The Stanford Global Studies (SGS) Division is the university’s hub for education, research, and community engagement centered on exploring issues, societies, and cultures in regional and global perspective. SGS offers Stanford students an opportunity to extend classroom knowledge while engaging in life-changing experiences around the world through the Global Studies Internship Program.

The eight-week program is open to undergraduate students in all majors, including those who have not declared a major. Graduate students are also eligible to apply for some positions in Asia, which are funded by the Center for East Asian Studies and the Center for South Asia. Internship positions cover a wide range of fields, including business, non-profit, media, education, medicine, art, technology, science, and government.

Every year, more than 500 students apply to the program to conduct internships in countries across the globe. In 2019, the program hosted 116 students in 29 different countries. This past summer, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the program pivoted quickly to offer 35 students from 14 majors virtual internships with host organizations in 14 countries. In 2021, we are planning to offer a hybrid of virtual and in-person internships in the spring and summer quarters, depending on the evolving nature of the global pandemic.
The internship program continues to be the Haas Center for Public Service's largest campus partner for overseas service opportunities. This year, 43% of the positions were Cardinal Quarter eligible.

In 2020, the program hosted 35 students in 14 different countries.

### 2020 Internship Facts

14 majors were represented.

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Undeclared</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>East Asian Studies</td>
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<td>4 each</td>
<td>Economics; International Relations</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<td>1 each</td>
<td>Biology; Comparative Literature; History &amp; French; Political Science; Psychology; Symbolic Systems; Management Science &amp; Engineering; Bioengineering</td>
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**USA**
- American Enterprise Institute
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Indiegogo Inc.
- Save Cambodia
- Social Science Research Council
- Stand with Kashmir
- Stanford Department of Art & Art History
- Stanford Department of History
- Stanford Department of French & Italian

**BELGIUM**
- Carnegie Europe
- The Lisbon Council

**CHINA**
- Keru
- Mitsubishi Research Institute
- Rogers Investment Advisors

**BELGIUM**
- Carnegie Europe
- The Lisbon Council

**FRANCE**
- CentraleSupélec

**TAIWAN**
- Intumit

**THAILAND**
- Thai Red Cross

**TAIWAN**
- Intumit

**MEXICO**
- Al Otro Lado – Border Rights Project

**COLOMBIA**
- La Comisión Interreligiosa de Justicia y Paz

**SINGAPORE**
- Arbor Ventures

**NEW ZEALAND**
- University of Auckland

**EL SALVADOR**
- Cristosal

**BRAZIL**
- Lanz Capital Investments

**JAPAN**
- Mitsubishi Research Institute
- Rogers Investment Advisors
Jiayi Li

Undeclared ’22
Rogers Investment Advisors, Tokyo, Japan

This summer, I interned at Rogers Investment Advisors based in Tokyo. Although I was not able to work in its office near the beautiful Zojoji Temple, I was still impressed and thankful for the guidance I received from my mentors, and the support from the other interns.

Every day, we had an hour-long class on alternative investment. We started from fundamentals such as hedge fund economics and leverage to more complex fixed income structuring, and we were finally equipped to discuss the global financial crisis in a sophisticated way. I felt so lucky to have mentors willing to invest time into helping us learn and to have a study group that was always ready to help.

In addition, during daily tasks such as preparing a daily news brief and researching hedge fund strategies, I was constantly able to reflect on and apply the knowledge just learned in class. How could the latest news on politics signal future interest rate fluctuation? How did certain hedge funds seek alpha in complicated debt tranches? A highlight of the internship was an asset management project for a Japanese pension client. I got to learn more about the Japanese market and practiced portfolio construction knowledge in a real-world business scenario.

This past internship has been an amazing experience of working hard, learning, and constantly asking questions. I really hope that someday I could meet in-person with these lovely people that I worked with.

Marco Scalera

Economics ’23
Keru, Shanghai, China

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to work for an organization named Keru, based in Shanghai, China. Keru is an education consulting company that works with nonprofits to further the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals across Asia. I came into this internship expecting to do work that was good for others, but by the end of the experience, it was clear that all the hard work put into helping them made me into a better person too.

I primarily worked on marketing and business development strategies. Everything from writing articles for LinkedIn about how service-learning can be life-changing, to developing a Search Engine Optimization (SEO) strategy. All of these projects helped me develop my professional skills, and I learned a lot about what it takes to run a bootstrapped, social impact firm in modern times. But perhaps the most impactful thing I worked on this summer was the service-learning program I mentored and taught. Our end goal was to present a local non-governmental organization in China with modern, globally-focused educational curriculum for students in rural schools who are often left behind. I got to teach students the fundamentals of curriculum building, and eventually deliver some incredible classes and strategies to be replicated across rural China.

This internship has ignited my passion to continue working in the social-impact realm. It taught me that firms founded with goals to change the world can be sustainable, and successful in the long run. Without the program’s support, I wouldn’t have been able to learn so much about China, and the needs of the world.
Katherine Waissbluth

Undeclared '22
Social Science Research Center, New York, NY

I had a wonderful time virtually interning at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) this past summer, and I feel so grateful to have been able to learn so much about their work while getting to contribute. I was assigned to SSRC’s Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, focusing on policy work for the UN, especially issues related to conflict dynamics and prevention.

I worked on research, media roundups, briefings for managers, notetaking for meetings, and helped redesign the website. I also sat in on expert brainstorming sessions. I really got a better sense of the type of work that international lawyers and political academics do on a day-to-day basis. In addition, I learned a ton about different crises going on in the world, such as the Rohingya refugee crisis and the impact of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. I have a better idea of the types of jobs I could pursue after I graduate with a political science degree.

Matin Mirramezani

Economics with minor in Global Studies '21
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C

Over the summer, I worked with the Carnegie Senior Fellow Karim Sadjadpour on radicalism in the Middle East. My work focused on the relationship between sexuality and radicalism to get a better understanding of how sexuality has been utilized as a tool for perpetuating extremism in the region. This was a great experience since I got the opportunity to work closely with an insightful researcher at a global think tank on a topic that I was interested in but had much to learn about.

Furthermore, this internship taught me how to be a better researcher, especially through extensive qualitative research and exploring primary sources. One of my main goals for this summer was to get a better understanding of how a think tank works. Fortunately, I was able to get a better sense of this type of work. This is very valuable to me, and I will pursue this type of opportunity later when I graduate from Stanford.

Beyond the critical perspective and career insight that I gained from this internship, I also learned how to work more independently in a remote setting. This experience has been tremendously helpful to my growth as an individual, as a researcher, and as a prospective candidate for opportunities in foreign relations and especially in the think tank world.
Alyssa Ma’ili Yee

B.A. in International Relations ’20 & M.A. in East Asian Studies ’21
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Conducting community-based research through the Global Studies Internship Program has been an impactful and invaluable experience for me at Stanford. I now look forward to continuing community engagement and research important to Pacific Islander communities.

This summer I remotely interned from Honolulu for Dr. Margaret Mutu of the University of Auckland and her tribe, Ngati Kahu. I conducted research regarding Dr. Mutu and her tribe’s recent experiences with Chinese foreign developers. We examined the positive experiences of the *mana whenua* (ancestral stewards) of the Karikari peninsula under Chinese as opposed to American developers. In 2015, the tribe and the Chinese executives of Shanghai CRED Real Estate Co. successfully negotiated a development plan that respected Ngati Kahu ancestral sites on the property. This was considered a great success after years of contention with the previous American owners of the property who refused to respect ancestral burials.

During my internship, I examined the cultural exchanges and practices that have allowed for this positive relationship to grow over the years. It appears that Shanghai CRED recognizes and upholds the *te mana te rangatiratanga* (authority and power) of the indigenous stewards of the area. However, I also discovered that aboriginal descendants in North-Western Australia had an opposite experience with the same company. In 2019, Shanghai CRED allegedly cleared land without first consulting the Nyikina Mangala Traditional Owners. In comparing these two cases, I learned of the diverse effects of Chinese development for the indigenous peoples of Oceania.

My M.A. thesis examines the potential implications of the Belt and Road Initiative on indigenous Pacific Islander communities. Through my internship with Professor Mutu, I learned the complexity and breadth of Chinese growth in the region. I have thoroughly enjoyed gathering data, conducting interviews, increasing my interpersonal communication skills, and respectfully learning about another culture. This internship has given me an opportunity to apply my personal interests to a comprehensive research project with real implications for culturally appropriate research. I have learned crucial research and writing skills that will prepare me for graduate school and a future career in law.
**Theodore Kanell**  
Undeclared ’23  
Intumit, Taipei, Taiwan

This summer I hoped to gain valuable experience working at a tech company in order to determine if I wanted to major in computer science. After my time working with Intumit, a company in Taipei, Taiwan, I am confident that I will major in CS. Because of the pandemic afflicting the world, I was unable to physically travel to Taiwan for the internship. However, my virtual experience was still very valuable. Through frequent emails and video calls, I developed a wonderful working relationship with my supervisor and fellow interns at Intumit. My new understanding of how to work in a virtual environment will continue to reward me throughout my life.

Despite staying in America for the internship, I was still able to gain a greater insight into Taiwan’s culture and people. I had some opportunities to utilize my Mandarin ability. Intumit was also very kind, and at the end of the internship, they hosted a Zoom party. They sent a package with a variety of Taiwanese snacks to give the other interns and me an actual taste of Taiwanese cuisine. It was very kind, and I look forward to physically working in Taiwan sometime in the future.

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**Stepan Sharkov**  
Computer Science ’23  
CentraleSupelec, Paris, France

This summer I have been working in CentraleSupelec’s Process Engineering Lab, which is based in a small town near Paris, France. However, due to COVID-19, I have conducted this internship remotely from my home in Moscow, Russia. I want to share the highlights of this internship and show how important it was for me and my career.

Over seven weeks, I have been doing machine learning (ML) coding to analyze cell division. Because I lack a background in ML, for the first two weeks, I learned about it as well as practiced the usage of Python libraries for ML. From week three to week five, I processed the cell population using ImageJ (in the included photo you can actually see me doing this at my home office). After that, I coded the algorithm for using different machine learning classification methods to analyze the cells. The KNeighborsClassifier (KNC) method was chosen as the main algorithm because it had the best performance. In the last few days, I improved the KNC usage to increase the performance even more. In the end, the average accuracy of machine learning algorithms was 91%. In the next five months, my supervisor and I agreed to continue working together. We are planning to have more cell populations in September to improve the algorithm even more. And, closer to December, we want to write a scientific paper and publish it in a scientific journal.

I want to emphasize the number of new skills I have received from this internship. I have learned a significant amount of ML theory, and practiced ML with Python and its libraries. I have learned how to use ImageJ data processing tools to get data. I have also learned that asking questions directly, and asking more and more of them until the subject becomes clear, is extremely important in a remote setting because you have to know what your supervisor wants from you to the smallest level of detail.

I wanted to have an internship in France to improve my French and learn more about culture. Though this internship ended up being remote, I have learned about the culture of working in France through work with my supervisor.

I am a computer scientist, so I have been wondering about machine learning usage for a long time now. Knowing what machine learning is, and being able to use it, is essential for a computer scientist who wants to pursue an AI track like me. I can apply my machine learning experience in other settings, and I can refer to this internship as the most influential professional experience. When I take machine learning classes at Stanford, I will already know a significant amount about the subject, which will help me succeed. The experience I had is so essential for my personal and career growth!
Alumni Spotlight

Amber Lewis ’18
Undergraduate Admission Counselor, Stanford University

As students adjusted to daily life in quarantine and the challenges associated with learning and working from home, Amber Lewis, an alum of the Stanford Global Studies Internship Program and admission counselor in Stanford’s Office of Undergraduate Admission, offered invaluable advice. In a video call, Lewis addressed concerns students faced during their remote internships, including setting up a home workstation, learning to be part of an online community, and forging meaningful connections with colleagues. Read her advice.

“I got the wonderful opportunity to travel with the Stanford Global Studies Internship Program twice: in the summer of 2015 and in the summer of 2016, when we got to go to Rio and volunteer in the Olympic Village. First, I want to congratulate you on being a part of this unique cohort of 35. Working remotely definitely has its own set of challenges, but I want to commend you for the fact that you are part of this wonderful group in these unprecedented times. Right now, I am working from home. I would love to give a couple tips from my own experience in terms of how to have a successful experience working remotely and staying connected. Some things that have helped me is being able to set up an at-home workstation—a consistent place where I can put my laptop—and an ergonomically-friendly chair.

However, the biggest piece of advice that I would encourage you to do is keep up with your community. As social distancing restrictions change, as the economy starts to adapt and potentially return, and as we’re able to engage with one another, I would encourage you to do so. In terms of connecting with colleagues, it will certainly take some work, and I would say to be patient with yourself in terms of cultivating that sense of community, but I would say it’s a very important part of sustainable work. Although your internships are only for a couple of months, I think you have wonderful opportunities to connect with people literally all over the world while from home.

At first, I would also encourage you just to ask questions to try to get a lay of the land as best as you can. In terms of cultural sensitivity … my biggest encouragement to you would be to be willing to reach out and go a little bit out of your comfort zone while being respectful in terms of understanding how best to support yourself and contribute to the environment. Figure out how best to go about procuring information, how best to contribute to the team environment, and learning expectations, both through asking directly as well as observing. Identify a couple of key people in whatever organization you’re at that you feel comfortable asking questions and allow their experience to inform your experience. My dad always says that experience is the best teacher, it just doesn’t have to be your own. And that’s what I would love to leave you on. I’m so excited for you. I want to celebrate you and this wonderful opportunity once again.”
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:**

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

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

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