Since 2004, the Global Studies Internship Program has enabled Stanford students to extend knowledge beyond the classroom while engaging in immersive cultural and professional experiences around the world. The program is open to undergraduate students in all majors, including those who have not declared a major. Graduate students are also eligible to apply to some positions in Asia and Germany. Internship positions cover a wide range of fields, including business, nonprofit, media, education, medicine, art, technology, science and government. The program also supports students for self-arranged internships. The overall stipend base is $6,000 per student. This year, the program received 574 applications, and 90 students from 34 majors were sponsored to conduct internships in 23 countries.
The internship program is the Haas Center for Public Service's largest campus partner for overseas service opportunities. In 2018, **26% of the positions were Cardinal Quarter eligible**.

- The program hosted **90 students in 23 different locations**.
- **34 majors** were represented.
  - 28 Undeclared
  - 7 Computer Science
  - 5 East Asian Studies; International Relations; Management Science & Engineering
  - 4 Mechanical Engineering
  - 3 Symbolic Systems
  - 2 Communications; Earth Systems; Economics; Electrical Engineering; Mathematical & Computational Science; Philosophy; Physics
  - 1 Aero/Astro Engineering; African & African American Studies; Art History; Bioengineering; Biomedical Computation; Chemistry; Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity; Engineering Physics; French; Human Biology; Iberian & Latin American Cultures; Mathematics; Music, Science, & Technology; Political Science; Product Design; Psychology; Public Policy; Science, Technology, & Society; Slavic Languages & Literatures; Theater & Performance Studies

- Educational standing:

  - 28 freshmen
  - 21 sophomores
  - 1 M.S.
  - 2 Ph.D.
  - 4 co-term
  - 11 juniors
  - 6 M.A.
  - 11 seniors

---

**Our program spans the globe!**

The number of interns for each location was as follows:

- **Australia**
- **Belgium**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Brazil**
- **China**
- **Estonia**
- **Ethiopia**
- **France**
- **Germany**
- **Hong Kong**
- **India**
- **Japan**
- **Kenya**
- **Latvia**
- **Rwanda**
- **Singapore**
- **Slovenia**
- **Spain**
- **South Africa**
- **South Korea**
- **Taiwan**
- **United Kingdom**
- **United States**
Kendal Burkins  
*Mechanical Engineering '19*

During my time in Australia, as an intern at the Art Gallery New South Wales, I was able to create great relationships with my coworkers who all provided mentorship on projects I conducted at work, as well as ones I completed on the side. They also made sure that I got to experience Sydney for the truly beautiful and wonderful place that it is.

During the internship, I helped to build models of almost all of the gallery's exhibition spaces including the planned spaces in the gallery extension. I also got to help with the installation of two works in the “Space Makers & Room Shakers” exhibition.

My fellow intern and I were also tasked with conducting a user experience project to produce recommendations to improve the guest experience of the gallery entrance courts and vestibule. For this project, we created and conducted surveys, documented trends in guest activities through observation and the production of heat maps, created renders, and produced a final presentation.

Coming back to campus, I will join the American Institute of Graphic Arts and make an effort to go to design-related events and build a community of designers. I think having relationships with designers at different levels of their careers will help improve my confidence in my own practice and provide greater insight into the opportunities available to me as a designer.

This experience made me see that the boundaries for a designer are only in their curiosity and their desire to learn. Following the coursework of a mechanical engineer for 2.5 years before switching to product design has made me a bit nervous about finding employment in the creative sector after school. After this experience, I know not to let that slow me down and that I should apply to anything that I am interested in.

Jamie Seney  
*African and African American Studies '21*

This past summer I had the opportunity to work at Lalela in Hout Bay, South Africa. Combining art and activism, as Lalela does on a daily basis, is exactly how I hope to spend my life.

I was able to develop arts curriculum to be taught in school and after school programs, to research music programs, and of course, I was able to form relationships with some amazing kids. I was fortunate enough to go all over Cape Town and Hout Bay, interacting with locals as I traveled. Everywhere I went I learned something new. And for once, I did not have to worry so much about affording the adventure, as a first-generation, low-income student! I (quite literally) could not have done this without the Global Studies Internship Program.

My understanding of South African history, culture, and politics has deepened significantly from this experience. I have learned about the historical and cultural complexity of Cape Town, including race relations, protest methodology and ideologies, socioeconomic discrepancies, etc.

Seeing the aftermath of Apartheid within a couple decades of it ending has proven to be much more holistic than textbook learning in terms of educating myself on the topic.

Beyond the newly learned history and culture of South Africa, I will be taking back new ways of thinking. When it comes to art in particular, I will be pursuing more avenues of expression that are both therapeutic and mentally strengthening. This experience has also convinced me to search for job opportunities in the arts and at non-profits in the future. Overall, being in an environment that encourages artists, forms artists, and is ultimately run by artists, was quite beneficial to my own creative imagination and how I approach solutions to challenges.
Emily Jantz  
*Mechanical Engineering ’19*

Through my internship at Kozo Keikaku Engineering Inc. in Tokyo, I learned how generous the Japanese people can be behind a public politeness; I relearned how good the food is; and I unlearned the expectation of perfection I thought they would have; I was surprised by how patient my supervisors were when subject material came up that I was unfamiliar with.

More importantly, this experience really pushed my abilities as a mechanical engineer, especially in the area of fluids. Having my own projects that I had to research, develop a solution for, and then present, really gave me a sense of confidence that I am capable of performing valuable work outside of a classroom context.

Working closely with my company to develop a fluid simulation software and perform structural analysis were just some of the valuable lessons I learned. The department I worked for welcomed me incredibly warmly, taking me on many day trips and dinners in order to expose me to more of the Japanese culture. For instance, they paid for me to attend a conference in Kyoto, allowing me to stay an extra day before returning so that I had a chance to explore the city. They also created an opportunity for me to present my work to a couple of their clients, trusting me with this challenge and giving me incredibly valuable experience in this area.

Outside of work, the opportunity to explore Tokyo and experience Japanese culture was really unparalleled. After this summer abroad, I can honestly say I hope to spend some time living overseas in the future.

Alexander Lin  
*Management Science & Engineering ’21*

This past summer, I had an amazing experience working for Bionexo, a digital healthcare procurement solutions company, in São Paulo, Brazil. I worked on product management and launching new innovations focused on supply chain financing and group purchasing organizations. I was also able to embrace the ecosystem of entrepreneurship that exists in São Paulo, and learn more about business development as well as mergers and acquisitions.

When I had the time, I was able to travel around different states in Brazil to places like Salvador de Bahia, Minas Gerais, Santos, and Rio. It was amazing going out of my comfort zone and meeting new people and making friends with strangers. I developed a lot personally, having to live alone, cook dinner every day, and buy groceries. Navigating the city independently was also a struggle due to my limited language skills. It was a challenge, but the warmth of my Brazilian friends and the willingness they had to help me out definitely surprised me and helped a lot.

Having grown up in the U.S., this experience made me more aware of all the privilege that I have, and how grateful I should be for the opportunities that I have at Stanford. I have also grown personally and become more adaptable. I’d love to travel to Brazil again in the future, to catch up with old friends and take part in the amazing entrepreneurship community.
Naz Gocek  
*International Relations ’20*

This summer, I worked at the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (ALDE) in the European Parliament (EP), and it was a dream come true.

It was amazing to experience all the things I have studied for years — the EU in action, party politics, EP policymaking, conversations among commissioners and so on. I worked with ALDE policy advisors in the foreign affairs and civil liberties, justice and home affairs committees. My tasks included writing briefs, conducting research, working on ALDE draft resolutions, and taking notes during negotiations. My main areas of focus were migration, foreign relations, rule of law and freedom of the press.

I learned an incredible amount from my advisors, my work, and other EP interns. Additionally, I expanded my knowledge of European institutions and international relations through meetings with ALDE commissioners such as Cecilia Malmström (Trade) and Vera Jourova (Justice, Consumer and Gender Equality), and foreign service members from the U.S. and Canada. I even met Guy Verhofstadt, the leader of the ALDE Group!

Furthermore, I made many close friends from all around Europe. We spent our time outside the parliament watching the world cup, socializing, and traveling. I spent most of my weekends on the road; I visited Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, the Hague, Paris and Strasbourg.

My internship confirmed how much I love European affairs, and it allowed me to network and learn both at work and outside of it. Going forward, I will continue to take EU focused courses and write a thesis based on one of my areas of research in the EP, and I hope to pursue a master’s degree in the EU. My time at the EP was without a doubt a very enjoyable and formative experience.

Corie Wieland  
*International Relations ’19*

I was drawn to South Korea, by both its rich and detailed historical narratives and its evolving presence on the modern world stage. I believe Seoul is a unique city, and I am truly grateful to have interned there at a time when its peninsular and international relations were changing by the day.

During my internship with the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, I was able to participate in many community events while supporting foreign service officers and learning the everyday functions of diplomatic work. Some of the events I participated in on behalf of the embassy included the annual U.S. Independence Day Reception in Seoul, where I managed a team of intern volunteers to welcome important international guests, and the Seoul Pride Festival, where I greeted festival participants alongside the U.S. Ambassador to Korea.

At the office, I explored all areas of embassy work and utilized my Korean, Spanish, and Japanese language skills through direct interaction with foreign national visitors. I completed several critical writing and research projects which I presented to my embassy coworkers. Most importantly, I learned about the importance of a strong and continuous U.S. diplomatic presence in countries the world over.

I learned that it’s important to keep my academic interests open, and to be adaptable to new information and new areas of knowledge. Most foreign service officers have learned to adapt quickly to new countries, languages, or fields of study. I hope that I can also acquire this broad knowledge base during my studies. Professionally, I would be more than happy to pursue a career with the U.S. Department of State, and I will prioritize this prospect in the coming years.
**Research Internships**

**Kyle Lin**  
*Chemistry ‘19*

This summer, I had the unique opportunity to spend ten weeks pursuing independent biology research at Heinrich Heine University (HHU) in Düsseldorf, Germany. It was an experience of a lifetime.

As a biochemistry major in my senior year and an aspiring physician-scientist, my scientific work in Germany was especially impactful for me. At HHU, I was able to collaborate with researchers from around the world.

With the help of my colleagues, I was able to complete key experiments toward a research endeavor I began at Stanford two years ago. The goal of my project is to engineer a powerful, new tool for studying real-time water flow through living tissues. I believe our work may have the potential to impact broadly how we understand the human body and disease, as well as agricultural crops and drought resistance.

Beyond the laboratory, I had a wonderful time exploring and learning about Germany. As a classical pianist and philosophy minor, I found it incredible to immerse myself in the language and culture of a country home to so many great thinkers, inventors, and musicians. I have also developed an appreciation for the simple things in German city life: eating pork knuckle and sauerkraut, watching world cup games at local restaurants with my lab mates, and enjoying scenic walks through centuries-old historical sites juxtaposed with modern storefronts and facades.

My time abroad was unforgettable. I will bring back the personal, scientific, and practical skills I acquired abroad to my leadership positions, research, and interactions at Stanford. I have come away with an indelible appreciation for Germany, the city and people of Düsseldorf, and foreign cultures around the world. I hope to continue collaborating internationally in research and medicine as a future physician-scientist.

---

**Tara Shannon**  
*Bioengineering ‘19*

This summer, I worked in a research lab under France’s National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). The lab specializes in studying DNA damage in yeast cells, and they currently use an enzyme that can make precise DNA breaks. However, currently, there is no way to stop the enzyme from persistently damaging the DNA after the cell repairs it. My project was to create a system that under certain conditions can degrade the enzyme. To accomplish this, I learned many different lab techniques such as western blotting, drop tests and dynamic analyses.

Overall, I was very happy with the lab I worked at. The PI and Ph.D. student I worked with challenged me, but were also amazing advisors and provided me with many resources to accomplish my goals. Because of their support, I learned a plethora of lab techniques and developed the independence to design and run my own experiments. This will help me not only in my senior bioengineering classes but also with any job in the future.

There were also many other lessons I took away from the special opportunity of working abroad. The first lesson was how to communicate clearly with people who learned English as a second language. Words such as “fifty” and “fifteen” can easily be confused, and in a lab, that can be the difference between success and disaster. By the end of this internship, I was much better at explaining things in a concise matter without much room for alternate interpretations or confusions.

While the work was rewarding and challenging, I cannot replace the interpersonal skills I gained by learning to adapt to a new environment with different customs and languages.

The most memorable part of my summer was experiencing the uproar when France won the world cup. Seeing this passionate and unifying spectacle was likely a once in a lifetime experience, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to participate in it.
Elizabeth Johnson  
*Slavic Languages and Literatures ’19*

I worked at the Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom in Tallinn, Estonia, this summer. At Stanford, I study Soviet history and the political transformations that began after the USSR’s collapse. Working at Vabamu was a brilliant opportunity for me, because it was so relevant to my academic background and interests.

I was able to contribute to the museum’s new permanent exhibition by editing many of the texts in order to make them more clear and engaging. I am very proud of the work I have done, which will be on display in the museum for a number of years.

At Stanford, I’m going to be working in the Eastern European Studies themed house, so I’ll definitely be bringing back some knowledge about Estonia to share with my residents. I’m also going to be teaching a one-unit course about historical memory in the former Soviet Union, so my internship experience will help me with that as well.

This upcoming year is my last at Stanford. My honors thesis is going to contrast the removal of Soviet symbols from public spaces with the lingering presence of such symbols in the markets and antique shops of Tallinn, Estonia, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Working in the museum taught me a lot about the context behind this issue, and being in Tallinn gave me an opportunity to talk to the people who sell these wares. Asking locals how they perceive the Soviet occupation of Estonia really enhanced my understanding of the complex memory landscape that the museum has to navigate. My time in Tallinn has been tremendously valuable, personally, academically, and professionally.

---

Julian Samuels  
*Sociology ’20*

I’ll be starting this school year fresh with new perspectives from my time interning in Beijing, China.

I worked at the Leadership Matrix Network (LMN), a consulting group for Chinese NGOs focusing on child rights. My main project was to put together various resources to help Chinese NGOs implement United Nations child rights guidelines. This entailed reading and familiarizing myself with various documents like the UNCIEF Implementation Handbook for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and then summarizing and simplifying them for translation into Chinese.

Not only was this my first time doing work both in consulting and child rights, but it was also my first time traveling to China. So while it took some time to get used to a new kind of work, language, and culture, my two months at LMN were thoroughly fulfilling. I truly appreciated the opportunity to work on projects dealing with UN child rights, which helped me look at international issues from a Chinese perspective. Additionally, I had the chance to go along on a business trip to Nanjing and observe work in the field. During my few days there, I assisted with a training and research program at a local children’s center and met dozens of curious kids from the community!

Overall, I’m most thankful for the LMN team itself. Never before have I experienced such a warm and close working environment full of such great people. Everyone made me feel at home during my internship, and by the end, I really felt like I was part of the family.
A Big Thank You to Our Donors!

The invaluable experience gained by our interns relies on the financial support of our donors, host organizations and the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

On behalf of each participant — a heartfelt thank you!

Since the bulk of our funding comes from donors, we continue to seek your help to support student internships. Expendable gifts of any size are welcome and help keep this program moving forward. For opportunities to support the program, please contact:

Scott Sugiura
Associate Director of Development
ssugiura@stanford.edu, (650) 723-1208

For more information about the program or to propose an internship opportunity, please contact:

Denise Chu, Ph.D.
Manager, Stanford Global Studies Internship Program
denise.chu@stanford.edu

Global-internships.stanford.edu

---

Alumni Spotlight

Cooper Williams
Senior Manager, Business Solutions, Alibaba Group
B.A. Public Policy ’13

This program was essential in launching my career in China. My first internship led to a job offer and an opportunity to immerse myself in the Chinese startup/tech scene. From there, I was able to join Alibaba Group where I have a front row seat to the internationalization of one of China’s most important companies. I’ve since transferred to Alibaba’s New York office where I can leverage the knowledge that I developed from my years in China to help North American brands and businesses succeed in the world’s largest consumer market. I am grateful to Stanford and to the Global Studies Internship program for providing me the resources to take this path.