

# global INTERNSHIPS



Fall 2023 Newsletter from the Stanford Global Studies Internship Program

**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.

Open to undergraduate students in all majors, the eight-week summer program promotes the acquisition of global competencies by weaving together curricular exposure, language acquisition, and hands-on work experiences overseas. This year, the program received 481 applications, and available funding allowed us to support 75 students from 27 majors who participated in internships in 38 cities around the world.



# 2023 Internship Facts

## The Global Studies Internship Program hosted 75 students in 27 different countries.

The program is open to undergraduate students in all majors, including those who have not declared a major. Graduate students from select programs are also eligible to apply. Internship positions cover a wide range of fields, including business, nonprofit, media, education, medicine, art, technology, science, and government.

The internship program continues to be the Haas Center for Public Service's largest campus partner for overseas service opportunities, and many positions are Cardinal Quarter eligible.

## 27 majors were represented

<b>19</b>	Undeclared
<b>11</b>	International Relations
<b>5</b>	Economics
<b>4 each</b>	Computer Science; East Asian Studies
<b>2 each</b>	Biomedical Computation; Communication; Comparative Literature; Mathematical and Computational Science; Electrical Engineering; Product Design; Psychology; Public Policy; Symbolic Systems
<b>1 each</b>	Archaeology; Art History; Engineering; Environmental Systems Engineering; History; Human Biology; Management Science and Engineering; Materials Science; Mechanical Engineering; Physics; Political Science; Science, Technology, and Society; Structural Engineering; Urban Studies



# Health & Science Internships

## Hunter Hollenbeck

*Physics and Electrical Engineering, '25*

### Centrale Supélec

*Paris, France*

Over the summer, I worked in the plasma research group at Centrale Supélec, one of the foremost universities in France. However, this experience was much more than just doing research. I was able to live in a major city for the first time in my life, not to mention living abroad! Coming from a small town in Michigan, it's still so unreal to have embarked on this experience, and you helped make it possible.

I was also able to embark on plenty of activities during my time in Paris that



made it a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I kept up with my diving training en route to my goal of being an Olympian, I watched the best tennis players duke it out at Wimbledon, and I explored France by train. Each day, even the more relaxed ones, showed me something new and incredible, and it will be amazing to come

back to school with all of my newfound knowledge of the world around me.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for your contributions that led me to be able to intern in France. This experience was truly once in a lifetime, and I loved every second of it.

## Audrey Lin

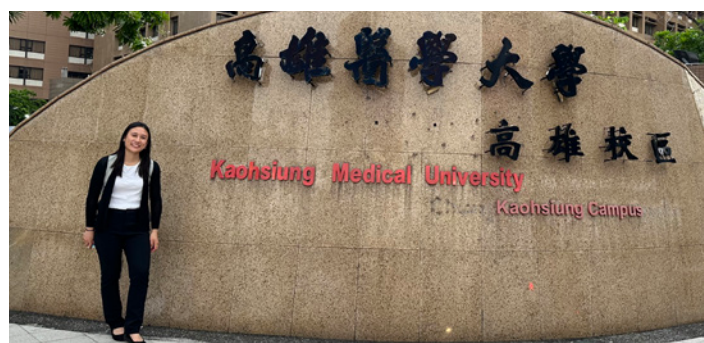
*Biomedical Computation, '25*

### Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital

*Kaohsiung City, Taiwan*

Thank you so much for supporting this opportunity for me to work abroad this summer! When I first heard about the Global Studies Internship Program, I was hoping to find an opportunity to spend time in Taiwan. Both of my parents are from there, and I had only been there for vacation and to visit family. Seeing the internship opportunity at Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital (KMUH), I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to spend more time in the city that my dad grew up in, while also getting a chance to live on my own and gain medical experience as a pre-medical student.

During my time at KMUH, I was in the Department of Plastic Surgery, primarily following the schedule of the clerks (sixth year medical students). They did a lot of shadowing with the doctors in the department, observing surgeries in the operation rooms, seeing dozens of patients in the outpatient department, doing rounds, and attending classes. During this time, I got to learn about various operations and the cultural ties behind clinical decisions and the demographics of the patients in the hospital.



For example, a lot of patients with free flap operations needed treatment from plastic surgery for reconstruction, largely due to the high number of motorcycle traffic accidents. Also, the surgeons performed microsurgery daily, since oral and buccal cancers are abnormally high in Taiwan. This is because the working class in Taiwan often chews beetlenuts, which are carcinogenic. I also had the opportunity to write a case series study, which is the first time I've written an article like that before. Seeing all of these patients, learning from both the medical students and doctors, and writing the article all piqued my interest in plastic surgery, a specialty that I had not considered at all before.

The medical students also took us out for adventures several weekends, exploring different cities of Southern Taiwan. Before this summer, I had only spent an afternoon in Kaohsiung, without exploring many historical or natural sites. Despite the humidity and heat, I discovered how beautiful Taiwan is—the beaches, the tropical forests, the mountainsides, and the smaller old streets all contribute to the more laidback culture there. It was during this time that I realized how warm and community-oriented the people are in Taiwan, particularly in the South.

Now that I've completed my two months in Taiwan and am back home writing this letter, I see that this internship has exceeded all expectations I had going into it. Not only had I gotten the clinical and research experience that I had hoped for, but I've also gotten to explore the nation that my parents grew up in, practiced my Mandarin, and made so many new friends.

There's so much more that I haven't gotten to share through this letter—the food, the workshops, and the small interactions in the chaos of the hospital—but I hope I've gotten to share a glimpse of my unforgettable experience with you through this letter. Infinite thank you's for making this experience possible for me!



# Arts & Museum Internships

## Lily Forman

*History, '25*

### Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom

*Tallinn, Estonia*

Thank you so much for supporting my internship opportunity! I had an incredible experience and will forever cherish my time spent in Estonia. Working at Vabamu, I learned so much about how museums function and about Estonian history. I am hoping to pursue a career in museum work, and my experience this summer was invaluable in furthering that goal. Outside of my internship, I loved exploring Estonia. It is such an amazing country, and I don't think I would have had the chance to come here without this program. I am already looking forward to my next opportunity to come to the Baltics! Thank you so much again; I am so grateful to have had this opportunity and know that it will have a long-lasting impact on me.



## Angie Lopez

*Art History, '23*

### Musée de Cluny

*Paris, France*

Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in this internship. After four years at Stanford, having the opportunity to put my French and my knowledge of medieval art to use was the most fulfilling thing I could ever imagine. I had the most enriching and meaningful summer in Paris as a result of your generosity. You have given me the confidence and vigor with which to begin my new journey: graduate school. Thank you again!

## Roya Ahmadi

*Human Biology and Interdisciplinary Arts, '25*

### Moors and Saints

*Rabat, Morocco*

This summer, thanks to your support, I was able to do an eight-week internship in Rabat, Morocco. I worked for a company called Moors and Saints researching Moorish design and architectural history and writing articles about modern examples of transnationalism in Morocco. In addition to a fulfilling work experience, I was able to live in and travel around Morocco, which was a country I had been dreaming of visiting for many years. I will never forget stargazing in the Sahara Desert, celebrating Eid-al Adha with my host family in Rabat, walking through the labyrinth-like streets of the medina in Fez, and so many more experiences from this summer. Thank you so much for making this experience possible with your support of the Global Studies Internship Program!



# Civil Society Internships

## Sierra Wells

*International Relations and Data Science, '23*

### **Instituto Trabalho Decente** *São Luís, Brazil*

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your support, which made my summer as an intern with the Instituto Trabalho Decente in São Luís, Brazil truly unforgettable.



During my time in São Luís, I was able to contribute to two important initiatives aimed at combating human trafficking in Brazil. I developed a machine learning tool to assist Brazilian labor prosecutors in prioritizing tips related to human trafficking cases. Additionally, I worked closely with local civil society and government actors to improve the procedures for connecting survivors of human trafficking to important resources and reparations. I even had the chance to travel to different municipalities in the state of Maranhão to personally participate in training social workers in these updated procedures.

Outside of work, I immersed myself in life in São Luís, exploring the historic architecture of my neighborhood, trying to learn traditional dance styles such as agarradinho (reggae) and tambor de crioula, and enjoying nearby beaches. Your support not only enriched my academic and professional growth but also allowed me to make a meaningful impact in the fight against human trafficking in Brazil.

Once again, thank you for your support and for making this remarkable experience possible.

## Nilou Davis

*Political Science and History, '25*

### **Indonesian Institute for an Independent Judiciary (LeIP)** *Jakarta, Indonesia*

This experience has had a profound effect on the trajectory of my life, both professionally and personally, and for that I am incredibly grateful. I was able to immerse myself deeply in the NGO/civil society sector and see what the experience of fusing academic research and advocacy looked like. As someone who is deeply considering graduate school, seeing the way that the tangible effects of research influenced both the work itself and the way it was conducted has been incredibly inspiring and profoundly influenced the kind of work I would like to do in my future. Moreover, I was able to connect with my coworkers at LeIP through weekly early morning bike rides with my boss, bookstore adventures with my mentor, and coffee shop recommendations and cafe explorations. Through these experiences, I learned so much about Indonesian culture and the lives of my coworkers, which felt incredibly special. This is to say nothing of all the travel I was able to accomplish this summer—Yogyakarta, Singapore, Malaysia, Bali, Cambodia. I would like to take this opportunity to communicate my deepest and most sincere gratitude. I was able to have a litany of experiences as a result of your kind donation, and for this I am incredibly thankful.





# Energy & Technology Internships

## **Alden O’Rafferty**

*Materials Science, '24*

### **Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) Braga, Portugal**

INL is a collaboration between the governments of Portugal and Spain to further nanotechnology research in a variety of fields including water quality, semiconductors, and batteries. This summer, I worked on 3D imaging for battery cathodes using a new technique called Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscopy. This technique allows for accurate 3D models of the materials, which provide deeper understanding of how batteries work on a nanoscale. This work and my experiences in Portugal would not have been possible with your support. Thank you!

One of the most special parts of my summer has been how welcoming my Portuguese coworkers and their friends

have been. Very quickly, they invited me to dinners at local spots, their beer brewing club, the lab’s volleyball tournament, castles and palaces, and trips into the nearby national park. One of my biggest worries about the summer was being lonely in a country where I knew no one, and they have treated me with more kindness and care than I could’ve imagined. It has been a blessing to build meaningful friendships with people who have put down roots here, and I am very excited to come back and visit them all as soon as I can. I am definitely moved to pay their hospitality and openness forward as I encounter new people who take the leap and move to new place.

Thank you again for your support, without which I would not have found myself in Portugal, working on meaningful energy technologies, with a group of kind friends.



## **Arya Marwaha**

*Design, '26*

### **Hackmotion Riga, Latvia**

This summer, with your invaluable support, I had the unparalleled opportunity to intern at HackMotion in Riga, Latvia, a setting where my profound love for golf beautifully married my academic passion for design.

Your generous contribution did more than fund an internship; it crafted a narrative of growth, exploration, and learning. I sharpened my skills in UX/UI design using platforms like Figma and delved deep into product analytics with tools like Mixpanel. Yet, some of the most unforgettable moments were set against the backdrop of the Jurmula golf course, where I starred in a promotional video, capturing the essence of my journey.



Beyond the confines of the office, Latvia opened its doors to a mosaic of cultures, allowing me to explore destinations from Lithuania and Poland to the breathtaking coastlines of Croatia and Malta. Each weekend excursion added a chapter to my story, painting a vivid tapestry of experiences that I owe to your benevolence.

Your philanthropy didn’t just support an individual; it fostered an ecosystem of learning, exploration, and personal growth. I am profoundly grateful for this life-changing experience and hope to carry forward the lessons learned, making the most of every opportunity that comes my way.

From the core of my heart, thank you for this transformative journey.

# Business & Finance Internships

## Yifan Xu

*M.A., East Asian Studies*

### Mitsubishi Research Institute Tokyo, Japan

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support that made it possible for me to embark on an educational journey that I could only dream of.

Your contribution has allowed me to engage in experiences beyond the classroom, opening doors I had never imagined. This summer, thanks to your generosity, I was granted the opportunity to intern at the Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) in Tokyo, Japan. It was a profound experience that offered me a deeper understanding of my study field and allowed me to connect academic theories to real-world applications.

Tokyo, a city that beautifully blends tradition with modernity, was an ideal backdrop for my research and studies. At the Mitsubishi Research Institute, I had



the chance to collaborate with seasoned professionals and experts in the field. I was involved in several projects that delved into the business and economy of East Asia, and my insights as a student were welcomed and valued.

One of the highlights of my internship was a project where I analyzed the influence of the global EV shift on Japan's automotive industry, and what policy the Japanese

government should take to maintain Japan's competitiveness in the automotive industry amid the global EV shift.

Your support has done more than just finance my education; it has provided me with opportunities to grow, learn, and immerse myself in experiences that will shape my career and future endeavors. As the academic year progresses, I am inspired and motivated by your generosity. Knowing that someone believes in my potential makes all the difference.

I will carry the memories, knowledge, and skills acquired during my time in Tokyo with me as I continue my studies and into my professional career. Your kindness has truly been a beacon of light, guiding me towards opportunities I once thought were unreachable.

As the autumn leaves begin to change and October approaches, I want to take a moment to thank you once again for your generosity and for believing in students like me.

## Andrew Nguyen

*Mathematics and Economics, '26*

### Mirae Asset Securities Seoul, South Korea

This professional experience wonderfully complemented the rigorous academic preparation I've been fortunate enough to gain at Stanford and solidified my academic and career desires by exposing me to an environment similar to that where I one day hope to work and by introducing me to an entirely new country - with all its associated cultural, professional, and social novelties.

It was an amazing experience on all fronts and a remarkable way to spend eight weeks. My days at work were rigorous and challenging - in brief, I worked to develop an API connecting Mirae Asset Securities' internal computers to the servers of a market data vendor the firm was evaluating and interested in contracting with. It was my job to ensure that the vendor

provided all the necessary market data (real-time and static financial data for thousands of securities across a dozen global exchanges) in a reliable and accurate manner, to support the firm's algorithmic trading activities.

The work exposed me to equal parts of technical programming, financial modeling based upon mathematics

and statistics, and algorithmic trading. Needless to say, I learned a lot from the work I did and the colleagues and older peers I had a chance to meet, work with, and network.

As hard as my workdays were, my weekends were equally fun-filled and tremendously memorable. From exploring local clubs and bars with foreign friends to trying traditional Korean clothing and cuisine to visiting cultural and historical landmarks, I will remember my experience through both hard work and spontaneous fun.

For all of these experiences and the tremendous value this internship has provided in my personal and professional life, I would like to sincerely and warmly thank you for your donation in support of Stanford Global Studies; it's one of the many things that sets Stanford apart as a leader in higher education and an unequalled hub of opportunity for those lucky enough to be a part of this amazing community.





# Alumni News

Dear Internship Program alumni,  
We would love to stay in touch with you. We invite you to complete [this short survey](#) to share any updates for possible publication in the next newsletter. It is thanks to our wonderful alumni that we have been able to provide so many great opportunities abroad for our students. We hope to expand our alumni network and show our students the amazing things that GSIP alumni are doing around the world.

Sincerely,  
Stanford Global Studies



SGS Alumni

*“I worked at the same organization I interned for during my Global Studies Internship. It inspired me to become an education consultant. I pursued that route while applying to graduate school and am about to start graduate school in social policy to learn how to make structural changes in the education system, a goal instilled in me by my experience through the Global Studies Internship Program.”*

— Minha Khan, '21

*“After graduating from Stanford, I went on to attend medical school at Yale and discovered my passion for head and neck surgery. I am currently taking a gap year to do clinical research full-time before applying to residency in ear, nose, and throat (ENT) next year. Outside of school, I enjoy exploring the variety of restaurants New Haven has to offer and attempting to master medical Mandarin.”*

— Vickie Wang, '19

*“I was a program manager at Palantir Technologies for six years after graduation (part of my work included helping to grow our business in Asia, and I credit my knowledge of the region to my studies/internship at Stanford). I got married in 2017, moved to Seattle, and just graduated from the University of Washington School of Law with honors. I passed the bar exam this summer and am starting work as a litigation associate at a law firm called Davis Wright Tremaine later this month.”*

— Christine McFadden, '12



Stanford students interning in the Baltics this summer stand in front of city hall in Riga, Latvia. Photo courtesy of Vabamu Museum.

**Alumni: Did you intern in South Korea through the Global Studies Internship Program?** This year, we are expanding our internship placements in South Korea and expect the application process to be competitive. We are currently looking for a few volunteers to help review applications from Stanford students. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Grace Munene, manager of the Global Studies Internship Program, at [gmunene@stanford.edu](mailto:gmunene@stanford.edu).





*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**

Senior Associate Director of Development  
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**For more information about the program or to propose an internship opportunity, please contact:**

**Grace Munene**

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