**Work Projects**

During my internship I went on a field trip to the Preduralye Nature Reserve, and worked on the first English language census of plant species in different habitats in the region. Following this, I was based at the Microbiology and Immunology Department working on identification of Rhodococcus bacterial species and metabolic effects/sensitivity to hydrocarbons. I found that this was more a teaching practical than contribution to research. Another project at the Preduralye Nature Reserve was analysis of the effect of environmental factors on photosynthesis, using
fluorescence measurements, dendrochronology and soil profiling techniques. This activity was part of the Geo-ecological International Summer School. I also did phenological analysis of plant species; collection and analysis of quantitative data on the productivity of berry plants at Basegi Nature Reserve, my work there contributed to the Reserve’s annual report.

Daily Life

Daily life varied throughout the experience as the biology interns worked on various different projects. At the beginning we were based at a not particularly strict Nature Reserve, where the university have a research and teaching base but there is also a small village. During this time the three of us lived in a small wooden house with a tap and toilet hut outside; ate in the canteen for the staff and students; worked outdoors, in our house and in a classroom; and washed in the banya (Russian sauna/washing room) of a Professor’s dacha (small country abode where the summer/weekends are spent). One of the other two interns spoke Russian and we were totally dependent on her for communication as neither the teachers nor the other students spoke English. I believe if she hadn’t been there we would have been accompanied by a student translator. During our lab-based project we lived in the student halls in Perm and travelled to the lab every day on the tram (anywhere for 16 rubles!). We only had about three hours of lab time a day, but we were always there for quite a while because we were very well cared for with tea and snack breaks during which we made friends with three of the Russian students who were working in the lab and spoke a bit of English. Out of work we did various things around Perm, such as play volleyball at the river beach, socialise with the Oxford interns, and a couple of times went to bars with some of the Russian students. There was an exercise room in the hostel (with some gym equipment) which I used regularly; other people went to a larger gym across town. On Fridays there were yoga classes organised by a Physics tutor and we would eat out afterwards. Eating out was cheap but normally I cooked in the hostel (halls). There was a supermarket not far away, and a kiosk where we could take empty bottles to buy drinking water. In the hostel, the hot water was hardly ever working so we had cold showers rather than walk ten minutes to another hostel. The last project was in Basegi, a stricter nature reserve which it took a long and bumpy ride (including driving through rivers) to get to. Here we had a very comfortable wooden house but no electricity, so we cooked on the fire, ate by candlelight and entertained ourselves by playing cards when the weather was too bad to go out. There was also a banya to wash in (besides that and our house there was only one other building on the reserve).

Lasting Impressions

I would definitely like to return to Russia, but I don’t think I would like to work or live there long term. My lasting impression will be mainly of the people; their patriotism and love of Russia, the polarised reaction to foreigners, our teachers who were so kind to us, and were so capable and worldly wise as well as academically impressive. I will also remember fondly the friends I made, particularly our translators from the Summer School, who were so sad to see us go and to be left behind. Working in such a small As for personal career ambitions, it confirmed my grudging knowledge that I would rather work in lab-based research.
lab with such intelligent and accomplished scientists made me definitely appreciate the variety and number of opportunities there are in the UK, and how many facilities we have in Oxford. As for personal career ambitions, it confirmed my grudging knowledge that I would rather work in lab-based research - although (as I expected) I enjoyed the outdoor fieldwork much more, the information we gathered in such work seemed much less scientifically important and interesting to me than what can be discovered in the lab.

Jake Quinn, First Year, BA Biological Sciences, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

The biology internship was split into field and lab based work projects. The first two weeks involved carrying out a census on the presence of flowering plants in different habitats within the ‘Preduralye’ nature reserve in the Pre-Urals, and then compiling a report with graphs on the characteristics of these plants. For the third and fourth weeks we worked on campus at the university microbiology laboratory. Our work included seeding and culturing bacterial media; light microscopy and imaging; DNA analysis and rapid identification of bacterial strains. The fifth and sixth weeks involved a return to Preduralye for an international summer school focussing on the geo-ecological problems of the nature reserve. There were many different research investigations, but I was involved with measuring photosynthesis levels in pine trees throughout a 24 hour period using fluoroscopy. I also helped with coring fir trees and comparing the age and height of these trees in different habitats. In the eighth and final week following a rafting trip, we travelled to ‘Basegi’ Zapovednik Nature Reserve in which we carried out quantity and percentage coverage surveys of two different types of berries.

Daily Life

The internship was so varied and hectic that I don’t think you could say there was such thing as ‘daily life’. The work would be different each day even if it was under the same setting. There were many activities organised by the university and also by people on the internship. One day I would be in the city and then suddenly be taken on a three hour coach trip for a cultural excursion, or need to pack to leave for an isolated nature reserve. There were an enormous number of social, leisure and cultural activities which included bars, karaoke, cooking lessons, volleyball, yoga, museums and more. There were some really kind student volunteers taking us around, as the city was hard to explore without a fluent Russian speaker. There were pretty much no limitations- we could do whatever the city offered. I made good friends with the university students, teachers and also with the Oxford students.

Lasting Impressions

Russia is a very unique country. Being so large it has just incredible expanses of countryside untouched by humans, with beautiful forests and rivers. Of course this made travelling very time consuming even though we stayed within one region. Exploring the region was satisfying and it felt special because not many Western people see this part of the world. Perm was not a Western city and it didn’t have the luxuries offered by Moscow or St Petersburg, however I’d say that it felt more representative of Russian culture. It wasn’t a beautiful city but even so there were lots of interesting cultural things to explore and discover. My opinion of the people there was that they were very tough, patriotic and curious but also very hospitable. It was incredibly eye-opening to have a true foreign experience and to be completely at the mercy of a city which didn’t accommodate for tourists or foreigners and sometimes forgot what health and safety was! I will return to Russia, but it was a challenging place to be without fluent Russian.
material given to us. Local Russian students organised social events and were very passionate about hanging out with us. The university organised cultural trips to museums on Saturdays, including a trip to the GULAG and a modern art museum.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impression of Russia will be how impressed I was with the friendliness and passion of the Russians that we met.

Adam Smith, Second Year, MPhys, Wadham College

Work Projects

For the first section of our internship, the Theoretical Physics Department provided tutorials on Fluid Dynamics and Instabilities each day for about two to three weeks that lasted two hours each. We were also provided with reading materials for study in our own time. The second section was over the following two to three weeks, where there were four special topics ranging from pure maths to hydrodynamics that had the same set-up at the first section. We could take as many of the courses as we wanted (or had time for!), and I chose ‘Introduction to Perturbation Techniques’ and ‘Solving Differential Equations with Lie Group Analysis’.

Daily Life

We were provided with accommodation in a hostel run by the university. It was comfortable and quickly became home. The hostel was located about a 10-15 minute walk away, with the main street in the city about five minutes tram journey (each journey costing the equivalent of 20 pence). There was a range of activities and courses run across the whole internship, with Russian lessons in the first two weeks, and additional courses in maths held because the professors were excited at the prospect to teach English students. Every weekday we would spend about two or three hours at the university and then some time at home reading the
Alexander Knight, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Brasenose College

Work Projects

We were taught physics for a month on mostly fluid dynamics, about half of which I had seen before on the Oxford undergraduate course. I would have liked the opportunity to take part in some original research. For most of the second half of the internship we did a lot of ecology, which felt unhelpful to me as a physicist.

Daily Life

We played a lot of bridge and other games as a group, and we’re all now fairly close. We also socialised with some of the Russian students here, and were invited to their flat a few times. There wasn’t a huge amount of free time, but just about enough.

Lasting Impressions

Russia is very cheap to live in, but the quality of life is a little lower, we had cold showers for most of the trip. Everyone at the university was extremely nice. I will probably not be returning to Russia in the near future, and would not want to live there.

Jack Clarke, Second Year, MPhys, Wadham College

Work Projects

I learned about methods of theoretical physics in continuous media mechanics, including: perturbation techniques, instabilities in hydrodynamics, Lie analysis of nonlinear odes, mass transport in adsorptive media, and the application of unmanned aerial vehicles in geo-ecological research. This part of the course consisted of a tutorial style programme with the professors. PSU provided accommodation in a research camp in Preduralie, as well as tuition from professors on the subject.

Daily Life

For each of the topics listed above, we were given some reading to do. We then met with the professors to discuss what we had learned and so on. We also did some programming to allow us to investigate instabilities.

I met some lovely, intelligent people and hope I can keep in touch with them as I progress through my career.

Lasting Impressions

I was very happy to find that everyone involved with the internship was enthusiastic, helpful and friendly. Not only was a very solid course in continuous media mechanics put together, but also the professors went out of their way to arrange extra circular activities and excursions, such as museum trips, going to restaurants, volleyball, football etc. I met some lovely, intelligent people and hope I can keep in touch with them as I progress through my career.
Nikolas Susanto, Second Year, MPhysPhil, Exeter College

Work Projects

Our placement at Perm State University mostly involved classes covering several topics in theoretical physics. In the first two weeks, we learnt the basics of fluid dynamics. After that, we were offered four special topics from which we were free to choose. Most people chose to do two or three topics. In the last week there also was a class on relativistic quantum mechanics which was very interesting. On top of the physics classes, we were offered other optional brief courses throughout the programme, such as Russian language, Russian literature, mathematical modelling of robots, etc. An interesting twist to the placement was the ecological summer school and rafting trip that we did for two weeks in the middle of our internship period. We stayed in wooden cabins and tents during this trip. We could choose different projects to be involved in during the summer school, and I really enjoyed my project on dendrology and photosynthesis. The rafting trip was really enjoyable, since we were able to see the breath taking natural scenery of the Perm region.

Daily Life

The hostel that we stayed in was quite conveniently located, only a ten-minute walk from the university, and very near the tram/bus stops and the supermarket. I shared quite a nice a room with two other Oxford students. The only problem was perhaps the lack of hot water for part of our stay (due to annual maintenance for the water network), but it was nothing too major. We mostly had classes in the late morning or afternoons. The classes were usually two

Alex Nim, MPhys, Penultimate Year, Mansfield College

Work Projects

We studied various areas of fluid dynamics in detail and learnt about different mathematical methods.

Daily Life

Settling in was initially difficult as the environment was very different and some utilities were not what I am used to, but after a while I got used to it. We walked to work. Out of work I learnt Russian and socialised with the other interns and Russian students.

Lasting Impressions

I love Russia. It’s a beautiful country with extraordinary nature, wonderful culture and friendly people. I wouldn’t mind working in Russia. It has made me consider returning to Russia at some point in the future.

The rafting trip was really enjoyable, since we were able to see the breath taking natural scenery of the Perm region.
hours long, but we tended to spend a bit more time in the physics department to have tea, coffee, and snacks. We had plenty of free time even on weekdays, but we never seemed to run out of things to do. The student volunteers, the international department, and our physics tutors invited us to a lot of activities, from weekly yoga session to dinners at local restaurants. On Saturdays, the university arranged trips for us to visit museums and tourist attractions in Perm.

Lasting Impressions

Everyone I met during the internship was very friendly and welcoming. I had a really good impression of Perm and Russia. The rafting trip was particularly memorable. The physics classes have definitely exposed me to more kinds of physics than I knew as a second year student. I am still considering doing further studies in physics, and this experience has definitely helped me make a more informed career decision.

Oliver Waldron, Penultimate Year, MMath (Mathematical & Theoretical Physics), Lincoln College

Work Projects

We were given a series of taught courses whilst in Russia. These included a general overview of important techniques in fluid mechanics, as well as a deeper insight into perturbation theory than I had seen before, and techniques of solving ODEs using Lie group analysis. A teacher from the university also offered an extra course on Relativistic Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Field Theory for our interest. During the summer school portion of the internship in early August, we also did some ecological field work, which, while less relevant to our interests, was still a lot of fun.

Daily Life

The Oxford interns lived together in the university accommodation, and we spent a lot of time socialising outside of work hours. There were also a number of students of Perm State University who showed us around the city of Perm and invited us to socialise with them. Everyone was incredibly friendly, and Perm is a very affordable place to live in and get around, with a lot of facilities and sights!

Lasting Impressions

The internship challenged a lot of stereotypes that I had been exposed to about Russia. What I found was a country full of people who are extremely lovely to their friends, and a lot of fun to be around. The course confirmed my ambition to go into further study in theoretical physics, and the memories will stay with me for years to come.

Peter Taylor, Second Year, MMath, St. John’s College

Work Projects

Most of the work was learning Theoretical Physics at the University. We were given lectures every day on topics including Fluid Dynamics, Quantum Theory, and Lie Algebra with applications to ODEs. We were also sent on a geo-ecological summer school trip where we conducted an aerial survey using drones.

Daily Life

A typical day would start with breakfast in the morning before tea and biscuits at the Physics department at about 10 or 11. We would then be given two hours of lectures in a group of two or three students per tutor. Then back to the hostel to go over the material and familiarise ourselves with what we had been taught. There was often some kind of social activity after dinner, which involved either cooking in the hostel with some of the other physicists, going to a bar with Russian students perhaps, or playing volleyball at
the beach near the river. At the weekend, there were cultural trips, for example to a Gulag, an ethnographical museum and galleries in Perm.

**Lasting Impressions**

As well as deepening my knowledge of mathematical physics, I have learnt a lot about Russian culture. It was a new and worthwhile experience adapting to life in a foreign country. We explored the beautiful countryside, visited many museums and grew comfortable living in the city of Perm. The academic knowledge will be (directly or indirectly) useful for my degree and it was nice to experience a research environment and learn about others’ career paths and ambitions.

Raaghav Ramani, Penultimate Year, MMath, Trinity College

**Work Projects**

I took a basic course in theoretical fluid mechanics, then some advanced courses in Lie group analysis and diffusion in porous media. I also took part in a project about geo-ecological problems in the region.

**Daily Life**

Each day there was an hour or two of tutorials/lectures with the professors, and then a bit of reading to do at home. The rest of the time we were free to do whatever we wanted - the Russian students were very welcoming and organised lots of activities for us.

**Lasting Impressions**

This was a really interesting experience, Russia is a fascinating place. Perm is more like the rest of Russia than Moscow or St. Petersburg. I met some lovely people and had a lot of fun!

Andrew Bunting, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Exeter College

**Work Projects**

We were taught basic fluid dynamics, which then moved on to some numerical analysis techniques. We then were able to attend lectures on up to four special topics by the physics department – such as perturbation theory, Lie group analysis, numerical solutions for instabilities, and diffusion in an advective medium. As well as this, we were offered Russian lessons, lectures on robotics and a five-lecture series on Quantum Field Theory. Throughout the internship, the physics department staff members were very hospitable and helpful, and were extremely willing to help with any questions or queries regarding the subjects.

**Daily Life**

Most days we had a couple of lectures, and then some reading or a couple of short problems to look at. Outside of work, we largely socialised with the other interns from Oxford, but were able to meet and get to know some students from PSU - we met up with them and they showed us around Perm, hosted us for a meal, or generally just hung out.

**Lasting Impressions**

The people I met in Perm were incredibly friendly and welcoming, and were great fun to get to know. Unfortunately the experience didn’t help me to assess whether I would enjoy going into research as a job, as it was more of a summer school than an internship, but it was still good fun. Traveling around Russia afterwards, visiting Moscow and St Petersburg, was incredible - they are both beautiful cities, full of culture and things to do and see.
Metin Altaykan, Second Year, MPhys, St. John’s College

Work Projects

We were taught some physics/maths courses through tutorials, lectures and problem sheets. The topics were really interesting and well taught. We had great support from the faculty staff and they really treated us like equals and made us all feel comfortable and looked after.

Daily Life

I settled in fairly quickly, there were plenty of interns to socialise with, as well as other people in our accommodation and other PSU student volunteers. We went on trips and met lots of great people from other universities. There were social activities on most days after work, and we were also given language classes which were great.

Lasting Impressions

We were taken on outings to places of cultural and historic significance in Perm - it was great fun.

Yyanis Johnson-Llambias, Second Year, MMath, Lincoln College

Work Projects

We worked on problems in fluid dynamics as well as the environment, and received a lot of help and support along the way from the tutors at Perm State University.

Daily Life

We worked in the physics department of the university in the daytime, and outside work, we spent a lot of time with Russian students at the university who looked after us very well! We were taken on outings to places of cultural and historic significance in Perm - it was great fun.

Lasting Impressions

I probably wouldn’t want to live in Russia in the long run (Russian language is hard!), but it was a very nice country to visit and learn about.
Kalyan Dutia, Second Year, MEng, Exeter College

Work Projects

The internship began with researching about 30 competitors in the sector, which I received support for from the Pilio CEO, who spotted any details I had missed. This gave me a great understanding of the field for marketing purposes and to confidently present to clients. I was then involved in website updating and maintenance as well as setting up analytics and the beginning of web marketing - and training the key staff in how to use these systems. I also ran a pilot for a new research product which involved marketing, working with clients and getting feedback. I was supported throughout the whole pilot process, but mainly with finding clients at the start and interviewing them at the end.

Daily Life

Every day I got a train at about 8.30 from my local station to get into our shared office at 9.30, at Old Street in London. Settling in was easy as the other intern had already started there, and the tasks I was given to begin with were a good way for Pilio to assess my strengths. It was made clear from the start that I should feel comfortable in telling the company what I wanted to get out of the internship, and they would do their best to accommodate me. I didn’t really know what I wanted initially as it’s the first time I’d worked in this field, but as the internship progressed I could choose to focus on some parts more than others. The social life in London was great as its where lots of friends from Oxford and other universities were doing internships, and I also got a chance to meet members of other companies in the shared working space we were in.

Lasting Impressions

I was already very familiar with the location I was working in, but it was good to see what the commute could be like into London and whether this would affect where I choose to live when I graduate. The internship confirmed I wanted to work in the technology sector, and also made me think twice about whether I want to work in a bigger or smaller company.

I believe this experience has helped to set my goals regarding career field and location.

Kamilla Abilova, Penultimate Year, MEng, Somerville College

Work Projects

I was mostly involved in R&D work, as well as business activities including brand development.

Daily Life

I truly enjoyed my internship. I was working in a shared office space, so I managed to meet a lot of people and learn about a lot of new, innovative projects and ideas. I was very lucky to find accommodation only a 15 minute walk away from the office, so that made this experience even more enjoyable. Working in the heart of London and being a part of this environment has been incredibly inspiring and stimulating.

Lasting Impressions

This has been my first experience of working in London. Being born and raised in a small town and living there for majority of my life, this was a big change for me. I am very grateful to my employer, who has been very supportive and helpful all throughout my internship, constantly giving me tips and advice about city life. I am convinced that working and living in London has contributed to my personal growth, significantly broadening my horizons and opening up new perspectives. As a result of my internship I discovered a completely new to me ‘business side’ of the energy management field, and developed a good understanding and strong interest in the area. I believe this experience has helped to set my goals regarding career field and location.
Anne Nielsen, MSc Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology, St. Edmund Hall

Work Projects

My internship involved scanning, digitising, cataloguing and researching historic photographs from the photograph and manuscript collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum. I was allocated a collection of photographs from Indonesia taken (and also purchased commercially) between 1902 and 1911 by a German geologist. Once the assistant curator introduced me to the software and scanner, and showed me how to use the database, I was free to work on the collection independently which I enjoyed immensely. This showed trust and respect in my capabilities, and made me feel valued. Whenever I had doubts or concerns about the work, I was able to ask the Assistant Curator who was always there for any assistance or help I needed.

Daily Life

I worked at the Pitt Rivers from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm from Monday to Friday with an hour lunch break. I settled in very well as everyone in the museum was very welcoming. The curator showed me around on my first day and introduced me to everyone, which gave me a good sense of the organisation. I had my own desk in the research room which was shared with other volunteers and researchers. I really enjoyed sharing the room with others as it made the work very sociable. We also had a tea break in the staff room downstairs every day around 10.30 am, which was nice as I got to know people better. It was good to gain a better overview of the institution as a whole rather than just the photograph and manuscript collection. I was treated like any other employee and not simply an intern, which I greatly appreciated.

Lasting Impressions

As the internship was in Oxford where I have already lived for almost a year (and I have lived in England for four years now), I did not feel like the internship enhanced my impression of Oxford nor England as a country. The internship was, however, an invaluable introduction to the museum world and profession and has confirmed my career goals to work as a curator in a museum. I have volunteered in museums in the past but this internship felt more like I was actually working as an employee rather than just assisting as a helper.
I stayed relatively near the hospital, which has good transport links to the rest of the city, so got to work by bus. The times of the working day varied a lot - some days I started at 8am and others not until 1pm, likewise I finished any time between 1pm and 5pm. Outside of work I explored Brisbane and took excursions further afield. My employer was very flexible and was happy for me to take long weekends to explore the area more fully.

The support I received from the host organisation was excellent at all stages of the process.

I enjoyed my time in Australia and Brisbane is a really friendly city. I am not sure if I would return to live here as the time difference is so huge from the UK but there are lots of UK healthcare staff that move out here, so who knows!
Katherine Hickson, Final Year, BA Geography, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

Whilst working at Project Rousseau, I was involved in both programming and administration within the organisation. Programming duties entailed organising and implementing activities across Project Rousseau’s four main ‘pillars’ - academics, mentoring, community service and broadening horizons. These pillars are the strategies Project Rousseau uses to help underserved high school students fulfil their potential and reach higher education. Therefore, much of the internship involved planning events such as international exchanges, volunteering events and trips for the students, in addition to liaising with other volunteers within the organisation to help them-run these programs more effectively. I was also involved in maintaining relationships with current partner schools and developing new partners. Project Rousseau’s growth is currently limited due to lack of administrative capacity; and another part of the work I undertook therefore aimed to improve this. Similarly, tasks relating to the administrative capacity of the organisation involved both planning and implementation. Much of the work centred on fundraising and involved writing grant applications and undertaking other tasks to raise money. However, I was also involved in marketing the organisation through redesigning the website. I also took part in brainstorming for the future direction of the charity, which involved generating ideas around increased staffing and re-organisation of human resources, as well as funding strategies. Tasks were generally varied, enabling me to see different parts of the organisation.

Daily Life

The majority of interns with Project Rousseau were housed at International House, which is operated in partnership with Colombia University. It’s a great place to live and has everything you need- dining hall, social spaces, gym, even a big rooftop terrace where you can see the whole of Manhattan and the Hudson River. We commuted around 45 minutes on the subway each day, worked 9-5 in a school which was used as our ‘office’ base and had plenty of time to see New York after work and at weekends. We also operated as chaperones for students in the charity on several occasions, during which we were given free tickets to many attractions including a suite at a Mets baseball game!

Lasting Impressions

Project Rousseau has given me a much better idea of the challenges and opportunities which exist in the charity sector, as well as the skills which are required to succeed here. The founder is extremely dynamic and has made the charity excel over the past few years. However, working on the administrative side has made me realise how much of the growth of such an organisation is not in the hands of those who operate it, but is rather decided by those who decide to donate. The funding limitations on the organisation are something which I found frustrating, because so much effort is put into persuading people to give, rather than being focused on improving the performance of the...
organisations. Therefore, whilst working here has given me a good insight into the operations of a charity, I would like to use these skills in an organisation which is more financially self-sustained and where the work of its employees is more heavily focused on performance, rather than fundraising.

Bethany Thorne, Second Year, BA Human Sciences, New College

Work Projects

I was involved in a variety of projects. I streamlined the Project Rousseau event planning system to allow a better offering of opportunities to students throughout the year. I worked on an expansion to a new area and organised a two day leadership summit. I took responsibility for the largest community service event and revamped the planning stages of this. I took a group of students on a trip to Boston and got involved in students’ lives, tutoring and mentoring them.

Daily Life

The majority of the interns all stayed together in student dorm type accommodation. We took the subway to work as a group, which took about 45 minutes. Our office was based in a high school. The group of interns got on extremely well and we have become very good friends. Outside of work we went to the usual touristy attractions, and through Project Rousseau we were fortunate enough to attend major sporting events in executive suites. This helped us get to know New York as a city much more than we would as usual tourists.

Lasting Impressions

I’m already planning to come back to New York and work with Project Rousseau in the future. I vaguely knew I wanted to work in education and non-profits in some way and this experience has confirmed this.
Samantha Royston, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, Brasenose College

Work Projects

I was mainly involved in teaching English to two classes of children. I was given teaching books by the host organisations and access to materials I needed. I was also able to participate in some conservation activities, such as helping out at the endemic plant nursery and feeding the giant tortoises.

Daily Life

I lived with a host family and another intern from Oxford. We had our mornings free so would sometimes go out with the conservation team to feed the giant tortoises or work in the plant nursery. I was also able to be part of the sea lion monitoring team at 5:30 in the morning for one week. Life is very relaxed in the Galapagos so we had a lot of freedom, and were able to explore the island in our free mornings, go snorkelling and take a week off in the middle to explore other islands. We were also both able to undertake diving qualifications during our time in the Galapagos. Most days I would have lunch with my host family then walk to the office to plan my lessons. Initially teaching lessons was very difficult as I didn’t speak Spanish, luckily the other intern did. With time it became easier as my Spanish improved, but this was very challenging at the beginning. I taught two classes, at 4 and 6, each lasting an hour. I had between 10 and 17 children in the classes, and they are often difficult to control. Some students were very enthusiastic, whilst others did not seem interested in learning English at all. After dinner with the host family, we could go out into the town and meet up with other volunteers working in the same programme as us, as well as friends from the island.

Lasting Impressions

The internship allowed me to experience living in the Galapagos, which is an amazing place. I will always remember the many animals we saw there, and learning how to dive. However, it could be frustrating at times, as the pace of the islands was very slow, and it often took a very long time to implement ideas, or get hold of necessary materials. I wouldn’t live or work on the Galapagos for that reason, though I hope to return again to see the amazing wildlife and scenery! The people were very kind as well, though sometimes disorganised.

Ana Lawry Aguila, Penultimate Year, MChem, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

During my time working with Projects Galapagos, I assisted a lot in teaching projects, giving English classes to children aged 11-13 years. As well as teaching I helped out in the office, assisting the development and organisation of new projects, translating texts and general admin. On Fridays I helped run an Eco Club for teenagers from the local schools. I also assisted in various conservation projects such as sea lion monitoring, re-plantation of endemic species, marine clean-ups and upkeep of the giant tortoise breeding centre.
Daily Life

A normal day in the Galapagos usually involved a relatively early start- 5am for sea lion monitoring, 6am for other conservation projects. After breakfast I walked to the office and either caught the bus to the highlands with the conservation volunteers, headed to a local school to help out in a conservation project with the national park, or stayed in the office to help out. I came back home for lunch where my host mum often cooked a typical Ecuadorian almuerzo lunch – soup, juice, rice and meat or fish. After lunch, I went back to the office to prepare the English classes I would be teaching in the afternoon. In the evenings I hung out with the other volunteers. We either went to the pier and got ice cream or went to the local bar. On the weekends I explored the beaches on the island or took boat trips to tourist attractions or other nearby Islands.

Lasting Impressions

San Cristobal Island has amazing wildlife and beautiful landscapes. It is the most beautiful place I have ever visited. It was lovely to experience Galapaganian culture and I loved the relaxed style of life. I definitely intend to return at some point in the future.

Emilia Marsden, Final Year, BA Biological Sciences, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

My primary work project was teaching English to local children of the island- this was something I didn’t expect to be doing, and also an aspect I struggled with at first as I barely spoke any Spanish upon arrival. With a lot of hard work and dedication, eventually I became more confident with teaching lessons as my Spanish began to improve. It was quite rewarding, despite the teaching being quite challenging at times. I was impressed that I was able to write my own lessons and produce my own resources, without being given any training by the organisation. On some days we went with the conservation volunteers to assist with the conservation projects that the organisation runs. Whilst the majority of this work was weeding in the plant nursery or carrying soil to restoration areas, some days involved helping out at the tortoise breeding centre. This was a very unique opportunity as we were able to get very close to the adult and baby tortoises. Our tasks included cleaning the pools and feeding the tortoises. The other Oxford interns and I could see that there were lots of areas that could be improved within the volunteering organisation; both with the management, and to improve the experience for the volunteers that pay to be there. We gave lots of suggestions to help to restructure the running and organisation of the English teaching project to try and make it better for volunteers when they come and teach. We also took it upon ourselves to convert an unused room into a lounge for volunteers where they can meet and talk. We built a sofa from pallets, painted the walls, and put photos up. I also produced information posters about all of the different conservation projects so that volunteers could read up about the work that they would be assisting with. For the second half of

It was lovely to experience Galapaganian culture and I loved the relaxed style of life.
my time I was extremely fortunate because I switched to working with the Galapagos National Park Education Team. I worked directly with Gianni Arismendi, the Education Officer for the National Park. It was a privilege to work with such a passionate individual who cared so much about the work he was doing. We went to schools to teach students about environmental issues and conservation in the Galapagos. I built raised beds for the students to grow vegetables, and we also ran a bottle project where I showed the students how to make bins out of recycled bottles. Gianni and I, along with two school students, also made visits to the cruise ships to educate the crew about conservation in the Galapagos. We took students on day trips, either to the tortoise breeding centre or to educate them about the geography of the island that they live on.

**Daily Life**

I lived with a local host family, who were wonderfully welcoming and friendly. I had a lovely room with a private bathroom, and they cooked all of my meals for me. At first was quite difficult because I didn’t speak a word of Spanish so this made it challenging to communicate. However, in many ways this was beneficial as I was plunged into an immersive way into learning Spanish; and in fact by the end of my stay I was able to converse with them. For the first month I had some mornings off in which I was free to explore the town and surrounding beaches. On other mornings I woke up at 6am to join on the conservation projects- work started early at 7am. We travelled up to the highlands to work at the plant nursery to weed or fill small bags for seedlings. This work was to assist the reforesting/landscape restoration projects run by the national park. We also helped out at the tortoise breeding centre. In the afternoons I planned my two English lessons and made sure I had everything ready. I taught my classes from 5pm-7pm. During the second month I worked from 8.30-12.30 on weekdays (and sometimes weekends!) with the Galapagos National Park Education Officer. Outside of work there was plenty to do; luckily there were lots of volunteers from all around the world to meet and do things with. We went snorkelling with sea lions and turtles, or just relaxed and sunbathed on the beautiful beaches. In the evenings we went to the local bars and played pool or Jenga. During my time there I travelled to two of the other islands- Isabela and Santa Cruz where we saw penguins, flamingos, and even went scuba diving with sharks!

**Lasting Impressions**

I feel privileged to have spent such a long time on these beautiful islands, and to have lived with local people. However, I also feel extremely fortunate to have seen the islands whilst they remain to be in the pristine condition that currently are in; with the human pressures that the islands are facing it is unlikely they will remain this way for much longer. This placement taught me so much about something I am so passionate about; conservation. Being able to live there for such an extended period of time I was able to see for myself the reality of the difficulties that lie in implementing conservation management. I also learnt about the importance of protecting the wellbeing of the local people and how working with the local community is essential to the success of intervention plans. Working with the national park taught me that the one of the key elements of sustainable tourism is education. As a consequence of visiting Galapagos, I have subsequently become involved with a London-based NGO called the Galapagos Conservation Trust- a charity which funds various projects out on the islands. I’ll be volunteering for them by writing about the projects and updating their online presence. Overall this experience has certainly confirmed that a career in conservation is the direction I do want to pursue.
Work Projects

I was involved in a project for the Public Affairs Directorate compiling a database of the university’s economic impact, working collaboratively with the News & Information Office and the Government and Community Relations Team. This was a database designed to collate quantitative and qualitative data to show evidence of the national/regional economic impact generated by the University. I undertook tasks including identifying mechanisms to show the university’s economic contribution, gathering first/second-hand data with university offices and other data providers, collecting valuable case studies that could demonstrate impact, and importing data into an accessible and shareable database. I received tremendous help from my two supervisors who oversaw this project. They did all that they could to facilitate building the database, especially in terms of connecting with data sources. We also had meetings frequently for project updates.

Daily Life

My other colleagues in the two offices saw me as a teammate rather than a young graduate. They greeted me with a warm welcome and helpfully advised me on technical problems that I encountered. They also followed the project updates and provided useful insights and feedbacks. We had lunch sometimes during the week.

Lasting Impressions

I lived in college and the office is nearby, so I walked every day. As an overseas student, I enjoyed being in the UK a lot. I saw it as a great experience to give back to the University that helped me grow so much. I cherished the respect and friendship gained from this internship. I also benefited a lot in terms of interpersonal skills and data analytic skills.
I worked with several members of the team at the Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI) and felt that I gained a wide understanding about different aspects of the organisation. One project was to update the database, and this involved becoming familiar with the software and contacting individuals about their details to update our records. Secondly, I helped my colleague prepare for the annual QNI conference, taking place in late September 2015. My role was to organise the exhibition part of the event, for example by contacting exhibitors and liaising with the venue. In addition, I carried out some administrative work for the Queen’s Nurses network and for the welfare side of the organisation, which provides financial assistance to nurses working in the community. Lastly, I worked on the Homeless Health project in a number of ways. My tasks included expanding the Homeless Health network, conducting a literature review and writing an article on the topic of the health of pregnant women who are homeless, and analysing results from our homeless health survey to produce a report. In connection with the homeless health project, I also shadowed nurses and attended conferences and meetings. I found the QNI to be highly supportive, ensuring I gained as much from the experience as they did. I was helped to achieve my own objectives and encouraged to reflect on my experience throughout the internship. I felt that my work was very well managed and coordinated (especially working with different people on different projects), I always had something useful to do and I could ask for help if needed.

Daily Life

I was lucky to be able to live at home in London during the internship, and I commuted to work by tube, taking around 45 minutes each way. I found it easy to settle in to working at the QNI as my colleagues were very welcoming and the internship was very well organised. For example, I had an induction meeting with each member of staff to understand their background and role within the organisation, which particularly helped me to get to know everyone quickly. I worked from 9am to 5pm, taking an hour for lunch which I usually spent eating with a couple of colleagues and then sometimes going for a walk or doing some shopping (the QNI is located next to Oxford Circus!). It was quite rare for me to sit at my desk all day as I had the opportunity to take part in many meetings, attend external events such as conferences and shadow nurses at their place of work, all of which greatly enhanced my experience.

Lasting Impressions

I had a great time during my internship, and found it a really useful and interesting experience during which I developed new and existing skills. The staff worked together very well as a team and I felt included in that team from the start. I really appreciated being able to meet lots of people and attend a variety of events, and I feel this has vastly expanded my knowledge and understanding of nursing, as well as of the health and social care sector in general. I have learnt much more about how the QNI influences policy and about possible routes into working in the health sector, and health policy in particular. I was very pleased to be offered a three-month full-time role with the QNI following my internship and I am really looking forward to returning to the organisation in the new role of Junior Policy Officer.
Daily Life

The internship was based in the heart of Oxford on Worcester Street with back access to Gloucester Green Bus Station. I particularly enjoyed the food market every Wednesday and Thursday at the bus station. The office was very friendly and diverse, with professionals with experience from all backgrounds. The team hosted a welcome and farewell lunch for me.

Lasting Impressions

The internship gave me an insight into professional work at Oxford outside of academia. I was introduced to a buzzing professional spirit I was not exposed to as a student. I also gained some valuable insights into how university administration works more generally, and how the special collegiate structure of Oxford comes together at the administration level.

Work Projects

I created a database for Oxford University Research Services to store impact case studies. The technical brief and data requirements for this were already written up when I joined, so I had a very clear idea of what I was being asked to build. The University sponsored lessons on Lynda.com for me to learn Microsoft Sharepoint, and arranged regular meetings with other departments and management to support the project.

I was introduced to a buzzing professional spirit I was not exposed to as a student.
Work Projects

My internship with Ringier Nigeria was based at their property ‘Pulse.ng,’ the leading online news and entertainment content provider in Nigeria. My initial project revolved around my role as a “quality tsar.” This involved giving feedback to writers on how to better meet Pulse’s editorial guidelines, editing articles as they were published, and looking into the performance of articles on Google Analytics. I was made responsible for quality checks, evaluating the writers on core quality pillars such as the technical quality of writing, time to market, and variety of content. Pulse offered enough support so that I knew how to fulfil my role, but there wasn’t a structured training programme. I was expected to learn on the job, mostly because I wasn’t fitting into a predetermined role, I was creating my own role within Pulse.

Daily Life

While an intern, I was staying in the company hotel. Due to Lagos traffic, the commute was around 30-40 minutes. I was generally driven by either a company driver if they were already at the hotel, or I used an ‘Uber’ taxi. Outside of work was a combination of attending work events, such as live band performances, or to whatever my colleague (and now housemate) Rich was attending. I spent time at Lagos Fashion and Design Week, a lingerie show, several ‘Afropolitan Vibe’ shows, an art collection opening, and I generally explored Lagos itself. I socialised mostly with my housemate’s social group and colleagues from work. There is, admittedly, a lot of time spent in bars or similar – but poor internet, poor power supply, and poor water supply mean that it is best to socialise with other people, rather than staying cooped up in a room.

Lasting Impressions

My impression of Lagos is one of two extremes. There are some areas of outstanding interest, such as the Lekki Conservation Centre, Lagos Fashion Week, and Eko Hotel. I feel like there is a great amount of opportunity here, both for expats and Nigerians. There is a lot of space to grow and lead on projects. Of course there are the more challenging aspects as well, such as issues of poor infrastructure, unreliable electricity and water, and poverty. Every event starts at least one hour late, and there is a very casual approach to time keeping, even within the workplace. I have agreed to stay here until May, so I am still living and working in Lagos. I was offered a full-time role as ‘Business Intelligence Editor’ at the end of September, which I accepted. The main incentive for me to return to the UK is the weather – the temperature in Lagos is always above 28 Celsius, which I cannot handle. I also think the career progression here is very exciting, but ultimately I miss the support network I have at home. It is unlikely that I will remain longer than my contract, or look to work elsewhere in Africa. The internship experience has affected my career goals, in that there is a great scope for quick career progression here, but I don’t feel confident enough in my own skills to advance in this case. I think I still want to work in media or journalism, but in a more creative role or at a slower pace. I find the creative, artistic side of media to be of more value than the pure informative side. I want to form my own magazine at some point, having started a blog during my internship, and until then working for a publishing company would be ideal.
Travel between Oxford and Banbury was a slight issue for this internship. Due to the location of the office, driving is the only option. On some days I drove in myself, and other days my colleagues kindly offered me a lift. My supervisor was also very flexible about working from home which I tended to do on two or three days per week. The atmosphere in the office was extremely friendly and informal. There was no formal dress code and I found it a pleasant place to work.

**Lasting Impressions**

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the RFS and I would recommend the internship to anyone considering it. The experience has convinced me that I would like to work in a charity environment in the future and I have been inspired to consider further study in forestry.

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**Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (London, UK)**

*Helen Strain, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, Hertford College*

**Work Projects**

My project was writing a report for the editors of the RSTMH journal which outlined ways of improving the organisation of their systematic reviews.

**Daily Life**

I stayed with my cousin, and each day took a bus and a tube to get to the office in Holborn. I met friends or had lunch on my own and saw family and friends in the evening.

**Lasting Impressions**

I found London busy and slightly stressful but also fun and full of opportunities. I think I will be living there later in life.

*Jack Cooper, First Year, BA Biomedical Sciences, St. Hugh’s College*

**Work Projects**

My internship involved helping to organise a society conference - collating the names of potential attendees, sending emails, and interviewing relevant persons for online blog posts.

**Daily Life**

My working day looked like this: from 9:30-12:30 I collected information via the internet. I had lunch from 12:30-1:30, and then for the rest of the day I used the information I found to progress the project.

**Lasting Impressions**

This internship experience has made me very certain that I want to live and work in London.
Emily Seccombe, Second Year, BA Biological Sciences, Worcester College

Work Projects

I taught groups of families, children and young people about looking after the environment and wildlife, as well as aspects of animal welfare. This role involved working with lots of charities to provide activities to disadvantaged groups, such as young carers.

Daily Life

I was living in the RSPCA Education Centre which was very cool as it meant living in a private 55 acre wood where I went badger watching, and regularly saw foxes. It also meant no journey to work. Another intern was also here so we socialised together. The centre was a short ride from the beach so I cycled there on the weekends.

Lasting Impressions

I have learnt a lot about working with families and young children, as I'd only worked with older children before. The experience has made me want to continue in the area of wildlife education, possibly in the charity sector, though hopefully in a role with less routine tasks like cutting things out. I would certainly like to work/live near to the coast again. I also learnt lots about how to conduct oneself in a work environment by observing what other staff members did.

Stephanie Faulkner, Final Year, BA Biological Sciences, Wadham College

Work Projects

I was involved in running sessions for a range of visitors to the wildlife centre as well as outreach events. I worked with schoolchildren, young people from youth groups and families with young children. We organized and ran outdoor activities for these groups, in order to encourage them to engage with nature. I also attended local community events and ran activities for children there, such as making animals out of clay and making bird feeders out of old apples. I helped out whoever needed the most help in the organization that day, which meant I had a really varied role which I really enjoyed.

Daily Life

I was staying in the education centre, which is in a lovely woodland area. It was a very nice place to live. It was quite remote, but the staff took me to the shops when I needed, and there was a bus I could catch to get into town. I had never been to the south coast of England before so I enjoyed the change of scenery. We were allowed free run of the surrounding woodlands, which were private, in the evenings. I made the most of this, going for runs in the woods and I also went badger watching on a few evenings, which was really nice.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed this internship. The Mallydams staff members were lovely and very helpful. As my internship progressed, I really enjoyed getting to know the groups that attend the centre regularly, and seeing an increase in their interest in wildlife and the outdoors. I was very sad to leave!
Saatchi & Saatchi China (Hong Kong, China)

Srishti Nirula, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Somerville College

Work Projects

As the interns, we were treated as the ‘idea generators’ - fresh minds called upon to provide new perspectives. This could be in the form of words - we did a lot of copywriting - or ideas for TV commercials (i.e. a lot of badly drawn storyboards) or general ‘crazy ideas’ to increase brand awareness. We were given a lot of writing to do by people in the office, primarily because they didn’t have an English Copywriter on hand - so that really worked in our favour. Saatchi Hong Kong has an established internship programme and as part of it, we were taken through the structure of ad agencies. These sessions were largely useful as they gave us an overview of how an agency works. As part of the programme, we were also given a mentor. Another Oxford intern and I were assigned to the Chief Creative Officer of the South China region, which I thought was invaluable and also very unique as far as internship experiences go. She was really generous with her time, even walking us through entire campaigns from the first client meeting to creative implementation. As part of the programme, all the interns (there were ten of us - seven from Hong Kong and three from Oxford) were split into three groups, given a brief and then asked to create a campaign from strategy to execution. That was nerve-wracking but fun, and definitely a really good learning experience. I think the highlight of the experience work-wise though, was taking part in a Saatchi training exercise called the Tribe. In the morning, about 15-20 people were given a brief. After this, we split into groups of three or four and were given forty minutes to come up with a fantastic idea for the brand. We then regrouped, and presented our ideas to the rest of the teams. This was great fun, but extremely high-pressured because the global head of digital at Saatchi, as well as China CEO and the Creative Director of the EMEA region were all down in Hong Kong for this exercise. Us tiny interns presenting in front of the Saatchi big dogs was definitely intimidating - but also an absolutely incredible opportunity. Overall, the work was varied and I learnt a lot about how agencies work and how I could fit in. It’s not like there weren’t any lulls, but I think I was lucky to have the mentor I had, interesting work to do and huge highlights like the Tribe.

Daily Life

Over time we became good friends with the other interns as well - they were all really lovely, just a little
shy at first. We all went for karaoke on the last night which was really good fun. We spent most of our time on the weekends shopping and exploring Hong Kong and eating some really great food. It was definitely good that a group of us went from Oxford though, as it ensured that none of us were ever bored or lonely.

**Lasting Impressions**

I definitely had a great time on my internship, I think I got really lucky both at work and out. I had a great mentor, people were friendly with a good sense of humour, and I was living in Causeway Bay- a really lively part of Hong Kong. Yes, lively could sometimes cross over into overwhelming but that’s just part of staying in a high energy city. The working culture was definitely different because people would show up around 11 and then work till late, which may not be the most convenient thing in the world, but hey, whatever works. I think I’d love to go back to Hong Kong and to Saatchi & Saatchi at some point in my future - I had a wholly positive experience.

*Srishti Nirula, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Somerville College*

I’ve grown to love the local food and the welcoming attitude of the people I worked with.

**Work Projects**

I worked on creating English copy for clients such as Jaguar, HSBC and Vitasoy. Specifically I also carried out strategic planning for Vitasoy. I also conducted market research for Mead Johnson.

**Daily Life**

I stayed near Tin Hau, and commuted to work using the MTR. I was able to eat lunch with other interns in canteens nearby. I did the typical touristy stuff such as visiting Lamma Island and the big Buddha, as well as lots of shopping.

**Lasting Impressions**

Hong Kong was an intense place. It was hot, humid and hard to adapt to at first. I’ve grown to love the local food and the welcoming attitude of the people I worked with, but the working culture is very different. Although I know I want to work in advertising, it is unlikely that I would choose to work in China/ Hong Kong in the future.
that curating is the best job in the world! It’s been an incredible experience and I’m so thankful for the opportunity. I’m hoping to get a similar internship next year to build up my CV so that when I leave university I can pursue the career I’m now sure that I want. My experience has been so positive that I’m coming back to volunteer during the Christmas vacation. Stratford is a beautiful place, and I can’t wait to see it in the winter.

Elena Porter, Final Year, BA History, Lincoln College

Work Projects

I did various pieces of research to support future exhibitions, and suggested objects from the collection for display. I helped with the preparation and delivery of some educational sessions for local drama students, and with various other interpretation tasks like planning object layouts. My supervisor put a lot of effort into making sure that the interns had a rounded experience. I also worked in the marketing department for a day, completed a project for the development team, and made a promotional video for the education department.

Daily Life

I went home most weekends during my internship, mainly because I don’t like to be away from home for long periods of time due to homesickness. I did enjoy going for long walks in the evening though, and exploring Stratford-Upon-Avon. By the end of my time here I became familiar with a lovely route along the River Avon. Settling in at work was surprisingly easy. I had been worrying about it because I get very nervous meeting lots of new people, but the Trust were very welcoming and friendly and by the end of the first week I felt properly integrated into the team.

Lasting Impressions

Coming here was absolutely the best way to spend my summer. I’ve learned a lot and confirmed my suspicions that curating is the best job in the world! It’s been an incredible experience and I’m so thankful for the opportunity. I’m hoping to get a similar internship next year to build up my CV so that when I leave university I can pursue the career I’m now sure that I want. My experience has been so positive that I’m coming back to volunteer during the Christmas vacation. Stratford is a beautiful place, and I can’t wait to see it in the winter.

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Shiv Nadar Foundation (Uttar Pradesh, India)

Owen Turner-Major, Final Year, BA Philosophy and Modern Languages (German), Jesus College

Work Projects

I was teaching children aged 13-14 English every day over a period of 8 weeks. I also ran public speaking classes for older children, and ultimate frisbee classes every evening during daily sports classes.

Daily Life

I lived on the campus, as did the 1000 or so children supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. I got into school for 7.30am every day, and the days lasted on and off until 6.30pm. Outside of classes, I worked on learning Hindi, tried my hand at cricket, and enjoyed the hospitality of the other teachers, who showed me how great Indian home cooking can be.

Lasting Impressions

India is a stimulating and fascinating place, and I would certainly return, as I feel like I’ve only seen a tiny part of it. VidyaGyan School is also a really unique place, and the students there left a lasting impression on me in a way that students in previous teaching jobs did not.
Daily Life

Commuting was a bit of a struggle as I spent about four hours a day commuting from my home town for the first few weeks. Luckily, a college alumna got in contact with my college and offered her apartment to undergrads doing internships in London which improved my experience massively! I lived there with two friends from my college, and we had other friends working in London, so we were all able to socialize together. This gave us the chance to experience living in London.

Lasting Impressions

The internship has confirmed for me that I definitely want to move to London and work there after University. I also really enjoyed the work and so definitely won’t be discounting it in the future - I want to experience other areas first. It’s also made me actually quite excited about the opportunities that are out there in the world of work. I don’t feel quite so lost when thinking about the future anymore.

Hannah Salih, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Exeter College

Work Projects

I was working with the PR team at the charity, helping with their projects. I was responsible for researching, writing and securing coverage for several press releases and family stories during my time there. I was able to get some great coverage for the charity in the press- one family story that I did even made it on to the front page of a Northern newspaper! Day-to-day tasks included updating the charity’s social media platforms and logging media coverage. I also got to work with the events team to secure prizes for a Silent Auction, and I’ll be helping out at this event later in the year. I received a huge amount of support from the host organisation - everyone was lovely and very welcoming and I never felt like I couldn’t ask for more work or for help if I needed it.
Work Projects

Throughout my internship I was responsible for keeping the library open throughout the day and providing help and information to visitors. I also undertook a number of administrative roles, reorganising shelves, cataloguing archived documents and keeping accounts up to date. The internship provided a great way to be involved in preserving and promoting one of the very few institutions dedicated to supporting the heritage of Malawi and its culture, and it was interesting to meet all the researchers and students who came to visit. The host organisation gave me a lot of freedom to organise my own work in the library which was slightly overwhelming at first but this allowed me to be flexible. I was working alongside the assistant librarian who helped show me around, taught me the local language Chichewa and was a massive support.

Daily Life

During the weekdays when I was working at the library I arrived early on a minibus and usually chatted to the Malawian employees in the cafe downstairs who were so welcoming, lent me African novels to read and helped me feel settled in straight away. Library work was from 9-4, and I walked home just as the sun was setting as it got dark around 5. My route went past the market which was always busy and everyone was always happy to say hello, although they were keen to try and sell you what they had..! At weekends I travelled around Malawi with other Europeans I was staying with, and as I got to know some Malawians better they invited me to various events like a Malawian wedding, church service and we also went to a national football game. It was great to be able to socialise with the people who live there permanently, and their willingness to share their culture with me was amazing. It was those experiences that taught me the most and made the internship the most worthwhile, and I’m glad I had the freedom to travel around and be flexible with work to make the most of that side of Malawi.

Lasting Impressions

I absolutely loved Malawi and the people I met. I would definitely go back there and work for a year or so. While the internship didn’t confirm any particular career plans, being in the country and seeing the poverty that people face every day encouraged me in thinking about working in the charity sector on an international scale. Experiencing their cheerfulness and generosity towards me was also really humbling.
Georgia Evans, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

My main role was to support the Marketing Manager at the organisation by running the Gallery’s social media. This involved scheduling tweets, arranging Instagram and Facebook posts among other things. I was also in charge of managing press requests, archiving press reports and old gallery materials, designing information packs for the gallery and updating and re-writing sections of the website. I received training and continued support for this.

Daily Life

It was about an hour’s commute to work, but that was fine when the tubes were running! I settled in immediately—everyone was friendly and always happy to help. I did little socialising outside work but would always have lunch with others.

Lasting Impressions

My internship was fantastic. Marketing was not an area that I had previously considered, and I also got an insight into the daily running of a contemporary arts organisation, which I would now deliberately seek out as a career.

St. Peter’s College, University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)

Martine Wauben, Final Year, BA Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics, Pembroke College

Work Projects

I was immediately put to work on the database after appropriate IT services training, so I could get an appreciation for the importance of up-to-date, complete data on alumni and donors. As my training progressed, I was given responsibility for a future event. Moreover, I was given the information necessary to update and restructure the website. I was given full responsibility for this without ever feeling like I could not ask for or access information whenever I needed.

Daily Life

I was lucky to live within walking distance of my internship location. The college provides lunches in Hall, which is a great opportunity not only to talk to your colleagues in the office, but also to meet staff from different offices and find out more about all the different aspects of running a college. I was also invited along to social meet-ups my colleagues organised after work.

Lasting Impressions

I have gained an appreciation for how much goes into running an Oxford College, even outside of term-time when there are no students around. I will be working here quite a lot longer than expected, which I am very excited about! I will get the opportunity to see the events I worked on run to completion, contrast term-time with the vacations, and meet some of the alumni I’ve researched and spoken to.
Nina Foster, Second Year, BA History of Art, Worcester College

Work Projects

While working for the State Hermitage Volunteer Service, I undertook various projects. The main focus was the annual festival celebrating the European Day of Languages. I helped prepare a presentation for the European Delegates so that they could approve our plans for the festival. Then we liaised with European consulates in St. Petersburg and Moscow to create workshops that explored the EU's languages and literature. We promoted our event at the Vkontakte.com festival in St. Petersburg, where we hosted mini-workshops that would encourage people to participate in the festival in September. Besides the European Languages festival, I also translated and proofread documents for various museum departments, and I spent an afternoon cataloguing for the Archaeology department. Other responsibilities included welcoming guests to the museum’s temporary exhibitions and collecting their feedback on museum events.

Daily Life

It didn’t take long to settle into St. Petersburg as it is such a welcoming city. I stayed in an apartment that was comfortable and central so it was really convenient for getting to and from the Hermitage. As is usual in Russia, the office didn’t open until late morning so very often I would get up early and go sightseeing in the morning, perhaps to a gallery or church. Then we would go to the office and work until late afternoon or evening, with breaks for tea and time to chat with the other volunteers. As the volunteer service is so international it was a great opportunity for people to practice languages they were learning, in my case Russian. The head of the volunteer service put me in touch with a Russian language teacher from the St. Petersburg University, so twice a week I would have language lessons, which proved very helpful. In the evenings we often went out for dinner and drinks with friends from the Hermitage, or visited another museum or ‘artist’s residency’ of which there are many in St. Petersburg.

Lasting Impressions

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in St. Petersburg. The city has a fascinating history and yet it is still current and therefore an exciting place to live. The opportunity
to live there for six weeks allowed me to improve my Russian speaking and understanding, something which is only really possible when communicating with native speakers. The internship has made me re-evaluate my career goals - it has confirmed to me my love of Russian culture and language, and I now hope to live there at some point in the future. Until then I will try my best to become more proficient in the language. I made some lasting friends from around the world including France, America and the UK who made the experience even more fulfilling and I hope to see them again in the future.

Fania Weatherby, Second Year, BA History of Art, St. John’s College

Work Projects

I worked on several projects whilst at the Hermitage, the two central ones were preparing for the European Day of Languages and the VK Festival stand. For these I helped to organise and run events for children and others to take part in. For the European Day of Languages I helped to organise the UK stand at the event along with other students from the UK, creating a workshop that allowed participants to create their own poems in response to Shakespeare and other authors. The Volunteers Service at the Hermitage oversaw this project.

Daily Life

Daily life in St Petersburg mainly consisted of taking the bus up the Nevsky Prospekt to the Hermitage where we met with the other interns and worked on our individual projects. Often I would have a Russian language lesson which I could walk to from the Hermitage. Outside of work, I often met up with other interns in the evenings, and explored parts of the city and the surrounding area on days off.

I would love to return to live or work there, and I plan to continue learning Russian so that this can happen.

Lasting Impressions

The experience was wonderful and the fantastic time I had in St Petersburg will be my lasting impression. I discovered so much about Russia and how intriguing and magical it is. I would love to return to live or work there, and I plan to continue learning Russian so that this can happen. My experience at the Hermitage has not provided me with an absolute direction in terms of my career goals, but it has given me insight into the museum sector and a lot to reflect on.
Work Projects

I and my colleagues worked on visitor data analysis, analysing the museum exhibits and drawing up a survey to discover the preferences of English speaking visitors. The aim of this was to fine-tune and adjust aspects of the museum to improve their experience. With this we were helped by the host as they carried out the collection of data for us. We also prepared materials for English language speakers, including several audio guides, allowing us to help tailor the museum to suit English speaking visitors. We were also given great opportunities to work in archives and carry out our own research with the full support of the museum staff.

Daily Life

I settled in really well, sharing a very nice flat on the Island of the Fortress with a fellow intern, so work was just a stone's throw away. At the start of each day we met our supervisors at the museum offices when it opened and discussed our aims for the period - the tasks we could help the museum with and the things the museum could help us with. As we were museum workers we received a pass giving us free access to all state museums in Petersburg. Therefore we spent a lot of free time exploring the beautiful city, socializing with each other and colleagues we met through different projects.

Lasting Impressions

The internship made me love St Petersburg and I would very happily work there in the future. It also opened my eyes to the possibility of working at a museum or in archival work, having seen behind the scenes in many different ones now, and gaining knowledge and experience of how my talents could be put to use in these environments.

Edward Roberts, Second Year, BA History, St. Peter’s College

Work Projects

During my internship I created an audio guide for the museum, working with an outside audio guide firm. I also ran a survey about visitor experience. The host organization arranged access to research archives.

Daily Life

I explored the city while not working.

Lasting Impressions

This was a good experience - not hugely relevant to career development but nice to live and work in such a nice city.
Kathryn Poole, Penultimate Year, MMath, Hertford College

Work Projects

I worked on a forestry modelling project, gaining practical knowledge on how to develop and interpret social simulations. I also supported the research team in collecting, analysing and visualising data.

Daily Life

I worked on a forestry modelling project, gaining practical knowledge on how to develop and interpret social simulations. I also supported the research team in collecting, analysing and visualising data.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed my internship, and it gave me a valuable insight into the work of research institutes and non-profit organisations.

Julia Barrott, DPhil Earth Sciences, University College

Work Projects

During my time with SEI Oxford I have been involved with managing and adding content to the weADAPT knowledge platform and contributing towards research deliverables related to the Climate Change and Forests in the Congo Basin: Synergies between Adaptation and Mitigation (COBAM) project.

Daily Life

The SEI Oxford office is a highly motivated but relaxed open-plan office, and is a pleasure to work in. I usually get to the office (by bike) between 9 and 9:45 and work until 5:30-6:30 depending on how much work I have on. We try and have lunch together and there is weekly to fortnightly office ping-pong. Aside from that socialising is pretty light (apart from a seminar and dinners we put on) as most people in the office commute. Everyone has been very pleasant to work with.

Lasting Impressions

On completing my PhD I knew I wanted a career that contributed towards the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but, having done ‘hard science’, wasn’t sure how I could achieve that. This internship has given me insight into how such impact is achieved in the social sciences and how I can use my skills in this area. It has also given me ideas for possible future collaboration between the earth/natural sciences and social sciences that I could pursue if I continue in academic research.
Jennifer Rowe, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, St Hugh’s College

Work Projects

Our main task as interns was to research, develop and create a leaflet that told the stories of Stowe’s restoration history since the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) and the National Trust took ownership of the House and Gardens respectively. These were 25 very busy years and our research led us into archives, and necessitated that we interview many different people around the site. This included the Head Gardener, Archaeologist and House Custodian (Anna, our mentor). Creating the leaflets meant we had to work closely with marketing officials who could explain the in-house style of both organisations. We worked with graphics software and learnt many new skills as part of the design and writing process. Mediating between the two institutions was difficult at times but produced a leaflet that both were extremely happy to use. We were however involved in much more while we were here. We helped with conservation work, created exhibitions, worked with both visitor services teams and helped lead family activities. It was an extremely enriching experience and one that I had never imagined would be so varied.

Daily Life

Living on-site at Stowe House made the experience thoroughly enjoyable and meant that the workplace felt like home very quickly (it was home!). There were five interns including myself and we all lived nearby so it was never lonely after or during work. All the volunteers were also very welcoming and because we spent most of our time in the House’s outstanding Georgian library, we met and spoke to them all regularly. Work hours tended to be 9-5 but it was made clear that these were flexible, so I could sometimes start and finish earlier if I was going home for the weekend for example. The two months we spent at Stowe were an extremely exciting time because SHPT were opening their brand new Welcome and Discovery Centre. This meant that a lot of the team were putting in overtime and we were happy to help out wherever we could (and this was often rewarded with cake!). During my time there, I was also involved in Stowe Arts and helped steward some of the theatre productions. There was always something going on at Stowe and every day was different.

Lasting Impressions

Stowe was an awesome place to live in over the summer. Because it was quite isolated
nor the other interns had a car, we didn’t have much chance to explore the area. However there were always things going on within the estate. Working in heritage has been an eye-opening experience. Before I started my internship I wanted to try working in the sector as it was something I was seriously considering in the future. Although I really enjoyed the internship and don’t regret it as I learnt a lot, I don’t think the pace of life suits how I like to work.

Samuel Simms, Finalist, BA History of Art, Christ Church College

Work Projects

I worked together with a fellow intern to research, design and launch a leaflet helping the public to understand the substantial past, present and future restoration work conducted on Stowe House, Stowe Landscape Garden and the New Inn, an eighteenth-century coaching inn at Stowe recently restored and converted into the National Trust’s visitor centre. This project involved liaising both with employees of Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust. We also compiled our research into a booklet for interested volunteers, designed a children’s restoration leaflet and I made another leaflet for Stowe House to tie in with a National Trust event taking place later in the year. I gained valuable experience in the construction and implementation of audience questionnaires, in co-ordinating events and in the effective use of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Our employer helped us greatly by connecting us with other employees who possessed information we were searching for; we were kindly given free accommodation, free Stowe School lunches on weekdays and National Trust café lunch vouchers.

Daily Life

My working day was mainly spent in the Large Library in Stowe House. We spent mornings designing and writing copy for our leaflet(s) - usually if I was working on its front side, the other intern would work on its reverse. We found Adobe Illustrator to be quite a temperamental and frustrating programme to operate, so we often had to remake changes which we had made already some days before. Around noon we would leave for lunch in the former State Dining Room, where we had a chance to catch up with the other interns and employees. In the afternoon we resumed work on the leaflets, sometimes being momentarily called away by our employer to assist with another task if necessary. We spent a bit of time each day chasing up National Trust employees by email, who had said they would help us with something and then had...
pursue a career in the cultural sector in the future.

**Lasting Impressions**

Stowe was a fantastic place to work, with magnificent surroundings and many welcoming colleagues. Perhaps the main lesson I will take with me was when talking to Stowe House employees, who had job titles I would never have considered applying for had I seen them advertised. However, by talking to them about their work and seeing them in action I realised how stimulating these jobs are. I would gladly return to work at Stowe; I feel that there is so much left there to uncover and feel I will be back to visit on multiple future occasions!

_Ella Luo, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, University College_

**Work Projects**

My main project was focused on how to create learning resources for schools based on the architecture of the house. I also assisted in the daily running of the learning programme, as well as for the grand opening held in early August.

**Daily Life**

Because the house is also a boarding school, we lived in one of the dormitories during our stay. The team made us feel really welcome, and it was fun interacting with other interns from Oxford working on other projects.

**Lasting Impressions**

Stowe House has been a great experience and a wonderful way to spend the summer. My supervisor was really helpful and it definitely encouraged me to

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Madeline Briggs, MPhil Modern British and European History, Oriel College

**Work Projects**

I coordinated the marketing release of the Grand Opening of a new Welcome and Discovery Centre, which saw nearly four times the anticipated attendance.

**Daily Life**

The interns lived on site in a Grade I* listed country house—always good fun.

**Lasting Impressions**

The internship experience confirmed that I love the work, but also that there is very little funding, and therefore jobs, available in the sector.
Synergy Global Consulting (Oxford, UK)

Alexandra Pons, MPhil Geography and the Environment, Linacre College

Work Projects

My internship involved developing social risk strategy and management plans, developing reports, interviewing members, research for pre-audit due diligence material and creating presentations.

They value interns as part of the team and are constantly looking for ways to help interns learn as much as possible.

Daily Life

The company has a very comprehensive induction process in which interns get to meet every single member of the team in all of the regional offices. I took the bus in everyday to work from 9 to 5. Lunch was usually eaten at my desk. After work I would either go to the gym or attend department lectures. I socialised with my friends in Oxford still completing their studies.

Lasting Impressions

Synergy is a wonderful place with wonderful workers who are welcoming, helpful and friendly. They value interns as part of the team and are constantly looking for ways to help interns learn as much as possible.

Tanglin Trust School (Singapore)

Liam Saddington, Second Year, BA Geography, St. Catherine’s College

Work Projects

During my internship I reviewed the school’s literature regarding university applications, and gave advice to students on their personal statements. I taught a variety of year groups, and was involved in running workshops and giving presentations on university admissions. I also gave an enrichment lecture, shadowed teachers and observed lessons.

Daily Life

Staying with a family was one of the best aspects of the experience. I was able to drive to work. I had the opportunity to travel to Bali, Kuala Lumpur and Vietnam. I socialised with the other Oxford intern, and also attended social events with staff from Tanglin.

Lasting Impressions

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Singapore and South East Asia. I now plan to live/work abroad for at least five years after graduation. The experience has confirmed my goal to pursue a career in education.
Katharina Obermeier, MPhil International Relations, St. Cross College

Work Projects

Terre des hommes (Tdh) Moldova as well as the regional office in Budapest were very supportive throughout the internship, ensuring that I was comfortable during my stay, had interesting projects to work on, and was able to experience different aspects of life in Moldova. They also went above and beyond to help me arrange travel to nearby countries, which added greatly to my enjoyment of the internship. Some of the work I completed was for the regional Tdh office in Budapest. This included putting together one of the organization’s thematic newsletters on a particular topic of child protection, which was very interesting and required a great deal of research and planning, as well as compiling summaries of recent publications related to child rights and protection for the Child Hub website. I also helped maintain a database of regional experts and resources for the organization’s use. For the Moldova office, I conducted research for a variety of projects, including funding applications.

Daily Life

Tdh Moldova found a nice flat for me which I shared with the other Oxford intern. It was very helpful to have this arranged prior to our arrival in Chisinau. Our flat was outside the city centre but we were able to get to work in about 30 minutes by trolleybus. Public transport was generally very cheap. We usually worked from 10:00am to 6:00pm, in a generally very relaxed and friendly working environment. On the weekends, our colleagues were able to arrange for us to go and see sights around Moldova, such as monasteries and wineries. We also travelled to Odessa and Iasi, and explored some of the cultural events Chisinau had to offer.

Lasting Impressions

It was very interesting to visit Moldova and get a sense of the country and society. My work also allowed me to gain some understanding of other countries in the region, and I feel like I have a better sense of Eastern European culture and society now. While I am unlikely to work in Moldova in the future, I would certainly be interested in visiting other countries in the region. It was also very useful to get an inside look at how an NGO operates in this kind of environment, and the specific impacts they can make through their work.

Devony Schmidt, MPhil Politics, European Politics & Society, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

I developed an analysis of the existing European Court of Justice case law on the rights to move and reside, as they apply specifically to children. I also spearheaded the development of a thematic newsletter on human trafficking, which received high praise from other NGOs in the field, and a second one on the 26th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Other daily tasks included developing and managing content for the Child Protection Hub website, accessed by professionals and academics working with children.

Daily Life

I lived just off the beautiful Andrassy Boulevard, so I would take the historic Line 1 metro (the oldest metro in continental Europe!); I had to change lines once, but it was an extremely easy commute. Often I would stop for coffee for myself and co-workers on the way in to the office. Once at work, I settled in by reviewing the news from the previous day and selecting items...
to be posted. At lunch, I would either go out with co-workers, or take my lunch hour to explore the area around the office, which is just across from the huge Central Market hall. I would typically leave around 5:30, at which time I would go to a new part of the city I had not yet visited, or meet my roommate for dinner. I visited the museums, saw the major sites, or spent afternoons when it was too hot just sitting by the Danube drinking lemonade and reading. Weekends I would spend at the baths or travelling to Lake Balaton or Slovakia.

**Lasting Impressions**

I really fell in love with Hungary through this internship, although I did become much more aware of the political difficulties faced there. Because of the nature of the NGO, I also learned much more about the refugee crisis and the current undertaking by the Hungarian government to build a wall to stop refugees from coming in. Still, it is a beautiful country with truly wonderful people. I would be worried about living there long term because of language difficulties, but I absolutely would consider moving back, and I am excited to continue working with TdH part-time remotely. Working at TdH has reaffirmed my plans to pursue a law degree in international law in the US following my master’s degree at Oxford.

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**Thomas Hughes, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Magdalen College**

**Work Projects**

My work was mostly in three areas: the collection of materials and information for the online database; drafting a publication on the education of Roma children; and research into funding opportunities and assistance in drafting applications for funding. I received extensive support wherever needed from the organisation, though I could do most of the work set without much support.

**Daily Life**

I received a lot of help from my supervisor at work in settling in. In Moldova they speak a mixture of Romanian and Russian, neither of which I spoke on arrival, so some support was invaluable! Mostly settling in was reasonably smooth: the flat I was renting was in good condition, food was easy to find and buy, despite the language barrier, and it was easy to get money out. My flatmate, another Oxford intern, was very easy-going and we managed to live together without any problems whatsoever. The temperature remained around 35 degrees Celsius for pretty much the whole nine weeks I was there, which was quite challenging, especially given that I had no air conditioning in my flat. The temperature was especially unpleasant on the journey into work. I used my free time partly to travel to other cities nearby (I went to Odessa, Iasi and Bucharest on a weekend each, all of which were great trips), and partly spent time with the friends I made through a friend at work. I ended up making two close friends while there, both of whom are more than ten years older than me, but with whom I got on very well.

**Lasting Impressions**

I will certainly return to Moldova as I enjoyed my time there a lot, and it is in many ways a lovely country - attractive, friendly, energetic and terribly cheap. However I’, not sure I would want to live there permanently. People were friendly and kind to me, and were keen to make a good impression on foreign visitors. My experiences rather confirmed my career goal, which is to work in diplomacy. I would not want to work long-term in the third-sector as it is too idealistic, but I do want to travel and I do want to do something that matters.
Ellen Sowerbutts, Second Year, BA Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, Lincoln College

Work Projects

My internship involves general office administration, marketing, social media management and event management—both marketing and arranging an event with other interns (involving recruiting restaurants to take part in a mutually beneficial marketing scheme).

Daily Life

My daily routine involves two hours of commuting each day, seven hours working and one hour off for lunch (office hours 10am to 6pm). It was very easy to settle in—I have rarely been in such a welcoming and supportive environment. I was immediately made to feel part of the team, and made to feel comfortable asking any team member for advice or pointers. I would say that it is as comfortable to socialise with the director as with the other interns. I cannot recommend interning with this office enough. The office is also on the South Bank so there are very vibrant and fun surroundings.

Lasting Impressions

My aim is now to work in an environment as comfortable and supportive as this. It has given me a good standard to judge future work places by. I’m given much independence and trusted to manage my own projects, so my confidence has increased substantially.

Alicia Eames, Penultimate Year, BA Literae Humaniiores, Corpus Christi College

Work Projects

My day to day tasks involved general admin and assistance. I ran the social media and photo (and other) competitions as well as writing regular newsletters for the company. I also worked on expanding and developing the festival website by uploading and editing event profiles and creating a widget in partnership with Visit London. Further to this I was involved in a project titled Dine by the River which was a new initiative for the company. This involved contacting and organising collaborating restaurants as well as uploading individual profiles for them on our website.
Daily Life

Daily life involved a fairly long commute from the outskirts of London, an aspect of the internship that gave me a real insight into the realities of working and living in the city. The day lasted from 10-6 though there was some flexibility in this if evening events were being held. The office was incredibly welcoming and all the staff were really friendly. There was a brief overlap period with other interns which was useful to get the hang of the position and from then on I worked with only one other intern. I spent a lot of free time (lunch times) with my fellow intern but often attended office picnics with the wider team. Outside of work I made the most of the great location on the Southbank with friends and family.

Lasting Impressions

The internship made me realise how tiring commuting in London can be. However, it was an amazing experience that I would definitely recommend. Not only were the office staff wonderful and the jobs interesting, but the position gave me a chance to enjoy all that London has to offer outside of work too. The internship has confirmed my career goals to work in the Arts sector but has made me reconsider my previous preference for curatorship in museums and galleries. I have now expanded the type of organisation I would like to work for to include organisations putting on festivals and arts events.

Athanassia Williamson, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Mansfield College

Work Projects

My internship involved writing newsletters for the organisation, writing a blog, uploading events to a website, and editing copy.
**Alexander James, Second Year, BA Theology, Worcester College**

**Work Projects**

My time at Totally Thames was split into two distinct categories. I firstly had responsibility of the social media output of the Festival. As such I wrote the schedule for tweets and facebook posts which would be uploaded throughout the month of September. My second project was coordinating the new ‘Dine by the River’ initiative, being in contact with restaurants and encouraging them to join in partnership with the Thames Festival to produce a ‘Totally Thames’ menu to promote the festival. The host organisation was supportive in this, and allowed me to work independently but also offered guidance.

**Daily Life**

I commuted to the South Bank from Herne Hill. The office environment was friendly and quickly got to know those working there, as well as cementing friendships with the other interns present. Out of work I socialised with friends and family.

**Lasting Impressions**

I am now back working at the Thames Festival Trust, this would not have happened without the internship. I thoroughly enjoyed the internship; the work was varied and interesting and the people were extremely welcoming and kind. The location was ideal and a part of London I visited only on occasion, despite living close by.

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**Anna Coombes, Final Year, BA History, Worcester College**

**Work Projects**

I managed the organization of an event, which was part of the Thames Festival. It was the only event that included partners from outside of London and took place outside of the month of September. I had to sustain high levels of communication to ensure all partners understood their role in the event and their marketing commitments (such as posting on social media etc.) Given that the event was a relay taking place along the Thames there were many logistical matters to attend to, such as organizing timings around tidal patterns, lock closures etc. I was mostly in charge of the event, but was supervised excellently by my superior. I also worked as a researcher on a new project for next year’s festival. The research was historical and required me to organize visits to archives and take the initiative with this. I was working under the Festival Director for this project. However, he was away for two weeks, during which time I was alone in working on the project.

**Daily Life**

I settled in very easily, I arrived around the same time as the other interns and we were welcomed by a lunch with our other colleagues. Another intern was already a friend of mine, which made it easy to adjust. I would usually cycle to work, but took the tube occasionally too. Out of work I had the opportunity to make the most of the location and met friends near to the offices on the Southbank. The three of us interns enjoyed a two-day visit to Prague for a meeting. After the meeting we had the pleasure of exploring the city and the Castle.

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The Paris Review (New York, USA)

Chloe Currens, Final Year, BA English and Modern Languages (Spanish), Exeter College

Work Projects

My duties included fact-checking and proofreading issue content, reading and evaluating manuscript submissions, transcribing interviews, uploading content into the CMS, assisting the Digital Editor with social media content, contributing to the blog and performing administrative tasks, including managing the front desk. I received support from the host organisation by means of an orientation to the office, suggestions of how to find accommodation, and recommendations of places to visit. Following the placement I have stayed in contact with some of my colleagues who have been immensely useful in giving advice regarding job applications etc.

Daily Life

I had an absolutely fantastic time. I stayed with a friend of a friend at first in her apartment near Chelsea, and then proceeded to stay in different places around the city and in Brooklyn. I got to work either by walking or the subway. Out of work I went to museums, went walking, cycling, and went to festivals and concerts. I socialised with one or two colleagues at work and fellow interns, friends at the Rockefeller University, and people I met through AirBnB.

Lasting Impressions

The internship worked very well, I was welcomed and made to feel part of the editorial team, learned a lot, and made good friends. I wished I could stay in NY indefinitely; I loved working at The Paris Review and wish I could go back, I miss the staff and the work I did there. The placement was tremendously useful in confirming my goal of working as an editor one day.

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**Work Projects**

I was working on an internal project together with an intern from Cambridge. Our task was developing plugins for Atlassian Products (JIRA and Confluence). There were usually two permanent employees in the room we were at who offered support when needed. We had regular weekly code review meetings with our supervisor - about three hours each.

The greatest thing about it is that most of the people are highly qualified (more than half of the employees have a PhD).

**Daily Life**

Finding an apartment for my stay during the internship was quite hard. I lived about 4 kilometres from the office (essentially out of Munich) so I sometimes went to work on foot. Usually I used public transportation though. My girlfriend and a few of my friends live in Munich so I didn’t have trouble finding people to hang out with. The other interns at the company however were awesome - we were two interns from Oxford, two from Cambridge and the rest were studying in Germany. We went to Austria on the company summer retreat where we did rafting. Other than that we often chilled or went out.

**Lasting Impressions**

I am planning on applying for a permanent position at this company next year. The greatest thing about it is that most of the people are highly qualified (more than half of the employees have a PhD).
Alastair French, Second Year, MChem, Worcester College

Work Projects

My main research project while I was there was to calculate the activation energy of the fluorination of alkali metal bromides.

Daily Life

My daily life involved going to the laboratory and performing some kind of laboratory experiments or attending a lecture. In the evening I would watch films or go to the local Irish pub to relax with friends.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed my internship and it was a great opportunity to visit a part of the world I had never been to before and experience a very different culture.

Taanvi Ramesh, BA Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics, Magdalen College

Work Projects

I was in charge of social media management, and was also assisting the copywriter with any copy to be written for adverts. I was also a member of the content marketing team, helping with ideation, research, compilation, and outreach of any content pieces.

Daily Life

I got to work at 9am; attended the morning stand-up meeting at 9:30 where everyone in the marketing team discussed what they were planning on working on that day. Then most days were spent working on the various projects for that week and attending any meetings. In terms of the social side of work, most of the company is relatively young, so there were a lot of organised social events and integration was fairly easy.

Lasting Impressions

It was a small company with an extremely relaxed working environment which felt very comfortable. The work I was doing actually made a difference and made an impact, which was great. The experience has confirmed that creative and content marketing is a career I might wish to pursue.
Olga Lenczewska, Second Year, BA Philosophy and Modern Languages (Italian), St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

As an intern at Tradewind Books, I was involved in various tasks related to children’s book publishing, such as substantive editing, copy editing, proofreading, social media marketing, sell sheets and catalogue design, contract writing, and administrative tasks. The internship revolved around three roles in publishing: editing, marketing (publicity), and book production (design). My boss was extremely helpful and took time to explain to me how publishing works and what the specific roles are within it.

Daily Life

I worked four days a week, around six hours a day, which left me plenty of time to get to know Vancouver and do my own thing. My boss was relaxed and very friendly, so I liked coming to the office and working with him. Moreover, I was treated as a responsible adult and given serious tasks. I also helped my boss to run a short summer course about children’s book publishing at the University of British Columbia and was given an opportunity to take part in it for free, which gave me even more exposure to the world of publishing. My boss and his wife, who is also involved in the company as the Art Director, were extremely welcoming. They often invited me to their house for dinner and introduced me to their colleagues and friends. Some of them, illustrators, designers, editors or writers, gave me further advice and explained their role in the industry. The bosses, Michael and Carol, also took us on a few excursions near Vancouver and to various cultural events and concerts, and generally helped me with my own weekend trips and the logistics. I felt comfortable and safe around them, and was really inspired. Also, the office was located by water and a boatyard, in a very interesting part of the city. I rented a room via Airbnb which I was really happy with. The public transport in Vancouver is amazing and the city itself has a lot to offer, so I really enjoyed my time there and frankly would have liked to stay longer. As for my free time, I met a few of the past interns through my boss and socialised with them as well as my co-intern. There is a lot to do in Vancouver, no matter what you like doing.

Lasting Impressions

I was very positively surprised by Canada and Vancouver. The people here are open and friendly like
nowhere else, there are many cultural and social events going on, the city is beautiful—green, next to mountains and the ocean. Vancouver is also very multicultural, which is reflected in the variety of neighbourhoods and great food scene. Being here has also given me the opportunity to learn about and better understand the history of the native peoples of Canada, their culture and art, often neglected in Europe. I would definitely like to return to Vancouver for work or study. I would recommend this city to anyone, both for travel or long-term stay. The internship at Tradewind Books has helped me understand the publishing industry and gave me the necessary experience to be confident I could get a job in publishing in the future. I liked working in the field and am seriously considering it as my career path. I cannot stress enough how important it is to be exposed to an industry before one decides to pursue a career in it, and how much it helps to clear one’s mind about such a decision.

Ayushi Nayak, Second Year, BA Archaeology and Anthropology, St. Peter's College

Work Projects

My internship involved assisting with editing tasks such as the substantive editing of manuscripts for children’s picture books, copy-editing final proofs of children’s picture books, line-editing of a young adult novel, and proof-reading children’s picture books. There were also some marketing tasks such as using InDesign to create posters, sell sheets, catalogues, and advertisements. I also wrote authors’ and illustrators’ contracts, and assisted the Publisher in teaching the ‘Creating Children’s Books’ course at UBC.

Daily Life

I travelled to work using public transport every day. At work I mainly interacted with the Owner and Publisher of Tradewind, and the other intern from Oxford. Often authors and illustrators would come into the office and I would get to work with them. I also met with past interns who had worked for the company. I ended up becoming friends with two of them, and I would meet them for meals and drinks after work.

Lasting Impressions

My supervisors, the Publisher of Tradewind Books (Michael Katz) and his wife the Art Director (Carol Frank), were instrumental in making my stay in Vancouver memorable. They helped me settle in, introduced me to many of their friends, and took me out for meals, concerts, movies, and museum visits. Since my brother lives in Vancouver, I stayed with him and this added to making the experience very enjoyable and minimally stressful. Mike and Carol were also very welcoming of me and my brother into their home. They went out of their way to not only give me a complete idea of how a publishing house works (various types of editing, writing contracts, meeting with prospective authors and illustrators, learning from the book designer, working on the website, etc.), but also to ensure that I experienced Vancouver as a city to the fullest. They also offered to employ me part-time if I move to Vancouver for graduate studies.
**Tsinghua University Rural Programme (Beijing and various locations, China)**

*James Barnett, First Year, BA History, St. Hugh’s College*

**Work Projects**

Our classes, unsurprisingly, focused on England - teaching English language, history and culture. This was undertaken in classes jointly led by myself and my Chinese team leader, who acted as my translator. We lead presentations, group activities, and tests throughout our classes, adapting to the needs and demands of the students. We received lectures in Beijing on both teaching and teaching in China specifically, which were very useful.

**Daily Life**

The day began, at least for us teachers, around 8am - whereas the students woke up at 5am! We had breakfast and prepare for the day’s lessons. We then had three morning lessons, alternating between the school’s four classes. Then a lunchbreak at the school cafeteria; followed by a longer afternoon break. This would be followed by a fun lesson, which was either a film or a creative project, and then a PE lesson if the weather was permitting, before dinner. In the evening we teachers would discuss the day’s lessons, socialise, and prepare our next projects and presentations. Sometimes we would leave the school for dinner, visiting local villages or the provincial city. It was a relatively hectic and challenging, but nevertheless fulfilling, schedule.

*Martin Edwards, Second Year, MChem, St. Hilda’s College*

**Work Projects**

A team of 8 of us travelled to Nanjian County in Yunnan Province to teach at a middle school. I taught English with another colleague to class of around 70 students. We also had help from the Tsinghua students who translated for us in and out of lessons. We were well looked after throughout our stay with great food and accommodation in ready supply. The extensive

**Lasting Impressions**

My time teaching in China was an informative and enlightening experience - I like to think I learnt as much as the students I taught did! The experience greatly broadened my knowledge of Chinese culture, customs and modern life, revealing the life, and the stark differences, between those living in the city and the countryside. I was impressed by the students we taught, who, as a whole, were well behaved, studious and very eager to learn. I was also impressed by my fellow student teachers, the majority Chinese, who were diligent and passionately committed to their work. With their respective personalities and unique backgrounds, they were undoubtedly a pleasure and a privilege to work with. Ultimately the experience has piqued my interest both in China and in teaching, providing me with a unique insight into both.

*James Barnett, First Year, BA History, St. Hugh’s College*

**Work Projects**

Our classes, unsurprisingly, focused on England - teaching English language, history and culture. This was undertaken in classes jointly led by myself and my Chinese team leader, who acted as my translator. We lead presentations, group activities, and tests throughout our classes, adapting to the needs and demands of the students. We received lectures in Beijing on both teaching and teaching in China specifically, which were very useful.

**Daily Life**

The day began, at least for us teachers, around 8am - whereas the students woke up at 5am! We had breakfast and prepare for the day’s lessons. We then had three morning lessons, alternating between the school’s four classes. Then a lunchbreak at the school cafeteria; followed by a longer afternoon break. This would be followed by a fun lesson, which was either a film or a creative project, and then a PE lesson if the weather was permitting, before dinner. In the evening we teachers would discuss the day’s lessons, socialise, and prepare our next projects and presentations. Sometimes we would leave the school for dinner, visiting local villages or the provincial city. It was a relatively hectic and challenging, but nevertheless fulfilling, schedule.

*Martin Edwards, Second Year, MChem, St. Hilda’s College*

**Work Projects**

A team of 8 of us travelled to Nanjian County in Yunnan Province to teach at a middle school. I taught English with another colleague to class of around 70 students. We also had help from the Tsinghua students who translated for us in and out of lessons. We were well looked after throughout our stay with great food and accommodation in ready supply. The extensive
alumni network of Tsinghua University was extremely helpful as it meant we had contacts with excellent local knowledge.

**Daily Life**

We woke up reasonably early at around 7:30 and went to bed most nights around midnight. It took me a few days to settle in and become comfortable around my new team but we all became close very quickly. We stayed in the school so there wasn’t any commuting. Outside of work we were taken around the county to various temples and sites of natural beauty, and also played games/watched films with each other and the children we were teaching. I socialised with all the members of my team.

**Lasting Impressions**

I had an amazing time on my internship and was very sorry to be leaving after only three weeks. I loved China, it’s a spectacular country with so much to see and do. I’ll always remember Nanjian County’s breathtaking natural beauty and the friendliness of its inhabitants. I would love to go and work in China again although I think learning Mandarin would be a necessity if I was staying for a long period of time. Although I haven’t come away with a specific career plan it has made me think much more about my future and the importance of being proactive.

*Joseph Roberts, First Year, BA Philosophy Politics and Economics, Mansfield College*

**Work Projects**

The internship involved teaching English at both a middle school and an elementary school. We were given a session on teaching English, but I felt this still left me with little material and information prior to arrival in China would have been valuable.

**Daily Life**

China is a very different culture, so combine that with the uncertainty of travelling alone for the first time, and I was pretty nervous. I was met at the airport by Chinese students on the programme, settled in by allowing pretty much anything to happen as it was ‘part of Chinese culture’, and being relaxed while taking every opportunity I could. I had little sleep (between 1am and 7am usually) and socialised with group members -both Chinese and an American who was living in school in rural area.

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Daily Life

There were eight of us working in a team. We prepared the lectures and discussed how to improve during the meetings we had each night, then we gave lectures and had team building sessions with the kids the next day. My teammates and I formed a strong bond between us, and I cherish this friendship a lot.

Lasting Impressions

Although the Internship programme was held in China (where I come from), being a kid raised in a city, I’ve never actually lived or been to the rural areas of China. This experience made me start to think about how we can improve the current situation of inequality in education, and how we can give hope to the future generations.

Yifan Feng, First Year, MMath (Mathematics and Statistics), Keble College

Work Projects

SSLP is a teaching programme and there were 30 teams involved this year. Our team was sent to Qinghai province and we taught 16 and 17 year-old students there. Tsinghua University provided free meals and accommodation when we were in the university, and they paid for our train tickets as well. Lectures on Tsinghua culture and experience sharing were given by the university before we set off as well.

Daily Life

Every day we got up at 6am, had our breakfast and then walked half an hour to the school, going up and down along the hills. We gave lectures and classes to 16 year-old students and also organised activities such as football matches. We finished evening classes/lectures at 9pm and then there was a daily meeting when we got back to our rooms and a newsletter was also sent out daily. We would be lucky if we can go to sleep at midnight, normally we wouldn’t be able to do so till 1 or 2 in the morning.

Lasting Impressions

The two-week program reminded me of my hometown, and many similar counties in China at the moment. The students there do not have the same experience as students from big modern cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, they are innocent and sincere, they deserve to see more and know more about the world. I, as a Chinese citizen, would like to go back to my own country eventually and contribute to its development.

China is one of the biggest emerging markets and it is developing surprisingly quickly, but that is not enough, there is still a big difference between China and western countries, and I would like to help my country to eliminate the difference, to help the youngsters to have more opportunities for their own development.
Georgia Clarke Final Year, MChem, Trinity College

Work Projects

I was based in a Junior High School in Huining, Gansu Province. I was teaching English as a foreign language to the students who were aged 11 and 12. For every lesson I had a native Chinese speaker from my group as an assistant to translate any English the students did not understand, but they were much better at English than I had expected! Still, the translator was needed, as some basic classroom instructions were not understood. The University did give us a handful of lectures on teaching English as a foreign language before we set out for our schools.

Daily Life

Usually I would teach two classes a day, with around 75 students in each class. It sounds like a lot of children, but they all fit inside a single classroom and it is not as daunting as it sounds. Occasionally I would teach all 150 of them in the lecture hall instead. The school was a five minute walk away from our hotel and so walking to and from school was not a problem. I was part of a team of nine, and we all ate together in the canteen at the school. All of my teammates were from China, but they all tried hard to include me and speak English.

Lasting Impressions

I really enjoyed working and travelling in China, it’s a fantastic country and I learnt so much about the Chinese culture. I would definitely consider teaching in the future as it is a rewarding and enjoyable job.

Helen Randall, MSt Chinese Studies, St. Cross College

Work Projects

My main task was to teach English to two classes. This consisted mainly of identifying the problematic areas in their language education, then planning and giving lessons that addressed these.

Daily Life

We would all get up early regardless of what time we were teaching as we would have a communal breakfast and discuss the day ahead. We would each teach two hours per day and spend the rest of the time in the simple office preparing lessons. We lived in shared rooms on the school campus which we (or I being the only non-Chinese) were not allowed to leave alone. Therefore we only socialised amongst ourselves.

Lasting Impressions

I am familiar with Chinese culture as I lived in Beijing for part of my undergraduate degree. However, I had never been to Gansu province or had such an opportunity to carry out my own first hand research which I did on water accessibility in the area. I doubt that I want to teach. I already knew this but am more confident now.
Lydie Sheehan, Second Year, BA European and Middle Eastern Languages (French and Arabic), Pembroke College

Work Projects

During my internship I was working on the company’s ‘green initiatives’ (environmental policies), and creating resources for new employees.

Daily Life

Umniah arranged an apartment for us to live in a short distance from work so we were able to walk to work (approx. 10 minute walk). At lunch there is a canteen in the office building with moderately-priced, filling Arabic food. In the evenings I met up with friends in cafes, restaurants, bars or their houses, and did Arabic-English language exchanges. There’s also an Oxford alumnus in Jordan who arranged activities for us in the evenings and trips away.

The internship was useful to get experience of work in the Middle East.

Lasting Impressions

I already knew the country as I had been there on my year abroad but I really enjoyed living there for the internship. The internship is not directly related to an area that I hope to work in in the future, but it was useful to get experience of work in the Middle East.
Jordan Williamson, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence, Trinity College

Work Projects

I found the work to be very interesting, and was given much more responsibility than I anticipated before I arrived. Working in the legal office, I expected to have a role similar to that which I have had on previous vacation schemes and work experiences in law firms - mostly administrative duties. However, here I was given much more responsibility, akin to that of a trainee solicitor, perhaps even more so. I drafted contractual agreements with international NGOs, and was involved in international dispute resolution, as well as WFP constitutional interpretation. I also had a lot of contact with clients, which is not typical when starting out in a career in law. Overall, I was very satisfied with the amount, and the complexity, of the work I received. There was support from my supervisors whenever this was needed, all of whom made me feel very welcome.

Daily Life

Living in the centre of Rome requires a commute to the WFP Headquarters, but this is a very simple journey (a 10 minute train ride from one of the main Roma staziones). Work would typically be from 9.30-5.30, depending on the workload. There was often plenty of time to socialize whilst at work, with extended lunch breaks and a coffee break or two - there is certainly not overwhelming pressure to work solidly throughout the day. The atmosphere in the workplace was relaxed, and the rapport built with the legal officers, as well as interns from all departments, made going to work an enjoyable experience. There were always plenty of things going on after work because of the large network of interns at WFP and its sister UN Agency also based in Rome. The city itself has a lot to offer - whether it was cultural pursuits, a trip to the beach, or a visit to Roma’s many bars, there was always more than enough to do.

Lasting Impressions

I enjoyed working at WFP a lot. Working for an international organization in some ways differs greatly from being a solicitor at a law firm (which is my current career path), but it has enough in common to mean that the work I was engaged with will be of much relevance when I start my job. What’s more, the humanitarian nature of the work does make you value your input within the organization more. Outside of work, I found Rome to be a vibrant and beautiful city. Making the leap to live and work abroad alone for an extended period of time can at times be overwhelming, and it is important to be prepared for the risks that come with this (thieves are an unfortunate by-product of the popularity of Rome, as I found out on more than one occasion), but if it is approached in the right way then it is definitely worthwhile making that leap.

Conor Kennedy, Final Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), Trinity College

Work Projects

As a legal intern I was surprised by the level of responsibility I was given; I was trusted to deal with clients alone, to draft agreements and to undertake research tasks. My work was supervised by senior lawyers, however there was a good level of trust and independence - I would compare the level and type of work done as similar to that of a trainee or a junior associate in a law firm.

Daily Life

The internship was office-based and working hours were from 08:30 until 17:00. The organisation thrives

UN World Food Programme (Rome, Italy)
on the involvement of interns, meaning there were a lot of people of similar age doing internships, which was very good for social life. The legal team and my colleagues were all friendly and welcoming. Rome itself, whilst spectacular for food, art and culture, isn’t the easiest city to navigate; the offices are well-connected, but the attitude there towards public transport and efficiency meant delays were a part of life and strikes common!

**Lasting Impressions**

Rome is a wonderful city to live in when you have nothing to do and without doubt I enjoyed my time here. However, the heat and public transport inefficiency were daily challenges - you could always rely on trains to be late. August in Rome is eerily quiet, filled with tourists but not an Italian in sight, which is a shame. Many of the best places close down or have restricted opening hours. I would love to have stayed on longer at my internship, to see autumnal Roman life. One word of warning to anyone who thinks that working in the UN WFP will involve saving the world on a daily basis - this is not the case. The legal department is quite disconnected from the organisation, and typical commercial law is the daily work. Yes the contracts may be for procurement of food rather than oil, but the substance of the work is similar to that of a transactional corporate lawyer.

*Anja Bossow, Penultimate Year, BA Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe), Exeter College*

**Work Projects**

I was not involved in any major projects, but mainly completed little research tasks, some administrative tasks, and occasionally some creative tasks regarding policy changes. The organisation has not had much time to give me feedback on the quality of the work I have submitted so far.

**Daily Life**

I got into the office by nine and left between 5 and 6 depending on the workload. The office was outside Rome, and depending on the seriously inefficient and unreliable train services, the commute could take anything between 30 minutes and an hour and a half. After work, Rome was obviously a great city to be in, although not so much in the summer as the heat is so extreme that everyone leaves the city in the month of August. There is still a strong bar culture at this time, but most cultural events and also lots of the public transport, goes on a summer break for all of August. The city itself is very manageable in terms of size and even if just going for a stroll, it is an experience because you can stumble over incredible old sights that you had no idea existed. On the weekends, Rome is a great place to do weekend trips from. We went to the beach a lot to escape the heat, but there are lots of old castles and towns nearby that are also well worth a visit.

The internship reaffirmed my decision to pursue a career in a humanitarian organisation.

**Lasting Impressions**

Italy and Rome in particular, are great places to visit, travel around and live in. Rome is incredibly rich in culture and there is so much to discover and learn. I would like to come back and work here, however, not as an intern. The unreliable public transport made it incredibly difficult to get to and back from work, and the affordable housing is often in bad condition and without air-conditioning, which in temperatures of 40 degrees made it difficult to live in. So although I would not want to intern again here, I would definitely love to live here on a permanent basis. With regards to my career goals, although my personal experience was not as positive as I wanted it to be, the internship still reaffirmed my decision to pursue a career in a humanitarian organisation. The actual work undertaken by the UN World Food Programme is incredibly important, and the people it attracts made the office a really interesting place.
Chinese language classes that I had given up on a long time ago and hope to return for some more language, and culture, studies in the future. Anyone who has experienced the hospitality of the Chinese will probably feel the same desire to discover more, especially having only been there for a couple of months. In addition to the country-experience, the work at UNDP has solidified my desire to work in development and, if possible, with UNDP one day. I have greatly enjoyed my work and am now considering focusing my career on the area that I have been most involved with at UNDP: financial inclusion.

Xiaoyu Lu, MSc Politics Research, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

I have been working in the Poverty, Equity and Governance (PEG) Team of UNDP China. Mostly, I worked on the Inclusive Finance portfolio where I was able to use my previous experiences and skills. My work was varied and included compiling PEG-related projects and research on the different national strategies of financial inclusion, drafting speeches for the deputy country director and writing articles for a jointly published journal with the People’s Bank of China, to name but a few. My other jobs included taking minutes during important meetings, undertaking background research on consultants and possible donors, and helping with the organization of conferences and roundtable discussions. The support of the staff on-site was remarkable regarding my visa issues and the accommodation search! They gave me an incredibly warm welcome and were always very helpful with any concerns I had. Most importantly, right from the start they gave me the feeling of being one of them, which meant a lot to me.

Daily Life

I lived about an hour from the UNDP office. Every morning I walked, and then took the bus and metro to work. The Beijing transportation system is very well designed and accessible (through helpful apps!) even to those who might not be familiar with Chinese characters. For lunch, I generally stayed around the office area and went out with other interns or staff members to try the different local foods. That was a lot of fun - particularly given that often we were a large group of more than a dozen people. After work, I occasionally met up with other intern from UNDP or my flatmate to go to the movies, karaoke or eat more (delicious) food.

Lasting Impressions

I am not exaggerating when I say that the internship opened a new world to me. Living in China has been incredibly rewarding. I am determined to take on those
Charles Helding, Second Year, BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Jesus College

**Work Projects**

To very broadly describe my internship: I mostly read, summarized, and provided feedback on innumerable reports, information, and documents on the response to the Syrian refugee crisis as well as taking notes on key meetings both internally and with our partners. More specifically, I have drafted articles on behalf of our Facility Director, reading an array of background materials and then articulating our Facility’s views on situations such as the underfunding of the crisis response, the UN peace-building apparatus, and the political economy of crisis response. I have provided stylistic and substantive suggestions on official UN reports as well as a myriad of working documents often circulated amongst other international agencies – such as discussion papers for the upcoming Resilience Development Forum. I mapped out available data sources on municipal-level projects being developed in response to the refugee crisis and summarized financial data on such projects. And lastly, I frequently provided rapid initial analyses on complicated questions such as “Is there a link between investing in the crisis response and reducing refugee flows to Europe?” and “What have been the global trends in ‘resilience-based’ responses to crises?” in response to enquiries from partners or journalists.

**Daily Life**

On a typical day, I would work from roughly 9am to 5pm, though I very frequently ended up staying an hour or so later. I would take a cab to work every morning (public transit is quite poor in Amman) and either walk or take a cab back in the evening. I lived with a Jordanian Christian family with two very young children, so I only associated with people through work or second-degree connections, i.e. people my friends knew who happened to be in Amman. Outside of work, I wouldn’t do much aside from read and relax at home during weekdays – aside from the occasional film festival or dinner with friends – but on weekends I would usually make an effort to travel somewhere else in Jordan or otherwise see something exciting in the city.

**Lasting Impressions**

To be entirely frank, my experience here in Jordan has only made me realize to a greater extent how very accustomed and comfortable I am in North America / United Nations Development Programme (Amman, Jordan)
Western Europe ("the West") as opposed to anywhere else. That is not to say that I did not find my time here interesting or enjoyable – nor that I found the people unfriendly or inhospitable – but I do have a hard time living without some of the conveniences I enjoy back home or at Oxford, such as reliable public transport, accurate and easily accessible online information, and fixed prices. Beyond a superficial level though, I do think that I certainly came to a greater understanding of Middle Eastern politics, culture, and society than I had possessed previously – though I would not return to work in the region unless asked to by my employer.

With regard to career aspirations, I remain as I was at the beginning of my internship: heavily invested in pursuing a career in policy-making, and now with a far better and more realistic perspective on what that looks like in practice.

Taryn McKenzie-Mohr, MPhil Politics and Comparative Government, Linacre College

Work Projects

I supported the implementation of UNDP’s ‘resilience-based’ development response to the Syria crisis in communities across Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq and Syria. My specific duties included data collection related to the impact of the Syria crisis on neighbouring countries, analysis of strategy documents, development of indicators for program monitoring and evaluation, survey design, creation of an assessment tool for programme evaluation and editing UNDP publications. Aside from this, I also helped with events and meetings the organisation was holding with diplomats and international organisations on issues such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank and the COP21 conference in Paris. I was also given some research in the diplomatic archives of France.

My internship confirmed my desire to pursue a policy-oriented career focusing on development and/or foreign affairs.

Daily Life

My average workday was spent in the office from 9am until 5/6pm. Amman has little in terms of public transportation so I had to take taxis to and from work every day – an expense that shouldn’t be overlooked. I often accompanied my boss to meetings with partner agencies like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I also had the opportunity to attend external workshops on, for example, food security within the context of the Syria crisis. Through another intern at UNDP, I found an apartment with a number of young foreigners. Our flat was in Jabal al-Weibdeh, a lovely neighbourhood with a number of nice cafes and galleries. Many young Ammanites and foreigners live in Weibdeh and it’s an easy place to meet people. From Amman, I travelled independently to Jerusalem and Beirut during holidays and long weekends. There are also a number of beautiful sites like Umm Qais and Wadi Mujib that can be visited on day trips.

Lasting Impressions

My internship with the UNDP in Jordan confirmed my desire to pursue a policy-oriented career focusing on development and/or foreign affairs. I hope to work in the region following the completion of my MPhil.
Edward Carins, MSc Global and Imperial History, St. Antony’s College

**Work Projects**

The broader project was to help UNESCO to establish a centre for vocational skills as part of the Yangon University of Economics with funding from PepsiCo. However, the school was under-performing and we deduced that it was running at a 93% loss. We observed the current practice and combined it with research into international best practice to produce a number of conclusions and recommendations which formed part of a business plan and financial projections for the centre. We researched and directly initiated an outreach programme to coordinate similar schools in rural areas around Yangon, and we also met with future partner institutions in industries (such as hospitality and energy sectors) to secure as guest speakers at the centre. We also engaged in the teaching of classes and the generation of marketing material, such as setting up a website.

**Daily Life**

Daily life in Yangon was perhaps the aspect I enjoyed most about this internship and a key reason why I have chosen to continue working here. The people of Myanmar are honest, kind and welcoming, communities are very cohesive and altruism is embedded deep within its social fabric. This produces two interesting outcomes: people care less about money and more about relationships, and the notion of social responsibility is integral to business practice – this will, I hope, stay as Myanmar continues to open up to global capitalism. Outside of work, my friends were principally Burmese locals. I joined an informal street “Chinlone” group (Myanmar’s traditional sport). The sport emphasises teamwork over individuality and

This internship has helped me affirm the conclusion that NGOs and social enterprises are a form of organisation with which I will work in the future.

there are no winners or losers. I practiced until I was invited to meet the sports “Master” in Yangon who taught me one-to-one. I believe his interest was to spread the sport outside of Myanmar. Also, I befriended a group of waiting staff at a nearby restaurant which I frequented; with their eagerness to learn English and business skills I decided to teach at the restaurant (as if it were a school) for free and I also helped them gain
access to books at the University library.

Lasting Impressions

The internship provided me with a crash course on understanding the purpose, potential and limitations of development work. The experience encouraged me to think about development holistically; the results can be of relative benefit to the recipient, and “philanthropy” is not always as beneficent as it purports to be. Thinking about these questions has led me to think deeply about the best and fairest way by which to truly “help” people of developing countries. While my experience working with the UN in a development capacity could have been different, I still believe it to be a vital organisation to humanitarian operations – and I would like to work with them in the future to help the world’s most vulnerable people. However, this internship has also helped me affirm the conclusion that NGOs and social enterprises are an efficient means of poverty alleviation, and a form of organisation with which I will work in the future. I loved my time in Myanmar and I will be returning to work there in January 2016.

Xi Wang, MSc Financial Economics, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

I have been involved in working with the Centre of Excellence for Business Skills Development, which is a public-private partnership between PepsiCo and UNESCO. I was entrusted to help the school promote its courses, as well as developing business plans and financial projections.

Daily Life

As I worked directly in the school which is located far away from Yangon City Centre, my daily life is rather tranquil. I work in the school from 9am - 4pm, and the rest of the time I spent with my colleagues. Occasionally I’d go out in Yangon City to have a nice meal, go shopping or watch a movie.

Lasting Impressions

Currently Myanmar is going through a very exciting phase of transition. People are awaiting the democratic election in November and the potential foreign direct investments that will follow. Therefore, it is very interesting for me to experience a country before it is completely open in the future. I’m very much interested in investing in Myanmar in the future and participating in the economic growth of the county. At the same time, working on this public-private partnership has given me some insights in working with bureaucratic organisations in Myanmar.
Marco Mills, MSc African Studies, St. Antony’s College

Work Projects

Soon after I arrived I assisted in helping plan a training camp for over 100 students from across Uganda, which was run on the shores of Lake Victoria. This ranged from basic administrative tasks, such as communicating with the students attending, to more complex tasks, such as writing the presentations that were to be given. The nature of the work at UniTED was always varied and I particularly enjoyed the level of autonomy that I was given. During my three months, for example, I was responsible for writing funding applications to institutions including the United Nations, writing reports on UniTED’s work which were published in international renowned magazines such as ‘Kosmos’, and designing a complete new communications strategy.

Daily Life

During my time in Uganda I lived in a student hostel, just a two-minute walk away from Makerere University and a short motorcycle ride to the office. At first, I was dubious to be living in student halls again, but it was a great experience. I quickly became friends with many of the students that I lived with and they were only too keen to show me around Kampala. The working day usually began at 9am, but I would often try to get to the gym before work. Conveniently located two floors above the office, the gym offered perhaps one of the best views of Kampala that I witnessed during my three months in the country. I primarily used the weekends to travel around Uganda, sometimes alone, but more often than not with the friends that I had made, sometimes staying with their families (buses run from Kampala all over the country). Towards the end of my internship, I was given a week off and spent it riding a motorcycle around the whole country which was a wonderful experience.

Working for UniTED gave me a fantastic insight into working for an NGO in a developing country and has, without a doubt, been a fantastic experience.

Lasting Impressions

Working for UniTED gave me a fantastic insight into working for an NGO in a developing country and has, without a doubt, been a fantastic experience. Moreover, I feel that I made a positive contribution to the organisation and at the same time it has given me more confidence in now entering into a career and the direction that I want to take, I can only hope that this allows me to travel back to Uganda as soon as possible.
various regional links. Results were written up in a 32 page report. Support was offered in the form of free lunches in the college's dining hall, as well as necessary permissions for software use and data access. I was also supported by various individuals in the college including the Admissions Tutor, the Master, and Senior Tutor.

Work Projects

I completed two projects during my time with my host organisation. The first, and main, project was on Academic Progression and examined the effect of degree course, personal characteristics, school performance, and admissions performance on a student’s attainment in Prelims and Finals at Oxford. This involved statistical analysis of data from Student Data Management and Analysis (SDMA) using Stata, a data analysis and statistical software package, with the results written up in a 45 page report. The second project analysed admission statistics to the university for students from the United Kingdom, as well as

Daily Life

My work was predominantly independent and I worked my own hours, as long as I got everything done. As the projects did not require me to be in a fixed location, I was able to complete a majority of the work outside of the host organisation both at home and various cafes around Oxford. Weekly life typically involved at least one meeting at the college with staff linked to my projects there. Settling into the internship took a couple of weeks due to my work building on that done by two previous interns, as well as becoming familiar with the Oxford admissions process, and the particulars of the college itself.

Lasting Impressions

My lasting impressions of the internship are very positive. I gained an insight into the complexities of the Oxford admission process, both through the work itself and interacting with the people involved. I would definitely return to my internship again if given the chance.

I gained an insight into the complexities of the Oxford admission process, both through the work itself and interacting with the people involved.
University of São Paulo, Institute of Energy and Environment  
(São Paulo, Brazil)

Nikolas Susanto, Second Year, MPhysPhil, Exeter College

Work Projects

The research that I did was on the dynamics of the Indonesian biodiesel industry, especially concerning exports. Since it was my first time doing a research on such a topic, it was quite a challenge, but my supervisor was very patient and helpful in guiding me through the whole process.

Daily Life

I mostly spent my time with another Oxford intern with whom I shared accommodation. We usually took the bus to the university from our accommodation. On most days, we arrived at the CENBIO building at about 9am. I mostly worked on my own, asking for guidance from my supervisors when necessary. We usually left at about 5pm, and either went back to cook dinner or try one of the many fine restaurants in São Paulo. On the weekends, I tried to explore as much of São Paulo as possible. There are a lot of things to see in São Paulo: museums, art galleries and cafes. Even when walking around the city I always found interesting architecture and street art to marvel at.

I really enjoyed the cultural experience that the city offers.

Lasting Impressions

São Paulo is such a vibrant city, even if a little chaotic. There is so much to explore in the city. The people at IEE and CENBIO were really friendly and welcoming, and I have a really great impression of the university. The work that I have done here opened my eyes to a lot of things that I had never been exposed to before. The internship gave me an insight into the bioenergy industry, as well as research in social sciences. Although I am not sure if I am going to go to the energy industry in the future, the experience has definitely made me more well-informed about things outside the scope of my studies in Oxford.

Rainer Sundjaja, Second Year, MEng (Economics and Management), Trinity College

Work Projects

I did research on the biofuel consumption in the Indonesian transportation sector. I analysed whether Indonesia would meet its biofuel consumption target set by the government, and I also did a study on the supply and demand driver of biofuel consumption in Indonesia. My supervisor had published a few papers on the energy consumption in the transportation sector before, so he gave me a lot of reading materials which were relevant for my research.

Daily Life

I usually walked to the university because I didn’t want to take the crowded bus. Fortunately, the place that I stayed in was quite close to the university, so it was very convenient. The day-to-day activities involved reading papers, collecting data for my research and writing a report. Getting around using buses in São Paulo was difficult as there are no signs indicating which bus stops to use, and there was no information on bus routes. However, the metro is very safe and convenient. In São Paulo, it is hard to find anyone who speaks English, so it was rather difficult for me to settle in at first. However, the people there are very friendly and helpful. São Paulo is a very big city, so there are a lot of things to do and places to visit. In my free time, I explored the city together with another Oxford intern.

Lasting Impressions

The internship was an enriching experience as I got to learn more about the energy sector. In this internship programme, I focused mainly on energy policy, but in the future I may want to take part in more technical research on renewable energy. São Paulo is a very vibrant city, and it is also a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities. I really enjoyed the cultural experience that the city offers.
The vibe was very relaxed and welcoming.

**Work Projects**

I was involved with the alumni reunion weekend which was very busy and fun. The rest of the time I was doing admin roles which weren’t quite as interesting. I got to write three articles for the newsletter which I enjoyed a lot, but overall I didn’t always feel fully occupied. This was not anyone’s fault in particular, and it was stated in the application that the reunion weekend was the main reason I would be there.

**Daily Life**

I settled in very well. I walked two minutes to work every morning, starting at 9am after breakfast in the canteen. There was a coffee break at 11am where I got to meet teachers at the school. After an afternoon of work, I’d leave at about 4pm, often going out for drinks with colleagues or down to the harbour to watch the sun set in the evening. I mixed in with visiting students from America, took trips to the local beaches and into Trieste and had friends come and stay at the weekends.

**Lasting Impressions**

The internship was very relaxed and I did a lot of independent working within it. Duino, Italy is beautiful but the organisation of the school’s development team and relaxed way of working has made me realise more about the way I like to work, which is different to this. I learnt a lot about the UWC experience- global, intercultural education, which I fully support.
Work Projects

Diarrhoeal diseases and pneumonia are the biggest causes of infant mortality worldwide and particularly so in Bangladesh – they are also preventable through regular handwashing practice. I was tasked with one project - to conduct market research in Bangladesh into the potential for the sustainable commercial distribution of WaterSHED’s handwashing station, the HappyTap. I spent the first two weeks shadowing the Regional Program Manager and this proved to be an valuable period of intensive learning which ultimately set me up to carry on the work after he left. During the three month internship I have conducted factory tours and high-level meetings with the Bangladeshi behemoths of plastics manufacturing in order to secure the most affordable price for the handwashing station. I have networked and conducted meetings with senior staff from organisations - such as the World Bank, UNICEF, WaterAid, PLAN International, Unilever and many more local organisations. This was in order to find partners to help promote the handwashing station through hygiene awareness campaigns. I also regularly travelled to slum and rural areas to conduct research with the target consumers around the country. Here I learnt how to conduct focus groups in a way which could yield the most accurate results and engage in pilot test selling. I spent one week during Eid immersing myself in village life and understanding the rural Bangladeshi psyche and current practices around hygiene. I was wholly accepted by the community and it was a rich and unrivalled cultural experience. I am current working on a number of concept notes for the World Bank and DFID to secure considerable funding to establish the HappyTap Company in Bangladesh.

Daily Life

It is not easy to live a normal life in Dhaka but then, that wasn’t why I came here. There are no open parks, traffic is omnipresent, pollution high, numerous terrorist attacks were carried out on foreigners during my time there, and I never managed to get rid of my bed bugs. Whilst paying attention to the safety of my accommodation, Dhaka enabled me to live a very basic and simple life outside of work. The friendliness of the people is terrific and this exuberance increases in the countryside. I found myself learning basic Bangla quickly by sitting for hours in roadside tea shops – everyone wants to talk and is very interested. On the weekend I would cycle or take a train out of Dhaka and play cricket or football with whoever I came across, we’d always finish by jumping in ponds to cool off and then climbing trees for fresh fruits.

Lasting Impressions

There were some significant revisions to how I perceive the developing world. Before arriving in Dhaka I envisioned slums to be horrific troglodyte worlds as depicted in the western media. I was astonished to see that these settlements are well-established and well-organised communities of people living relatively stable lives. Furthermore, in the rural areas, people can and do live very fulfilling lives in communal kinship-based societies. These are societies which remain undivided by the pressures of work and institutional affiliation; by contrast people live amongst all their friends and loved ones and parents spend a lot of time with their children. However, I had some big reservations for the prescribed role of women in society. This internship has been extremely beneficial and WaterSHED Asia a highly commendable organisation. I learnt a lot from WaterSHED’s market-led, social enterprise approach - it is a sobering but in some ways uplifting thought that give-away models are ineffective and that the way forward is a conscientious form of capitalism. WaterSHED took a similarly hands-off approach to my internship; giving me ultimate responsibility for the success of the project in Bangladesh, but providing help and counsel as and when needed. It helped me to break out of the “intern” frame of mind, and fully think for myself and on my own initiative. I will be returning to work in Bangladesh after spending one month at head office in Cambodia.
**Wordsworth Trust (Cumbria, UK)**

*Joseph Massey, Final Year, BA History, Hertford College*

**Work Projects**

I researched items in the Wordsworth Trust’s collection relating to the city of Carlisle, and wrote articles about these items to put on their website. I was taught how to use the cataloguing system and catalogued some items for myself.

**Daily Life**

Accommodation rented from the Wordsworth Trust is right across the road from the museum and Dove Cottage. The interns who are there for a year (so who are already settled and on good terms with each other) were friendly, and we had a communal meal together every Sunday and I went to the cinema and socialised with them. It is quite clearly a close community, with many employees living on site, which made it hard to feel like part of the group at first. Grasmere is quite isolated without a car; everything I needed for cooking could be bought in the Co-op in town, but for any other shopping and things like the cinema, you need to go by car or public transport. There are, of course, lots of places for walks and places of historic/cultural interest. Some of the work during the internship was less exciting, such as invigilating in their special exhibition, but a necessary evil I suppose.

**Lasting Impressions**

I already loved Cumbria’s history and cultural heritage, and my internship made me appreciate the Wordsworth family - I was glad to have the opportunity to learn about them so intensely while there. I would happily work in Cumbria in future, if there are any jobs available in a competitive and small sector. I am grateful for the chance to learn about cataloguing and catalogue items for myself, which has confirmed and will hopefully aid my career goal of becoming a curator.
every day we got up at 6:30 to eat breakfast, walk to class then teach between 7:30 and 9. Then the day was ours to explore Yangon, swim, doing thesis research until the afternoon class at 3:30. Evening curfew is at nine. The weekends were spent exploring beyond Yangon.

**Lasting Impressions**

Myanmar is an amazing place to explore, especially at the moment and the internship gave us an exceptional opportunity to get to grips with the culture and attractions. With a week long holiday to see the major sites and plenty of cultural immersion, the programme has really educated me about this fascinating country. Working in such a country with such a varied and interesting population and controversial political situation has encouraged me to definitely work abroad.

*Hoi Lam Fung, Penultimate Year, MPhys, Jesus College*

**Work Projects**

The internship involved teaching English at the University of Yangon for two months, giving lessons to

**Grace Richardson Banks, Second Year, BA History, St. Peter’s College**

Working in such a country with such a varied and interesting population has encouraged me to definitely work abroad.

**Daily Life**

We were provided with university accommodation,
30-40 students at a time. University of Yangon provided accommodation, meals and Myanmar lessons during our stay.

**Daily Life**

We gave two classes a day at 7:30-9:00 and 3:30-5:00, and we were responsible for lesson planning. We stayed in the hostel at the university, with seven of us staying in the same room. The condition of the shower and toilet was basic. There’s a curfew at 6pm for girls and 9pm for boys, and after some negotiation, we managed to extend the girls’ curfew till 9pm. We had a lot of free time out of work, and I attended Myanmar lessons and started extra teaching in a monastery once a week. There was also a week off for us to travel around the country.

**Lasting Impressions**

I really enjoyed the internship but there were some organisational issues. Myanmar is a very interesting country and I am really glad that I spent two months there. It’s unlikely that I would return to live or work here as women are treated very differently in this country. However, I had learnt so much through this teaching experience. It’s a once in a life time experience.

*Hannah Lovell, Second Year, BA History, St. Anne’s College*

**Work Projects**

I spent eight weeks teaching at the University of Yangon, as well as living in the student hostel with some of the girls that I was teaching. The cook at the hostel even worked around my fish allergy- relatively tricky for a country where fish is a staple food! It was a privilege to be able to spend such a long time in a country as interesting and as different as Myanmar (Burma). We taught two lessons a day, each for an hour and a half. I was teaching the Zoology department. We were included in the Full Moon Festivities (Wazo) which happened whilst we were in Myanmar, and at every opportunity given tea and a meal! The University was very welcoming and we were allowed to use all their facilities including the swimming pool and the library. We also were given Myanmar language lessons, and lessons in the local dancing, as well as recommendations for what to do with our weekends. The students and the teachers couldn’t have been more welcoming, they were all keen to learn and eager to participate. The most satisfying thing about the programme was the progress of the students. I had been worried at the start that the students would gain little from our English lessons, but they all grew increasingly confident in speaking, and showed that they had imagination and enthusiasm. There were definitely challenging moments, and the hostel was very different from our colleges at Oxford (eight to a room, mosquitoes, cold showers) but in general living in the hostel gave us a good insight in what it was like to be a student in Myanmar.

**Daily Life**

Every day I would get up at 6.30 and have breakfast- either rice at the hostel, or some little brioche buns. I then would teach my first lesson from 7.30 until 9. Normally in a lesson I would initially chat with my students and find out how their studies were going and then play some games. The main part of the lesson would be conducted on a theme. For instance, the differences between the UK and Myanmar- and there would be a class discussion. To finish, I would get my class to design their own country, thinking about how they would want their country to be run, what their flag would be like, what language their people would speak (etc) and then get them to present. After this I would go to the library and do some university work until lunchtime at 12. I would meet the other English
teachers at the outdoors canteen, where we would practise our Myanmar so we could get lunch, normally noodles and a lime juice. After this, I might plan a lesson for the next day, read a book or sometimes go swimming before my next class at 3.30, a repeat with the second year Zoologists of what I covered with the first years earlier in the day. Then back to the hostel for supper, often rice and curry, and then I sometimes went with some friends into Hledan, which is the local shopping centre. We might get a milkshake or a beer and do some shopping in the department store. After this, back to the hostel by 9 for our curfew and skype my family at the hostel, before bed ready to teach the next morning.

**Lasting Impressions**

My lasting impression of Myanmar is that it is a fascinating but complex country. There were a few signs of the elections which will happen in November 2015, but the general impression was that it was a subject which not many people were willing to talk about. The University has only been reopened for two years, following its closure after student protests in 1988. On the anniversary of the destruction of the Student Union (in 1962) there was heavy security on campus- the only time it was noticeable that you were in a country where democracy is still being fought over. Yet at times it felt like there was some unspoken tension, as the time November was only three months away, and it is not clear what will happen post-election.

Having said that, the students and teachers that we met were incredibly kind and welcoming- even six weeks into our placement you would still be greeted with a cheery ‘Mingalabar’, a polite form of hello. The students were so enthusiastic, to learn and to chat to you- it really felt like a privilege and I had some really interesting conversations. Much of what I got out of the internship comes from the students, and my friend’s family who kindly showed us around both Naypitaw and Mandalay. Living in the student hostel- whilst tough (eight to a room, no air conditioning, cold showers, so many mosquitoes, slightly repetitive food, and a 6pm - we managed to negotiate it to 9pm- curfew) did open my eyes to what it was like to be a young woman, and a student in Myanmar, something I’m not likely to forget when I’m back in Oxford. I’m not sure how soon I’d rush back to live in the hostel- especially in monsoon season, which makes all rainstorms in the UK look like drizzle, but Yangon was such an interesting city and everyone was so friendly that if someone offered me a flight back I’d be tempted to go!

*Isabel Linehan, Second Year, BA English Language and Literature, Mansfield College*

**Work Projects**

I taught English to three different classes of first and second year geology students at the university. I also taught some novice monks at a local monastic school.

**Daily Life**

I woke up at 6:45, and by 7:15 I started the walk from the university hostel to the geology department. The first lesson of the day was from 7:30 – 9 am, then there was free time spent doing laundry, shopping, eating lunch, doing university work until 3:30-5 which was the second lesson of the day. After this was dinner at hostel, then in the evenings I planned lessons, socialised with the other interns and by 9, returned for the hostel curfew.

**Lasting Impressions**

I have learnt a great deal about Myanmar on this internship and have received a strong impression of the country, its culture and its young people.
Each day I got up at 6.30, ready for teaching at 7.30. The lesson was 1.5 hours in the morning and then again in the afternoon from 3.30-5. This left quite a lot of time to enjoy the day, so various students and teachers offered to share cultural activities with us in this time such as teaching us dance, attending festivals and exploring the city. In the evening we had a 9pm curfew so there was not much time to do anything outside. However, I was living with the other guys studying at Yangon University so spent my evenings chatting to them before an early night! It’s a good atmosphere to foster friendship between the interns too. We had a week off which was great to travel around the country.

Lasting Impressions

I think the people in Myanmar are genuinely friendly and I have a great lasting impression. There was a lot of flooding around the country at the time but there is a good spirit of helping out by volunteering from all the students I have met. I like the language too and the food especially! I wouldn’t return soon but maybe one day as a doctor it would be interesting. It hasn’t changed my future ambition of becoming a doctor but the teaching experience has been invaluable and I know I want to teach in some capacity professionally.

Thiri Wai, Penultimate Year, MEng, St. Hugh’s College

Work Projects

During my internship I assisted the English class on weekdays and made sure that everything the group needed for class preparation was provided by Yangon University. The aim of the project was to give undergraduate students in Yangon University the opportunity to speak with native English speakers and share our experience at University of Oxford with them.

Daily Life

I took responsibility for picking up our group from the airport, and helped everyone settle in at the hostel and the country, Myanmar. I had regular classes at
7:30-9:00 am and 3:30-5:00 pm on weekdays. During the weekends I hung out and explored Yangon with the group members.

**Lasting Impressions**

It is a good experience to get to know how the university education system varies between Myanmar and the UK. I would like to go back to Myanmar to work one day.

*Gabriel Henry, Final Year, BA European and Middle Eastern Languages (Italian and Arabic), Christ Church College*

**Work Projects**

My internship involved teaching three classes three times a week, and arranging a film club in which students planned and produced short films over a five-week course ending in a film screening.

> The students are enthusiastic and fun to teach, I especially enjoyed the extra-curricular activities.

**Daily Life**

The interns lived in university dorms on campus. Living conditions were basic and somewhat restrictive (9PM curfew) but altogether fine, and the surroundings were beautiful.

**Lasting Impressions**

Burma (Myanmar) is an incredible travelling destination and I would recommend it to anyone. The students are enthusiastic and fun to teach, I especially enjoyed the extra-curricular activities. Diet and climate, as well as disease may pose issues however (I contracted dengue fever in my final week). I would not repeat the experience as this trip was quite long enough, but I would recommend to anyone with any interest in travel or teaching.

*Imogen Kempton, Second Year, MChem, Lincoln College*

**Work Projects**

During our time with Yangon University we taught on average two lessons a day. A highlight for me was putting on clubs as the students had not experienced activities like these before, such as journalism, film making, acting and debating.

**Daily Life**

The day started at 6.45am. The interns quickly ate breakfast in the hostel’s dining area and then taught our first lesson from 7.30am-9am. We then were free until 3.30pm where we had to teach another lesson until 5pm. During the day we went into the local township to run errands, went downtown and saw the main sights, played badminton with the pupils, or just stayed on the campus/in our dorm. In the evening unfortunately there was a curfew of 9pm. Although this was not ideal, you learn to just accept it and it ends up not being too much of an issue.

**Lasting Impressions**

For me, the experience made me realise how lucky we are and how much freedom we have. Hearing about and experiencing the Burmese education system is quite unbelievable until you are immersed in it yourself.
Asia. I went to Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Busan, Bukhansan National Park and other places. The workload allows you time to explore. I mostly socialised with people from my lab or in expat bars where I was watching Rugby/GAA, I didn’t really socialise so much with the other people on the Summer School.

**Lasting Impressions**

The internship was great - it was a fantastic opportunity to explore a part of the world that Westerners rarely go to. Korea is a truly awesome country, with great food and scenery. I probably wouldn’t live there as it’s too hot/humid for my Irish genes and everyone lives in flats so there are no gardens. Also not being able to read anything is surprisingly isolating. In terms of my career it has affirmed the fact that I do actually really like Britain and will probably want to live here or at least Europe in the future, also that perhaps postgraduate study might actually be interesting which I didn’t expect.

Jonathan Milward, Penultimate Year, MChem, Worcester College

**Work Projects**

My project involved synthesising a variety of 2D layered nanoparticles using novel techniques developed by the research group. It was fantastic to be involved in this exciting area of research. I was supervised by a graduate student in the lab and worked with my lab partner, who was a student of the university. The group was very welcoming.

**Daily Life**

In the mornings I had a class (I chose it to be Modern British History) at 11-13:00. I had lunch in the canteen/burger shop underneath my accommodation, and then walked to the lab on the other side of campus, which took about 20 minutes (it was very hot). I worked in the lab from 14-18:00 but I often stayed longer as the lab was better air conditioned than my room. Outside of work I spent most week nights exploring Seoul, watching TV or reading for my class. On weekends I used to either do tourist activities in Seoul or travel around Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea)

Patrick Donnelly, Second Year, MPhys, St. Anne’s College

**Work Projects**

I was given a personal project undertaking long lab projects, which involved learning how to use new equipment. The project objective was to research the relationship between temperature and hardness in Alumina samples. I used a hotplate to heat the sample and a hardness tester to do exactly what it says on the tin. My supervisor was a master’s students who helped me if I needed anything with setting up the experiment. Everyone in the group was very helpful too if I needed anything.

**Daily Life**

In the morning I had a class (I chose it to be Modern British History) at 11-13:00. I had lunch in the canteen/burger shop underneath my accommodation, and then walked to the lab on the other side of campus, which took about 20 minutes (it was very hot). I worked in the lab from 14-18:00 but I often stayed longer as the lab was better air conditioned than my room. Outside of work I spent most week nights exploring Seoul, watching TV or reading for my class. On weekends I used to either do tourist activities in Seoul or travel around Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea)
I climbed mountains, had a trip to the demilitarized zone and went to Busan for a long weekend, which was probably the highlight of my visit.

**Lasting Impressions**

While the area of chemistry is probably not what I would go into in the future, the experience of being a part of a research group was valuable. I became much more confident travelling on my own, especially where there are (significant!) language barriers. I loved the atmosphere in Korea and definitely plan on returning.

*Injae Chung, First Year, MBioChem (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry), Christ Church College*

**Work Projects**

We worked with zinc-doped nanoparticles, exploiting their hyperthermic nature for bio-applications. We performed surface modification of the nanoparticles, manipulating their diameters, functional groups on their surface, and making them water soluble. We then performed hyperthermia by applying AC magnetic field on cells that have taken in the nanoparticles to stimulate apoptosis.

**Daily Life**

I had no problem settling in at all. I stayed in the dormitory of Yonsei University, which meant that the laboratory I was working in was within walking distance, although I did occasionally take the university shuttle bus. Out of work, I either went out to have dinners with fellow interns or with other friends I have in South Korea.

**Lasting Impressions**

I lived in a decent area, situated very near the city centre which has a different feel to it compared to Oxford. As I am a Korean it was a great opportunity to experience what it is like in a Korean laboratory: especially how things are run. I would return to live there but probably not work there. This was my first internship, so it hasn’t quite changed my career goals yet. I suppose my ambitions may change after tackling a few more internships in the future.

*Jacob Swain, Final Year, MPhys, St. John’s College*

**Work Projects**

I was working with an Engineering group at the university, doing molecular dynamics simulations of Graphene. The simulations aimed to reproduce some known results about the material, and provide a framework for further simulations to be done.

**Daily Life**

During the week, I had a compulsory summer school class in the mornings. I chose to study microeconomics, although there was a wide range of subjects available. I spent the afternoon, from 2pm to 6pm, in the Engineering lab conducting my research. The evenings and weekends were spent catching up on work, hanging around on campus, and exploring the local area.

**Lasting Impressions**

Overall the internship was a good experience. It was interesting for me to compare the structure of a Korean university to what I was used to. Seoul is a very large and dynamic city, and there was always something going on nearby. I particularly enjoyed walking in the hills around the city, not least for the spectacular views on offer.
spent a large amount of time together. The team we worked with were very friendly and politically engaged - within a team of eight, a whole range of ideologies were represented which led to interesting debates at times. I travelled into work on the Tube each day which initially seemed daunting but then became very routine. I ended up being put up with friends all over London but enjoyed the mix of people and London life which is very different to the country life I am used to. Joe Twyman of YouGov was particularly keen to keep me entertained with work since coming back from his summer holiday - including taking me to the BBC during his appearance on BBC News and arranging for me to attend a LSE seminar on political polling that was made up mostly of renowned academics in the field (including several from Nuffield!) and journalists.

**Lasting Impressions**

I particularly enjoyed the later part of my internship now that the summer ‘silly season’ has finished. Highlights included scripting questions during the refugee crisis, running questions on facial recognition of the new Shadow Cabinet and running my own research comparing how voters voted in their first election to how they voted in 2015. The internship made me appreciate just how tiring, expensive and monotonous working in London can be. But also that realistically it is also the place to find a lot of the graduate jobs I would be interested in too. I undertook this internship as I felt it was the most obvious connection to my Politics degree and to see whether I would enjoy a research career. In hindsight I feel I would rather do something more actively involved in politics rather than the reporting function that Yougov plays.