

Taking Lehigh to the World and Bringing the World to Lehigh

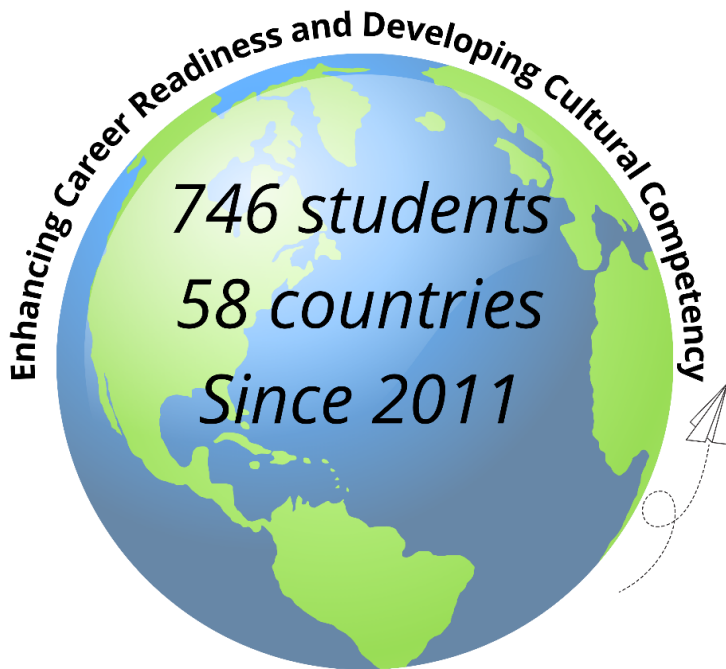


Iacocca International Internship Program

Student Report



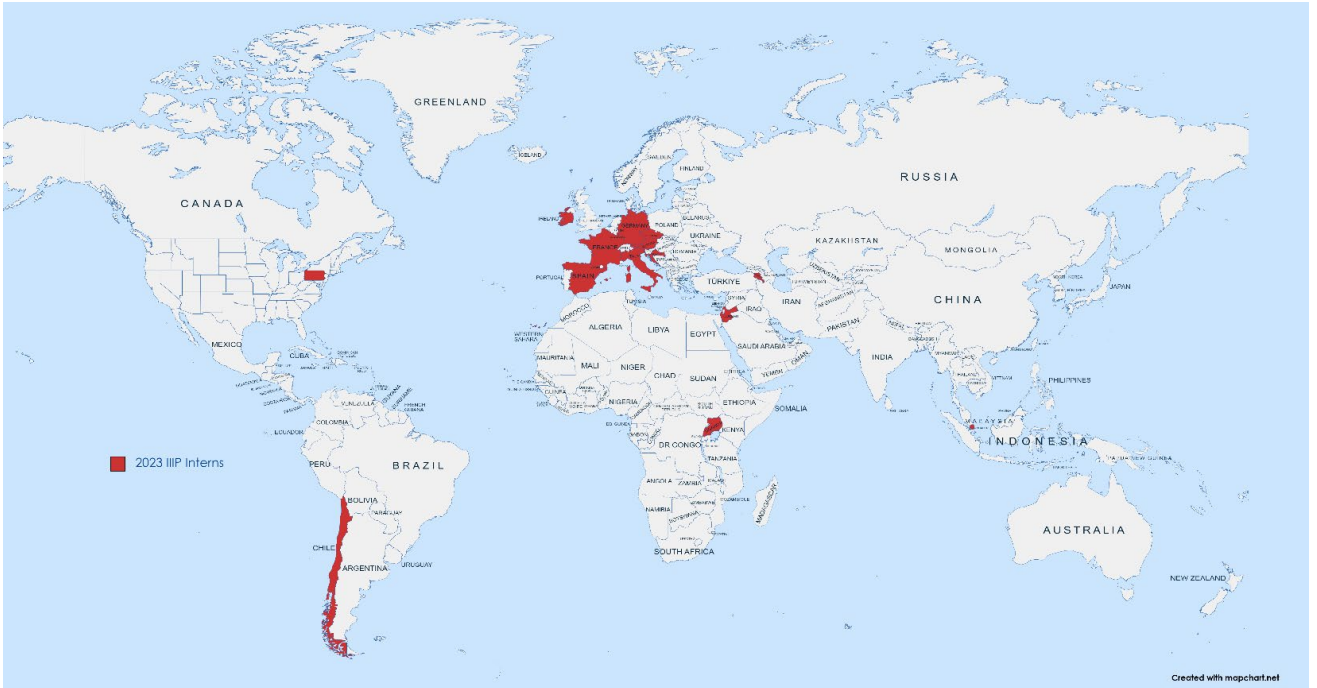
Summer 2023



Office of International Affairs

Iacocca International Internship Program

Program Statement: The Iacocca International Internship Program (IIIP) provides practical work experience, grounded in global context, aimed at enhancing students' career readiness and intercultural competency.



2023 Iacocca Intern Host Countries

Armenia

Austria

Bermuda

Chile

Croatia

Czech Republic

France

Germany

Ireland

Israel

Italy

Jordan

Luxembourg

Singapore

Spain

Uganda

United States

Table of Contents

Afiwa Afandalo, Uganda.....	6-7
Elias Almary, Austria.....	8-9
Jorge Amigon Benitez, Global Village.....	10-11
Brandon Arriaga, Italy.....	12-13
Katie Atherton, France.....	14-15
Renae Austin, Chile.....	16-17
Brianna Banful, Armenia.....	18-19
Catherine Bigenho, Uganda	20-21
Sarah Campos, Jordan	22-23
Randi Conroy, Uganda	24-25
Greg Dardaris, Czech Republic	26-27
Fenet Demissie, Singapore	28-29
Anna Donovan, Austria	30-31
Tessa Dougan, Singapore	32-33
Cole Fahrney, Ireland	34-35
Tess Furnari, Jordan	36-37
Isabela Giraldo, Uganda	38-39
Dina Gofman, France	40-41
Noah Griffin, Chile	42-43
Nicole Guglielmi, Jordan.....	44-45
Sammy Haggert, Czech Republic	46-47
Kareem Hargrove, Italy	48-49
Charlotte Imperatore, Chile	50-51
Devon King, Ireland	52-53
Nana Kyekyeku, Chile	54-55
Rachel Lischin, France	56-57
Francesca Logozzo, Luxembourg	58-59
Virginia McMahan, Luxembourg	60-61
Alex Meyer, France	62-63
Matyas Negas, Germany	64-65
Josh Nsubuga, France	66-67
Katie O'Donnell, Spain	68-69
Oluwafunmbi Ojo, Luxembourg	70-71
Bianca Palomino, Israel	72-73
Tahmina Raisa, Spain	74-75
Emily Randolph, Uganda	76-77
Vito Russo, Jordan	78-79
Liana Secondino, Uganda	80-81
Rachel Sobocinski, Croatia	82-83
Isabelle Torrijos, Czech Republic	84-85
Coby Walmsley, Czech Republic	86-87
Luke Weaver, Singapore	88-89
Julia Wilczynski, Croatia	90-91
Sarah Wilhelm, Bermuda	92-93
Alexandra Wnuk, Spain	94-95
Zaara Yakub, Ireland	96-97

Afiwa Afandalo

Uganda

College of Arts
& Sciences
Africana Studies &
Women, Gender,
& Sexualities
Studies



PDI

Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is an NGO that focuses on helping individuals/communities in the Bududa district achieve a sustainable life. The organization fosters several community-oriented programs including the Sports Clinic which brings youth from across Bududa together through soccer (or as they call it here, football) and teaches them skills such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, etc. Another program is the Second Chance Program, an initiative that selects youth from the Bududa district who have dropped out of traditional schooling and provides them with alternative pathways through options such as trade schools. Another one of their initiatives is the PDI Preparatory School which provides affordable schooling to young children in the Bududa community. As a Sustainable Livelihood intern, I worked in two different departments within the organization: the PDI school where I spent the majority of my time, and the PDI office. At the PDI Preparatory School, I assisted the teachers with teaching students and prepping for lessons. I taught lessons occasionally with the guidance of the teacher I was assisting that day. I also helped the teachers create lesson plans for the following day and write and upload midterm exams on the computers. I also assisted the interns in spearheading the “Health and Hygiene” Initiative by creating posters to help students remember how to brush their teeth and wash their hands. On the days I worked in the office, I helped input students’ data into Excel and contributed my ideas towards creating an art curriculum.



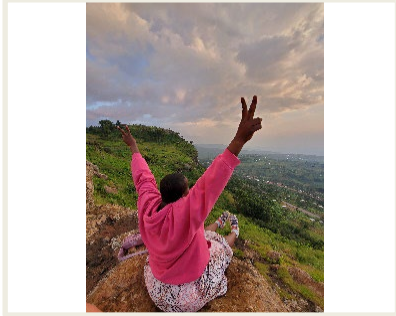
*Spending the afternoon
lesson planning*



Daily lessons

Afiwa Afandalo

Uganda



After a hike



Taking a natural shower

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in IIIP, I learned the value of community in social justice efforts; both in the Iacocca Interns community and the Bududa community. The Iacocca interns' community provided me with a comforting haven during challenging moments. On several occasions, I had "I want to go home" moments, and when I voiced those thoughts to the other Iacocca interns here, they offered their support every time. Their support helped me overcome challenging moments such as homesickness. Had I not had the Iacocca Interns community, I think this experience would have been harder than it was. In addition, working with PDI has shown me why community is crucial. The Bududa community does not have enough economic resources, yet they all come together to help each other with what they have. Both communities provided me with a space to connect, collaborate, and thrive, creating a positive impact on me and the teachers, students, and interns I worked with. Another value that I derived from working with the PDI's organization is the importance of youth voices in creating sustainable communities and futures. From my observations, the youths at PDI have developed interpersonal skills that will be helpful to them when making life decisions. This initiative by my organization came from the founders (our host family) noticing the lack of resources for youth in Bududa. As someone who is interested in education policies, this approach will be helpful when advocating and creating policies that will affect the students in the education system.

Elias Almary

Austria

P.C. College of
Engineering
Industrial &
Systems
Engineering



Revo Foods
Austria Real
Junior Operations
Manager
Real Estate Intern

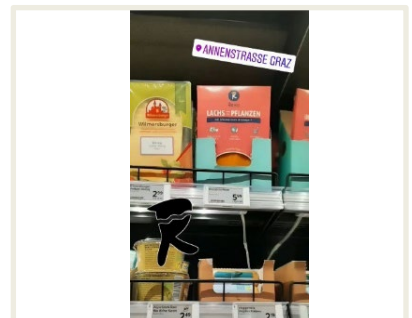
Company and Position Description: Revo Foods: This is a Food Manufacturing company, specifically revolutionizing the food industry in their creation of vegan seafood. They are a startup that has been around for about 3 years and has been advancing in their creation of products. From vegan salmon and tuna dips to salmon filet, to now the creation of 3D printers which will print their products. The team is quite large (the biggest cost of the startup is paying their employees), mostly consisting of master's students who are writing their theses. The CEO is a PhD Bioengineer. I had to look for suppliers for packaging, mycoproteins, and do research on mycoproteins as well. I also learned more about the food industry as a whole during my time at the company, while understanding the needs of certain startups.

Austria Real: The other organization has been around for 20 years. It is a small real estate brokerage run by someone originally from Azerbaijan, who moved to Russia and then Austria, and now runs a company supporting mainly Russian clients looking to buy in Austria. My responsibilities here consisted of marketing posts and a lot of Google translating.



*Product sold by
Revo foods*

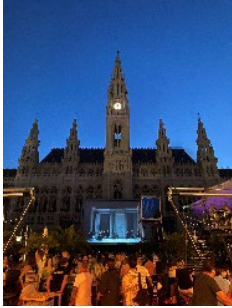
IES
ABROAD



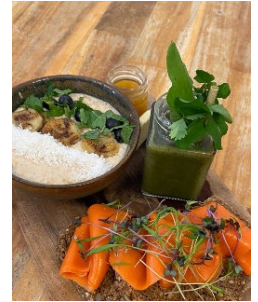
*New Revo product I
helped with*

Elias Almary

Austria



Film Festival in Vienna



Revo vegan seafood

Value Derived from the Experience: Aside from building valuable connections with people around the United States who were there in Vienna as well. With the real estate company, I finally was able to have an introduction to the real estate industry and was able to put together documents about investing in properties and a full report on a property. I also built connections with the people whom I worked with at both organizations. At the other internship, I learned a lot about how scale-up-type startups operate. I learned how to find suppliers, how to message them, how to juggle different tasks, and how to manage my time better.

Revo Foods has a lot of future potential for growth but my worry with them is that they are doing too much for their good. Whereas Austria Real has already become established in Europe and is happy with the stability they have. I have learned a lot from both companies and am very grateful for the experience this summer. Receiving a global perspective becomes more and more important day to day, as companies and countries become more diverse.

Jorge Amigon Benitez

United States

College of Arts
& Sciences

Global Village

Global Studies

Villager



Company and Position Description: The Global Village program consisted of 55 villagers from 33 different countries. We stayed in the McConn and Levitt dorms during our 5 weeks. This forced us to learn how to live within a diverse community. Such as learning how to use the kitchen when 55 people are hungry. Also, how to clean our kitchen after 55 people used it. The value of working as a team was a crucial one in the global village program. We were divided into groups and assigned a project. My project was to create the yearbook for the GV 2023 with my project team. My role during the yearbook project was to take as many pictures as possible throughout the GV program. I was also responsible for renting the camera from Lehigh and returning to the digital studio. Also, I was responsible for keeping my team updated about needing more pictures from our trips or an event. This project was a lot of fun. I learned a lot about myself. I learned that I love photography and being creative. Thanks to this project I want to invest more time in developing my photography skills.



Country presentations



*My guide group
for the program*

Jorge Amigon Benitez

United States



Lunch break with fellow villagers



The yearbook team!

Value Derived from the Experience: A value I obtained from participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program is learning how to work with others. During the Global Village program, I learned to work with people who are culturally different than me. I worked with 55 people from 33 different countries for five weeks. At first, it was hard because we barely knew each other, and we were also just getting used to each other. However, since most of us allowed ourselves to be vulnerable we connected much quicker. After that, it was pretty easy to work with people who are culturally different from you. The key thing is to put your ego aside. If you can't do that, then you will probably not work well with others. Also being open-minded helps a lot in these situations. There are going to be moments when someone might say something you don't necessarily agree with. Still, everyone has the right to their opinion and we should respect that. This took me a while to learn but I'm glad I did. I learned to disagree with people in a much more polite way. This experience allowed me to grow as a global citizen and a global leader. There is still a lot more I need to learn about the world but I'm glad I realized that now then later.

Brandon Arriaga

Italy

P.C. College of
Engineering

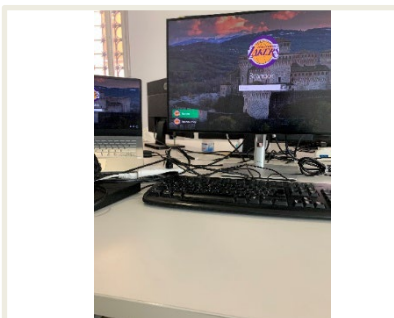
Computer
Science



Net4Market

Software
Development
Intern

Company and Position Description: Net4Market is an e-procurement platform that enables efficient management of suppliers' telematics, streamlined procedures, and tenders, all while reducing costs and delivery time. They essentially make buying things for businesses much easier, faster, and more cost-effective. As an intern, I was part of the IT team that was working on updating the online platform to new technologies. I worked 5 days a week for around 6 hours a day. I had various tasks to complete, but my biggest one was building an API for geocoding. Geocoding is the process of converting addresses into geographic coordinates. Here I used tools such as spring-boot, SQL, junit, mockito, and swagger to help build this API, while under the guidance of one of the senior software developers. To implement this API, I also had to study a new design pattern called chain of responsibility, so that multiple geocoding APIs could be used if one does not work. While working, we used the agile-scrum framework, and I attended daily standup meetings where the team would go over the work being done. Overall, I feel like I really improved my coding skills and understanding of the programmer lifestyle from this experience.



My usual work setup



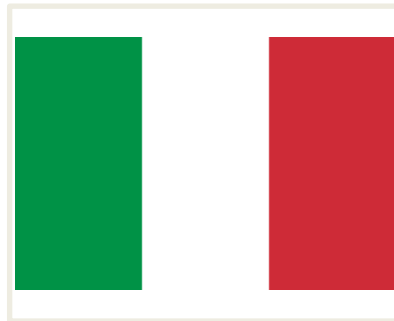
IT team picture

Brandon Arriaga

Italy



Royal Palace in Turin



Genoa

Value Derived from the Experience: The Iacocca International Internship Program has really made a great impact on me. First of all, the preparation from the Prepare sessions and the sense of community from my fellow interns through WordPress have been of great assistance and provided comfort. Professionally, interning abroad has had a profound impact on my professional skills. I feel like I have a better understanding of skills in the workplace, and along with the language barrier, I became a better communicator. Learning all of the tools and working with other software developers, I have a greater understanding of what it takes to be one. I also feel that my internship has made me more sure of my future, and confirmed to me that I want to continue down this career path. Personally, leaving the U.S. was a life-changing experience for me. Traveling has always been a big desire of mine, but there were many roadblocks along the way that the Iacocca International Internship Program allowed me to surpass. Experiencing Europe and Italy for the first time really opened my eyes that there's a whole world out there of amazing cultures and ways of living that I am missing out on in America. This only makes me want to go out more and experience different places and people. Whether it was visiting amazing cities like Milan, having daily talks with coworkers over caffè, or going to my favorite local pizza place, I will miss it all. The places I visited, the experiences I had, and the friendships I made will last a lifetime.

Katie Atherton

France

P.C. College of
Engineering

Chemical
Engineering

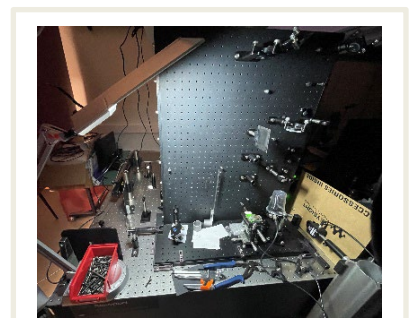


Laboratoire Ondes
et Matière
d'Aquitaine
Materials Science
Intern

Company and Position Description: LOMA is a materials science, physics, and chemistry lab located on one of the University of Bordeaux's campuses. My supervisor and colleagues were part of the broader "soft matter and biophysics" team of the lab. My particular project was opto-rheology, testing materials to find their viscosity and elasticity. I would pipette a small amount of gel onto the testing platform, shine a laser on the sample, and collect the signals on an oscilloscope. The laser would create a small deformation on the sample, which would then be reflected on the signal. The time scale and magnitude of this deformation could then be used to find the viscosity, elasticity, and surface tension of the sample. I performed this experiment on gels of varying composition and with different laser powers and then analyzed the data to compare the differing properties of the gels. Since this internship was established in collaboration with the Pashuck lab back at Lehigh, a major responsibility was also coordinating plans between the Bordeaux and Lehigh labs. As problems arose, I had to make sure both labs were fully aware of the situation and agreed on how to proceed.



*Interns after their
final presentation*



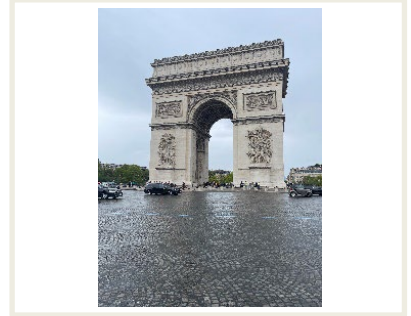
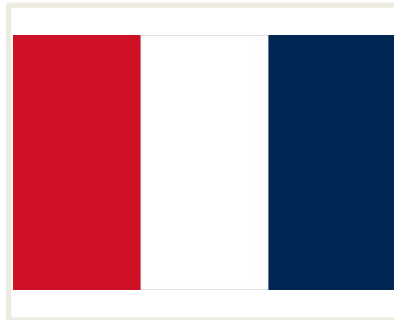
My experimental setup

Katie Atherton

France



*Interns at dinner
in Biarritz*



*Arc de Triomphe
in Paris*

Value Derived from the Experience: This internship provided me with an invaluable opportunity. It taught me so much about collaboration in the scientific community. It also gave me experience in a very interesting field. Opto-rheology is relatively new, but it is very promising for soft materials and confined, complex samples. I'm interested in biomaterials, so I enjoyed learning about a new rheological method that could be the solution to some current issues. Additionally, I gained valuable problem-solving experience. Some of the materials I needed for my project were damaged, so we had to think about how my project should proceed. At the end of the internship, we all had to give a presentation on our work. I had never given a talk on my research before, so this was a great learning experience and has made me much more confident with public speaking. This program also provided me with a great personal opportunity for growth. I would have never gone abroad if not for this internship. Living and working in a different country has definitely expanded my worldview and has taught me how to appreciate and adapt to different cultures.

Renaë Austin

Chile

College of Arts
& Sciences

Biology



Good Neighbors
Chile
Marketing and
Communications
Intern

Company and Position Description: With the help of the Iacocca International Internship Program, I had the opportunity to work and study abroad in Santiago, Chile. At first, I was connected to IES Abroad which is an international program that works in providing host homes, host organizations, and classes to students who are planning on studying abroad. This program allowed me to work with an organization that would not only help develop my experience for my future career but which I could also contribute previously acquired knowledge to the best of my ability in order to positively impact the organization's mission. The organization that I was matched with is named Good Neighbors Chile. This organization is a non-profit organization that works to provide free access to school materials, education on children's rights, and education on proper first aid care. My role at the organization was to work as a marketing and communications intern. In this role, I used my previous research skills to acquire accurate information that can be presented as infographics on various social media platforms and also composed a 10-page professional document for my supervisor that had various affordable activities that promote education on children's right to health.



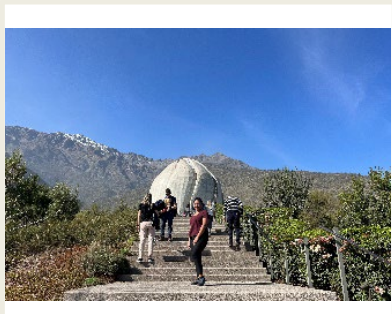
Workspace at the office



Organization's workshops

Renaë Austin

Chile



Baha'i temple



Valparaiso

Value Derived from the Experience: Working in a foreign environment comes with various adjustments such as adapting to the language barrier, maneuvering different technology, and producing at a different pace. After interning abroad, I've come to realize that Americans can move very quickly through work and don't tend to develop personal connections in the workspace. In Chile, people tend to have lengthy deadlines but with the amount of time given they are expected to submit work that is no less than perfect. Also, developing personal connections was new to me but it is said to build trust in the workspace and strengthen the foundation in future business deals. These adjustments took me time to adapt to, therefore it required patience, empathy, and understanding. Being patient as well as empathetic allowed me to understand these cultural norms and become a valuable intern at the organization. Furthermore, working with different technologies introduced me to new presentation techniques such as using Canva. It is an online website that can be used to further enhance my PowerPoint or any other presentation that is necessary.

All in all, I was able to learn new aspects about myself, new online marketing techniques, and more information about the culture of my host country throughout this experience. The Iacocca International Internship Program allowed me to not only learn these things but also value them deeply by reflecting weekly.

Brianna Banful

Armenia

College of Arts
& Sciences

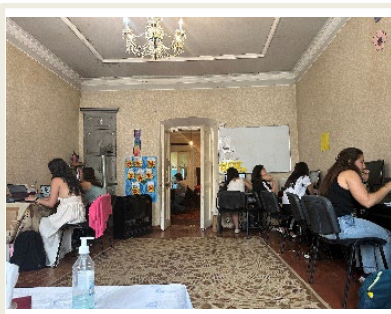
Journalism



Nor Luyce

Content Writing
Intern

Company and Position Description: Nor Luyce is an organization co-founded by Shogher Mikaelyan, a former Fulbright Scholar and Lehigh alum. The organization is dedicated to empowering young girls and providing them with opportunities for education and personal development. As a content writing intern, my main tasks revolved around creating engaging and impactful content. Throughout my internship, I worked on content creation, copywriting and editing, and content strategy and planning. In addition to this, my tasks also included bridging the gap between English and the Armenian language. To further elaborate, I was often tasked with translating content from Armenian to English so that the content would be able to reach a wider audience. While doing this, I was able to help expand the company through content.



My office workspace



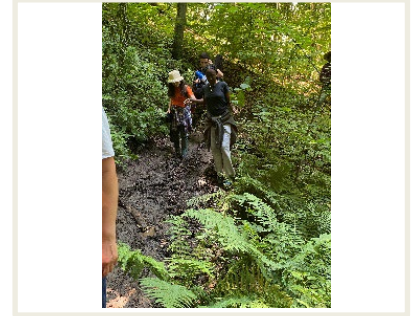
Coffee break

Brianna Banful

Armenia



Khndzoresk Bridge



Hiking

Value Derived from the Experience: I am very thrilled that I was able to participate in the Iacocca International Internship Program this summer. While working at Nor Luyce, I was able to gain a plethora of professional skills. One of them was problem-solving. Due to the language barrier, it was sometimes difficult to completely understand what was asked of me. However, I was able to use this as a learning opportunity and try my best to communicate in ways that my co-workers would understand. Whether it was by using Google Translate or finding somebody to translate, I always made sure to overcome these challenges so that I could complete my tasks to the best of my ability. In addition to professional skills, I was also able to gain personal skills as well. Traveling to Armenia alone granted me the opportunity to truly learn how to be independent. I feel as though this experience not only made me mature some more but also allowed me to fully immerse myself in Armenian culture. From this, I was able to get a different perspective on life and learn so much about Armenian culture.

Catherine Bigenho

Uganda

College of Health

PDI

Community and
Global Health



Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: PDI is an organization dedicated to providing education to children ages 3-5 in the Bududa district. In a country where government-funded education doesn't begin until age 6, early education is crucial for the development of children. A key component to success in Uganda is proficiency in English and delaying the development of language skills until age 6 puts students at a great disadvantage. PDI addresses this by focusing on English language development alongside daily lessons in reading, writing, and math. Beyond academics, PDI runs a soccer program for youth ages 5 to 25 – with the district's first-ever female team. This program began as a way to prevent alcoholism in youth by providing safe and healthy alternate activities that empower students. As an intern at PDI, my primary role was to help students refine their English skills, teach various lessons, and assist with making lesson plans for the next day. Additionally, I contributed to establishing a sustainable hygiene program with fellow interns to implement a handwashing station and initiate a toothbrushing program. Due to the cost of toothpaste and toothbrushes, many children in Bududa don't brush their teeth, but by providing each student with their own toothbrush, the children now brush their teeth every morning at school to ensure dental hygiene. Lastly, I worked in the PDI office with administrative tasks, including grant proposal writing and conducting assessments on former PDI students to evaluate potential weaknesses where PDI can improve. This ensures that PDI continually evolves and enhances its programs.



*Coursework with
the students*



*Student hygiene
program*

Catherine Bigenho

Uganda



Waterfall on our hike



The streets of Bududa

Value Derived from the Experience: The main source of value I received from the Iacocca International Internship Program was cultural awareness and perspective on the world. Deliberately selecting a location with a very different culture from my own was challenging, but I knew it would lead to significant personal growth which proved to be true. Knowing of impoverished communities is one thing, but truly recognizing privilege requires immersing oneself in developing nations for a significant period of time. I will never again take for granted amenities like a washing machine, constant access to fresh drinking water, reliable power, internet, or having more than one pair of shoes. People in America are so fixated on material items, but something I've learned over the past 2 months is that people are no less happy here despite the lack of resources. One of my favorite things I heard this entire trip was a quote from one of the workers at my homestay: "I am grateful for life because when you have life, you have everything." I gained so much in terms of professionalism these past two months, but experiencing beauty and gratefulness in simplicity is what I feel most lucky to have learned and what has permanently changed my outlook on life.

Sarah Campos

Jordan

College of Arts
& Sciences

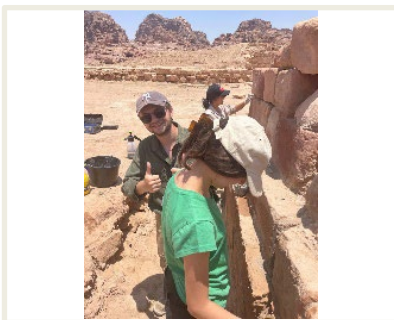
Psychology



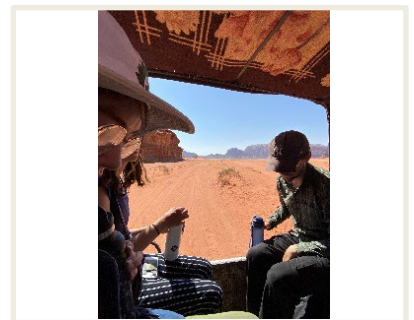
SELA

Youth
Empowerment
Intern

Company and Position Description: This summer I had the privilege of working with SELA for Vocational Training and Protection of Cultural Heritage, or SELA for short. This is a nonprofit organization in Jordan dedicated to reducing unemployment and creating interest in the conservation of the archeological site Petra. I was on the youth empowerment track meaning my main responsibilities were dedicated towards the youth of Petra. As an intern, my responsibilities as well as the other interns I was with, were to clean the walls of a Roman bathhouse near the Great Temple in Petra, repair a nearby wall with mortar conservation, brainstorm interview questions for a community mapping project SELA was starting, and conduct around 60 interviews in Petra, Wadi Musa, Bedha, Umm Sayhoun, Madaba, and Hesban. My responsibilities as a youth empowerment intern were to collaborate with the youth empowerment director, create an activity for children to feel more connected with Petra and gain interest in the site's conservation, and help carry out activities. For the activity, I put together two versions of a modified Mad Libs game for children from the ages of 7-14 that showcased how to do an excavation at Petra.



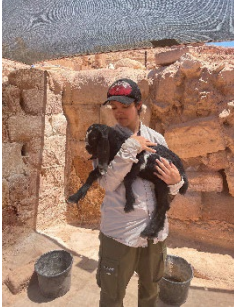
Mortar conservation



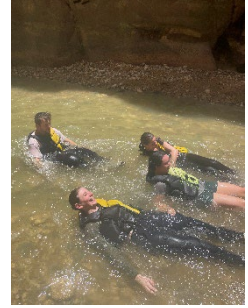
Traveling in Wadi Rum

Sarah Campos

Jordan



Baby goat Paul!



Water hike in Wadi Mujib

Value Derived from the Experience: The most important thing I have learned from the Iacocca International Internship Program is to cherish and take advantage of the experiences available to you. While in Jordan almost every single weekend was taken advantage of. The group I was with and I went to the Dead Sea, Aqaba, Umm el Jimal, Wadi Rum, and Amman. In all of these locations, I was so incredibly glad that I went and had the privilege of exploring more of Jordan. Another important thing to note is my resilience was tested as well as my adaptability. I came to Lehigh as a first-generation college student from across the country, so inevitably I had to adapt. However, while in Jordan I had to learn to change habits, have a strong shift in my routines, and all in all learn a different lifestyle. The shift was challenging to wrap my head around but towards the end, I felt confident with where I was at.

Randi Conroy

Uganda

College of
Business

Finance

PDI



Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: Pathways Development Initiative is an NGO located in Bubiita, Bududa in rural Uganda. PDI aims to mobilize its communities and encourage individuals to improve their livelihoods through education, sports, and financial planning. PDI had many ongoing projects to combat poverty, including an established sports program, a hygiene program, a preschool, an English and music program, and multiple financial planning and savings projects. During my time with PDI, I worked in the preschool to teach students English and help them with classwork. After school, I helped create lesson plans with the teachers. The other interns and I also implemented a hygiene program at the school, where we equipped each student with a toothbrush. Every day before class, we would assist with toothbrushing. Dental hygiene is very important to ensure no child becomes malnourished. I also worked in the office, assisting with grant writing, assessments of students in neighboring schools, Excel work, and other office tasks. My interns and I also developed a school lunch sponsorship program that will help combat hunger within schools around Bududa. We also participated in the sports clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I played football with the girls in the program. It was a great way to show support and empower youth to participate in the sports programs.



Daily class



Sports with the students

Randi Conroy

Uganda



Daily commute to work



Bududa soccer field

Value Derived from the Experience: The experiences and lessons learned in Uganda will carry on with me for the rest of my life. I cannot put a tangible value on this experience. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of an amazing program. My cultural competency has grown exponentially, considering I have never left the country before. I can now confidently say that I can travel anywhere comfortably. Becoming immersed in a different culture was the most rewarding thing I have done, and I am very grateful for Bududa and the people I met during my time here. The Prepare sessions definitely helped to equip me with the tools needed to embark on this journey. It was comforting to know my co-interns as I headed to a different country. I also enjoyed reading about other Iacocca Interns' experiences on the WordPress website. The support circle felt awesome. Working with PDI was an amazing experience, and I could not have done it without the help of the Iacocca International Internship Program!

Greg Dardaris

Czech Republic

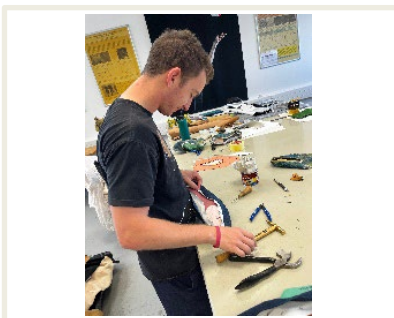
P.C. College of
Engineering

Mechanical
Engineering



Tomas Bata
University
Life Cycle
Assessment
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: We spent our first weeks reading research papers about the past and future of battery technology, as well as the environmental impacts of producing batteries from cradle to grave, and the general process of how to conduct LCA to produce meaningful results. During this time, we got to join conferences where battery researchers and manufacturers discussed how they plan to make battery recycling more effective and reach targets for the percentage of cathode materials recovered. Then, we replicated a few studies that quantified the environmental impact of electric vehicle batteries with respect to retention rate, depth of discharge, and distance driven, and even found some discrepancies in published results. Lastly, we focused on analyzing the cost of batteries through their individual materials and showed how the current prices of some materials like Lithium have increased dramatically in only a year's time, while others, like Nickel, have stayed constant. This experience has shown me the difference between school work and research in the real world. Throughout college, we are normally given data, and learn how to manipulate it, but in this case, acquiring data was very difficult, whether it was intentionally obscured by manufacturers or not taken in the first place. We need trustworthy data in order to reach any meaningful results, so open access is essential. At the same time, we worked with Oldrich Voyta in the footwear research institute to learn how to make a pair of shoes starting from a plastic shoe last covered in tape and a drawn design, to panels of leather stitched together and joined to an outsole. It was interesting to see how much thought goes into every pair, and during our time we also visited an insole factory to see how shoe components are produced at a large scale.



*Hammering nails
of a petticoat*



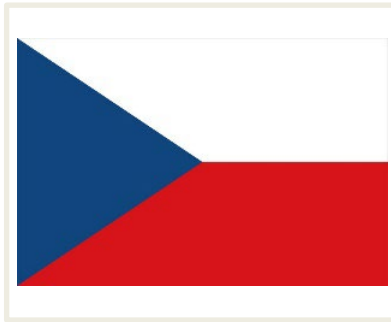
Beginning of a dress shoe

Greg Dardaris

Czech Republic



*Clocktower in
Kroměříž*



*Prague Castle across
the Vltava River*

Value Derived from the Experience: I am very grateful that I have been able to participate in the Iacocca International Internship Program; I feel more confident about how to communicate in a work setting, and more comfortable with starting conversations with people instead of waiting for them to make the first move. Having Prepare sessions and responsibilities throughout the year was helpful to me because I carved out time to think about my summer abroad which I might not have done otherwise. I left America feeling much more prepared than I would without the group's support, and the two things I kept in mind were to expect difficulties, and that I would get out of the experience what I put in. I felt that my expectations of life in Czechia were realistic instead of idealized, and when there were times of difficulty I could stay calm rather than frustrated because I trusted the people I was with. As for the second piece of advice, the path of least effort is always the easiest, but when you look back on things it is rarely the best. I was mindful of my energy, and while resting is important I never got too comfortable; whether it was asking more questions, biking to a new place, or eating different foods, I tried to do as much as I could during my two months in Zlin. One takeaway I had on the plane ride home is that there is no reason to stop living this way just because I am back home; there is always more to see.

Fenet Demissie

Singapore

Intercollegiate

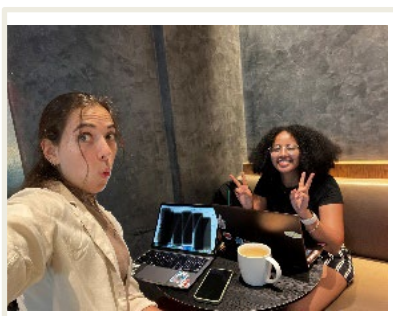
SUTD

IDEAS

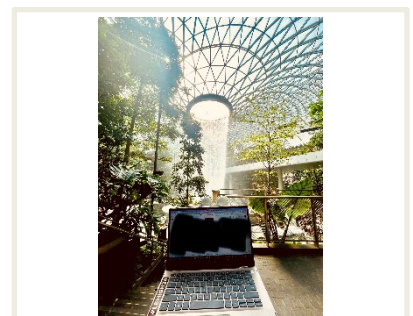


Research Intern

Company and Position Description: SUTD is a higher education institution with a huge focus on research, innovation, and design. At SUTD, I am a research intern through the iUROP (inbound undergraduate research opportunities program). I am involved in two iUROP projects this summer. One of them is using survey data to analyze the walkability of Southeast Asian cities. I analyze sociology surveys and identify questions that can be used to determine the walkability of cities, and I use SQL to extract information from the survey data and to build a dashboard that makes such data easily searchable and accessible for later research. I am also completing a secondary project and participating in a literature review that is focused on neural engineering and neural assistive devices. I have read and discussed topics that were very new to me in neural assistive research. This project has allowed me to explore a research interest I hadn't explored before in a topic that was different within my field of study. I also got to present a collection of papers and facilitate discussions.



Working with other interns



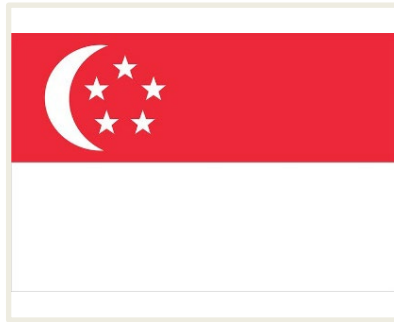
Changi Airport, Avengers fountain

Fenet Demissie

Singapore



*National
Botanical Garden*



*Marina Bay Sands
Garden*

Value Derived from the Experience: Travelling close to 10,000 miles from Lehigh, this summer has been challenging and gratifying in many ways that I did not expect. Navigating a new country, completing immigration formalities and responsibilities, and exploring Singapore have allowed me to taste (literally) new cultures and perspectives. Singapore is diverse in a way that is different from the US. It is clean and harmonious. However, through conversations with art curators and artists, I have also come to learn about its censorship and maintenance of the status quo. This has allowed me to value my voice and use it. Professionally, my internship project ended up changing after I arrived here. I had to seek out new projects, reach out to professors, and advocate for myself. With a delayed start to my internship, I had to hurry to catch up in the beginning. My new projects were also almost completely remote except for a few check-in meetings. I was challenged to seek spaces and communities to avoid isolating myself as I completed my remote work.

Anna Donovan

Austria

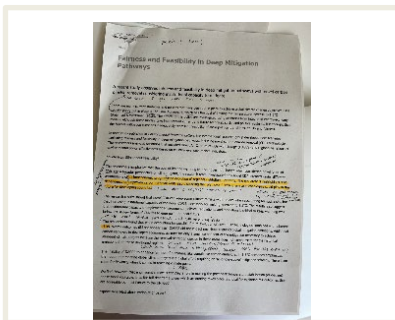
College of Arts &
Science

Behavioral
Neuroscience and
Cognitive Science



International
Institute of Applied
Systems Analysis
Climate and
Energy Research
Intern

Company and Position Description: IIASA is a well-known nonprofit institution that receives money from the EU and other organizations to conduct research that aims to mitigate climate change and improve sustainability internationally. IIASA works with other companies around the world in numerous research grants. It has about 400 staff filled with experts in their fields. The organization is divided into six research groups, and within these research groups, there are more specialized projects. I worked in the energy and climate change research group. My job was to support the senior scholars in their research. This looked different from day to day. The most common task I had was to create summaries of research projects and upload them to the website. I also spent a portion of my internship creating a website for a larger research project IIASA will be conducting starting in August. On top of these, I did a lot of detailed tasks to help organize the company. For example, I created a GANT chart that organized all the different research projects going on in our division. This chart marked different milestones, costs, and companies involved.



*Research paper
summaries*



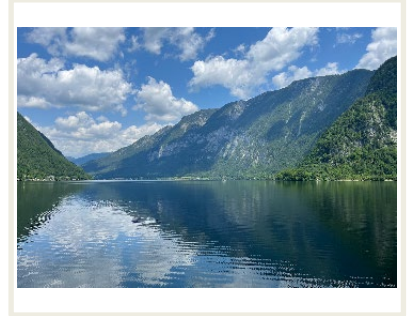
My office

Anna Donovan

Austria



*Hundertwasser
House*



Hallstatt, Austria

Value Derived from the Experience: After working at IIASA, I have greatly improved my scientific literature reading and writing. This is because I was able to read research proposals and summarize them so frequently that I became confident in reading this type of material. I also greatly improved my technological skills while working at IIASA. A majority of the tasks I was assigned were online and related to the company website in some way, whether it be posting an upcoming event or creating an entirely new website. These tasks made me feel comfortable playing around with website creation and editing, something that I had no previous experience. Lastly, I learned a lot about Excel when I created the GANT chart, and this is a skill that is required for a surplus of jobs. Because I had this lengthy task, I am much more comfortable using this software. Above all, working at IIASA and simply being in Austria for two months allowed me to grow in confidence and independence. Now that I know I am capable of navigating a new city, a new work setting, and thriving in both, I know I am capable of whatever I want as long as I stay positive, kind, and vulnerable in the process.

Tessa Dougan

Singapore

College of Arts
& Sciences
Environmental
Science and
Environmental
Studies

SUTD

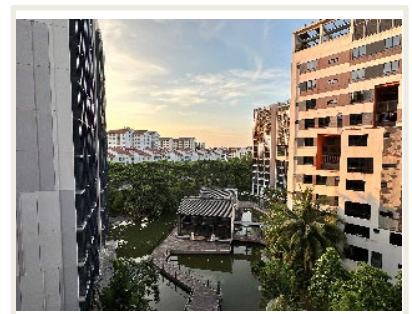


Research Intern

Company and Position Description: My internship location was the Singapore University of Technology and Design in Singapore where I performed research on the walkability of Southeast Asia. I did this by utilizing geographic information systems, in my case this was QGIS. I had to learn the program and work with data to create maps that could generate an objective walkability index using Python. In other words, I compiled data to create a number that could statistically tell people how walkable an area is. There was another aspect of the project that worked with subjective survey data, but we were not able to completely compare the data sets. My specific project focused on green spaces such as parks as an indicator of walkability in cities such as Jakarta. We were also interested in building density and population density as factors as well. Overall, the project taught me a lot about technology that I could use in my future career, and I really value this new knowledge. The school itself is very technology-focused and so I was introduced to coding, something I have never worked with before, and robotics. As an exchange student, the university was more concerned with us learning something rather than just producing results, as a result, I spent time exploring the campus and the city and did a lot of research on the topics of interest.



SUTD



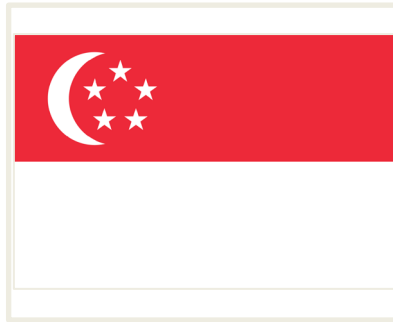
*The view from the
hostels at SUTD*

Tessa Dougan

Singapore



Thai street-style food



*International
Yoga Day*

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience has shown me a lot about myself and about the workforce outside of Lehigh. I have seen some of the things I want to do and am interested in, such as the research I was working with, as it aligns very well with my career aspirations, and I also saw things I did not want to do, such as strict independent work. I have learned that some environments don't serve me, and I do better when I am surrounded by others. I learned my limits, and I also learned to advocate for myself, there was a lot of uncertainty in my project, and I had to work for myself to get to a place where I felt like I was valuable and using my time well. Immersing myself in Singapore's culture showed me that there are so many different ways of working and interacting with others. I noted in my WordPress posts that people seemed to really respect other cultures there and didn't have to debate whether someone was worthy or not based on the color of their skin, religion, or where they came from. While I do live in two places that have a good mixture of cultures, Singapore offered a new mix of cultures I had not been exposed to. It shows how much more of the world there is to learn about and the different values that come with different kinds of people. This also showed me that everyone, EVERYWHERE, has to adapt to other people. No one is going to be exactly the same as you, so it is important to keep an open mind when you are working with others to help everyone feel comfortable and welcomed. I also learned that you really do get out of it what you put into it. Carol kept saying this all through our prep time, and it really is true. I could have sat in Singapore doing nothing and learning nothing, but I pushed myself to interact with the people and the culture and generate a whole new world for myself.

Cole Fahrney

Ireland

College of Arts
& Sciences



Irish Council for
International
Students

Global Studies

Intern

Company and Position Description: I interned with the Irish Council for International Students, or ICOS. They are an advocacy group for international students representing 26 institutions, including every university in the country. In addition to lobbying on behalf of students from other countries, they manage Ireland's Fellows Programme, providing educational opportunities and support to graduate students from 25+ countries in Africa, Asia, and the global South. ICOS only has 8 employees, and the summer is a common time for workers to take leave, so I was responsible for filling in the gaps while they were spread thin. This mainly consisted of updating the information on the ICOS and fellowship websites and the course directory for the incoming cohort of fellows as well as any other informational resources sent out to the fellows. I also did some graphic design for event invitations, including their Pride and end-of-year events. I attended these events to help set up and make sure they ran smoothly.



Team photo

IES
ABROAD



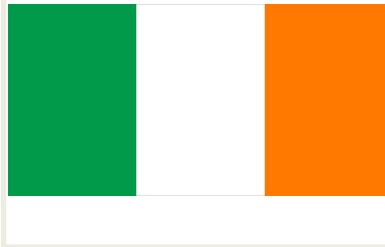
Dublin pride

Cole Fahrney

Ireland



*Marching at
Dublin Pride*



*Peace walls in
Belfast*

Value Derived from the Experience: My work with ICOS was extremely rewarding. Meeting students from across the globe expanded my worldview and brought me a better understanding of Ireland's (and America's) role in a global society. It also brought me more clarity of purpose. I knew that I liked global studies, but I didn't know what kind of work I wanted to do with my degree. Now I know how fulfilling nonprofit work can be, and would like to do more of it in the future. My opportunity to march in Dublin Pride was the highlight of my time in Ireland. It helped me feel like part of something bigger by exposing me to the international LGBT community. I found immense joy in the celebration of shared experiences across cultures. I also found community in the other students there through IES, forming connections I hope will last me a lifetime.

Tess Furnari

Jordan

College of Arts
& Sciences
Anthropology and
Environmental
Studies



SELA

Archaeology &
Community Intern

Company and Position Description: SELA aims to combat the long-standing history of colonization in archaeology by involving the host community in the conservation and preservation of heritage. SELA places control and power back into the community's hands when it has historically been foreign "experts" leading excavations with little respect or care for those living there. For the first two weeks of our internship, we worked in Petra learning conservation techniques, such as wet/dry cleaning and mortar repair, in a Roman-Byzantine Bathhouse. This was the same training done by any other intern or employee of the company and gave us the opportunity to have hands-on archaeological experience on-site. Conservation training was only a minor part of our internship, however, as for the majority of our time with SELA, we did the groundwork for a five-year project in community mapping. Maps have traditionally been systems of power, made by those in control and declaring the importance of certain places over others. Community mapping takes the input of the local community to learn important local places and traditions, aiming to preserve the heritage and leading to an outcome that will benefit the host community, whether a traditional map or not. During our time in Jordan, we conducted ethnographic research in two separate locations, Hesban and Petra, and in total conducted over sixty interviews not just about place, but tradition, history, and preservation as well. With the compilation of this information, we were able to inform SELA of what we saw to be important and possible pathways for the company to move forward as they embark on this longer project.



*First day of
mortar repair.*



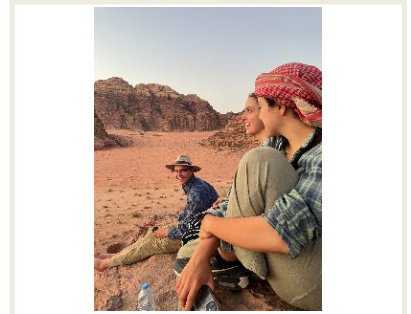
Umm al-Jimal

Tess Furnari

Jordan



*Riding camels in
Wadi Rum*



*The interns in
Wadi Rum*

Value Derived from the Experience: Working in Jordan was unlike any other experience I have had and I learned so much, both professionally and personally. Working with the local community, I found a passion for ethnography and community archaeology. I have spent my academic career learning about other cultures and in Jordan I finally had the opportunity to experience another culture head-on. While I was not considering it before, I have begun thinking about possibly continuing in academia. I grew better at communicating with others through the interviews and gained a thirst for knowledge, two things I look forward to bringing to the upcoming academic year and beyond. On a personal level, I am so grateful for all of the amazing opportunities I had while in Jordan. We got to see so many amazing things, whether it was the Red Sea, Ajloun Castle, Wadi Rum, or even just views of the landscape. Sometimes I think about how I had the opportunity to become familiar with Petra, a Wonder of the World, and I am in awe. I learned all about these amazing people and places and in turn, learned about myself. I gained new values that I am bringing back to the United States, such as a desire to be more welcoming or a newfound love for the desert. I am so grateful for the Iacocca International Internship Program and my time in Jordan. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had, and Jordan will always have a special place in my heart.

Isabela Giraldo

Uganda

College of Arts
& Sciences
Healthy, Medicine,
& Society and
Economics



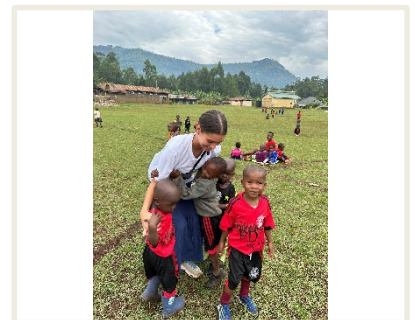
PDI

Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: During my time at PDI, I alternated between teaching at the school and working in the administrative office. At the school, we implemented health and hygiene initiatives, such as the successful Toothbrushing Program. In the office, I mainly assisted with the Community Youth Assessment Program, which involved designing a questionnaire to account for cultural and language barriers and routinely conducting assessments in over five schools within the area to identify the needs and challenges faced by youth. A pivotal moment during my internship occurred when I noticed a concerning and unfortunate trend among children in the community who could not afford lunch at school and were going hungry throughout the day, most likely at home as well. Having witnessed firsthand the struggles arising from food insecurity in our community, I felt deeply moved to take action. In an attempt to address this issue, I took the initiative and created a dedicated website to facilitate sponsorship for kids in the PDI program, directly paying for their school lunch fees. To ensure the effectiveness of the website and its cultural appropriateness, I collaborated closely with my team at PDI and engaged with local community members. My time at PDI was truly transformative, allowing me to make a positive impact on the community and bring about meaningful change in the lives of these children. Moreover, the warm and welcoming community of Bududa, along with the rich Ugandan culture, left a lasting impact on me, one that I will cherish forever.



Working with students



Helping the students with sports

Isabela Giraldo

Uganda



After a hike



Group intern photo

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an incredibly transformative and enriching experience, leaving an indelible mark on both my personal and professional growth. The program's emphasis on cultural immersion has broadened my horizons and deepened my appreciation for diversity and global perspectives. One of the most significant benefits I derived from the program is a heightened cultural awareness and competency. Working in an international setting and interacting with colleagues from different backgrounds taught me the importance of embracing diversity and cultivating inclusive environments. I especially appreciated the privilege of working and living in the impoverished rural area of Bududa which allowed me to forge genuine connections and witness first-hand the daily struggles faced by the community. Unlike any other internship back home, this unique experience reinforced in me the values of open-mindedness and empathy, fostering a genuine desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Engaging in meaningful projects with global impact honed my problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. Assuming leadership roles taught me to take initiative, navigate challenges, and drive projects effectively. The unparalleled work experience also instilled in me adaptability and resilience, enabling me to thrive in dynamic work environments. Overall, the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an invaluable experience, shaping me into a well-rounded individual with enhanced cultural awareness, versatile skills, and a heightened sense of empathy and leadership. I am confident that these newfound attributes will propel me toward a successful and impactful future, both personally and professionally.

Dina Gofman

France

Intercollegiate

Lab of the Future

IDEAS

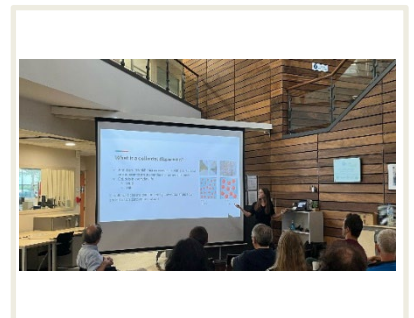


Material Science
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: The lab that I interned at was called LOF, or Lab of the Future. LOF was owned by the company Solvay, and hosted researchers from the University of Bordeaux, as well as from CNRS. Most of the research done at LOF was focused on soft matter and microfluidics. The goal of my internship was to continue the research of a recent Ph.D. student that had graduated from Lehigh. At LOF, I worked at a microfluidics lab investigating the drying of binary colloidal dispersions and trying to observe diffusiophoresis. A colloidal dispersion is when small insoluble particles are suspended in a fluid. During my time at this lab, I made solutions of different concentrations of particles, placed a drop of these solutions under a microscope, and took a timelapse of it drying. With the help of my postdoctoral mentor, I tracked the movement of these particles as the drop dried. I also used ImageJ to analyze my results. The data collected from my experiments allowed us to characterize the substance and provided us with information useful to the paint and coating industries.



Making a new sample.



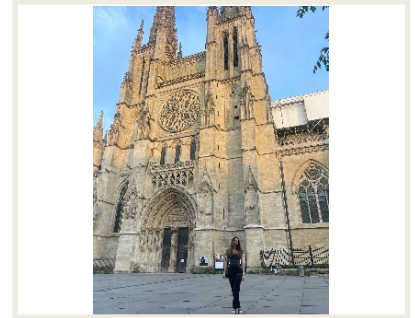
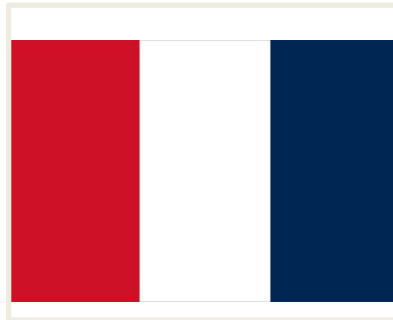
Presenting my research

Dina Gofman

France



Eiffel Tower



St. Andrew's Cathedral

Value Derived from the Experience: This program provided me with a travel experience that had a perfect balance between work and exploration. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have a fully funded trip to France, to get professional research experience, and to fully immerse myself in the Bordeaux culture. I have always dreamed about living in Europe, and this summer, I truly felt like a Bordeaux resident. I learned how to slow down and appreciate my surroundings, rather than always rushing to the next activity. I also got comfortable with being uncomfortable, which I believe to be a crucial life skill. In many situations, I had to communicate with people who did not speak English. At first, I was embarrassed to pull out Google Translate or try to speak the little French I knew. However, I realized that in those situations, all that matters is that you show the person that you are trying your best and that there is no reason to be embarrassed. During my time in France, I also learned how to travel alone and be comfortable with being by myself. I found that venturing into the city alone was always exciting.

I really enjoyed reading about other interns' experiences through the IIP WordPress. It was great to be connected to everyone, even if all of us were in different parts of the world. I am extremely grateful for everything the Iacocca International Internship Program has given me and it truly was an experience that I will never forget.

Noah Griffin

Chile

College of
Business

Finance



Watgen

Business and
Marketing Intern

Company and Position Description: Watgen is a startup solar company based in Santiago working to bring Chile closer to 100% sustainable energy. One solution Watgen is selling is an innovative solar panel device to compete with diesel generators in the construction, mining, emergency response, and off-grid housing industries. At Watgen I was a Business and Marketing intern and my primary responsibilities were finding ways Watgen can grow as a company and market their solar solutions to these target industries. I had another intern from the United States that I worked with to achieve these goals. Despite this being my role, my responsibilities were extremely dynamic due to Watgen being a small company with only 3 employees and 6 interns. For example, I did an interview with an Electric Power Systems expert and looked for inexpensive solar providers in Chile to create inexpensive solar solutions for local flood victims. Each day presented a new challenge as responsibilities were constantly changing. This led to learning how to be adaptive and flexible in my thinking.



Universidad de Chile

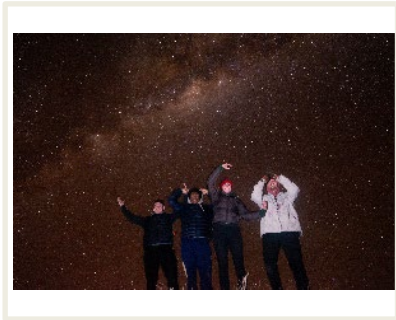
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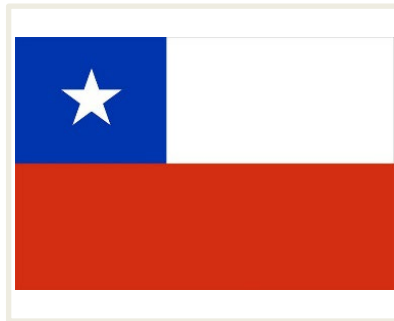
Visiting the prototype

Noah Griffin

Chile



Atacama Desert



Valparaiso, Chile

Value Derived from the Experience: By participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program I was able to have a meaningful global experience. Instead of being a tourist disconnected from local culture I was immersed and given the opportunity to experience the Chilean lifestyle. Initially, I didn't believe I would be able to experience Chile authentically because I would be treated like a random tourist from the States. This could not be farther from the truth. I engaged with Chileans of all ages, sat at tables with them, experienced the city with them, and received crucial support when I really needed it. Of course, diving straight into Chilean culture was overwhelming at times but the perspective I have gained in how I view the world has completely shifted. For me, the world has become something real instead of something I only really imagined. My curiosity has been ablaze and at the same time my respect for each country's sovereignty has increased. In every country, there are simply people living the best they can just like in the United States. I used to say that in theory, but now I know by experience.

Nicole Guglielmi

Jordan

College of Arts
& Sciences

History



SELA

Archaeology &
Community Intern

Company and Position Description: SELA's mission is to involve local community members in preservation projects, resisting previous models in which foreigners have taken the lead on these projects. Another of SELA's primary goals is to prioritize the conservation of Jordanian heritage sites. Oftentimes, excavation is carried out without first establishing plans to conserve, leaving newly excavated sites vulnerable to environmental degradation and other forms of damage. In accordance with SELA's organizational mission, we underwent conservation training prior to any on-site work. This training allowed us to later be able to distinguish between different forms of detachments, cracks, deformations, etc. Understanding the physical nature of deformations, for example, ensured we avoided these fragile areas during our cleaning so as not to harm the rock. We conducted a wet and dry cleaning of the Roman-Byzantine Bath Complex with the aim of desalination and aesthetic improvement. We also took part in lime mortar repair to ensure structural integrity. A majority of our internship though was spent conducting community mapping interviews. Community mapping is a non-traditional ethnographic methodology that involves community members' input throughout the process. We led 50+ interviews, both in the greater Petra and Madaba areas. These interviews included questions regarding participants' favorite traditions, as well as places of significance and desired preservation. Our aim for these interviews was to reach a more comprehensive understanding of Jordanians' experience of place.



Lime mortar repair



*Petra Archaeological
Park*

Nicole Guglielmi

Jordan



Amman Citadel



*2000-year-old
staircase*

Value Derived from the Experience: The IIP provided me the opportunity to experience Jordan in a way I would have never otherwise. I was able to enjoy homemade stuffed grape leaves (my new favorite) and learn to Dabke from a family I didn't know an hour prior. As a result of our interviews, we had the pleasure of experiencing Jordanian hospitality a dozen times over, as well as building really meaningful relationships with a few families. This alone has me set on returning to Jordan, whether that be in five or fifteen years. Furthermore, my internship allowed me to gain ethnographic experience, as well as a very different perspective on interviewing. While I have conducted dozens of interviews as a journalist, doing so ethnographically and often with the help of a translator was very new to me. This not only taught me a new range of interviewing and research skills but also motivated me to start learning Arabic beyond my time in Jordan. I've also been able to experience so many beautiful things: I saw my first shooting star, sled down a sand dune, walked through the towering canyons of the Siq to see the wonder that is the Treasury, floated in the Dead Sea, and even snorkeled for the first time (in the Red Sea!). Not only this but because of our program leader Dr. Mickel, I was able to experience the authentic form of travel that so many of our interviewees shared too many tourists miss out on. We supported local shops and places to stay, rather than multinational hotels and stores. Without the IIP, I'm not sure I would have gotten this experience which I am so grateful for and that I know I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Sammy Haggert

Czech Republic

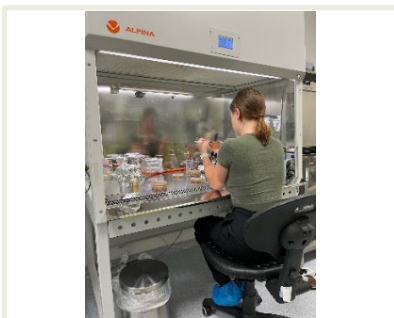
P.C. College of
Engineering

Chemical
Engineering

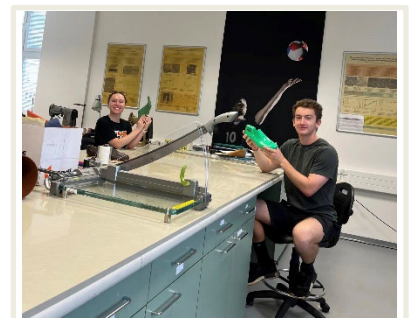


Tomas Bata
University
Biomaterials and
Footwear Design
Intern

Company and Position Description: I was assigned to work on two projects. The first was in a biomaterials lab where I was taught the process of growing bacterial cellulose by 2 Ph.D. students. After synthesis, the bacterial cellulose was tested for antibacterial and scaffolding properties per each student's PhD project. The second project I worked on consisted of designing and crafting a pair of women's high heels led by my supervisor in the Footwear Research Institute. In this project, I was also taught the underlying technologies around footwear through visits to factories; one characterized by its development of midsoles (the part of the shoe that allows it to maintain its shape and provides comfort to walk), and the other defined by its up-and-coming 3D technologies around shoe production.



Preparing a subculture



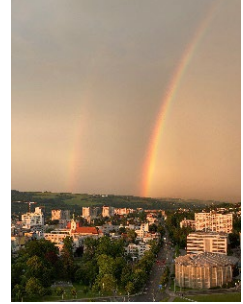
*Holding up our
shoe lasts*

Sammy Haggert

Czech Republic



Charles Bridge in Prague



A double rainbow over Zlin

Value Derived from the Experience: This past summer in Czechia was amazing. The entire experience allowed me to immerse myself in a culture and style of living I had limited knowledge of. Furthermore, I grew as a person by studying abroad through the Iacocca International Internship Program. Although I have always felt fairly independent, I can confidently say that I am more self-sufficient now than ever before. I was able to explore Czechia, as well as travel to neighboring countries all on my own. This internship placement has similarly expanded my vision for my future career. Before coming, I was pretty set on not pursuing further education after my undergraduate degree. Now, however, I am extremely interested in obtaining a Master's degree at an abroad institution. Seeing the Ph.D. students' drive and passion for their research inspired me in ways I can't describe. Although I don't know if I will truly end up getting my Master's, the value I received from the IIP was crucial and an experience I will never forget.

Kareem Hargrove

Italy

College of Health

Net4Market

Population
Health



Market Launch
Intern

Company and Position Description: Net4Market is an e-procurement platform that allows users to manage a list of suppliers' telematics, activate procedures or telematic tenders, and reduce costs and time of supplying. The e-procurement software provided by Net4Market is flexible and customizable in relation to each business reality, seamlessly integrating with other existing information systems. In the healthcare sector, Net4Market supplies services to six major providers in Italy.



Colleagues and their dogs



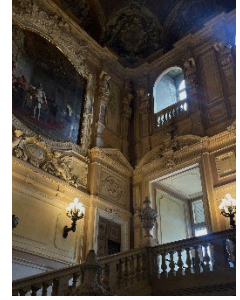
*Exhibition hosted
at Net4Market*

Kareem Hargrove

Italy



Biking by the river



The Grand Palace of Torino

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an invaluable experience that has enriched both my personal and professional growth. As a Market Launch Intern, I was assigned to the HR department at Net4Market, where my responsibilities revolved around increasing the company's market share and developing strategies for talent acquisition and retention in alignment with the organization's goals. One of the significant values I derived from this internship was the opportunity for extensive professional development. Working alongside seasoned professionals and collaborating with colleagues from various backgrounds and disciplines provided me with unique insights and perspectives. Participating in multidisciplinary teams on group projects taught me the importance of effective teamwork and problem-solving, which may prove to be essential skills for my future career. Moreover, the program fostered the development of an extensive network, both domestically and internationally. I had the chance to interact with fellow interns from different years, majors, and locations across the country, creating lasting friendships that continue to benefit my personal and professional life. Additionally, working with colleagues at Net4Market's Italian office allowed me to understand and appreciate the nuances of work culture in different countries. The cultural exchange aspect of the internship was another enriching experience. Engaging in philosophical conversations about politics, society, and the purpose of life with colleagues from diverse backgrounds broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of global perspectives. Furthermore, living and working in a different country taught me to be adaptable and open-minded, finding a new sense of self while prioritizing the value of experiencing new ways of living. Overall, the Iacocca International Internship Program has been transformative in shaping my career aspirations and personal growth. The exposure to real-world business challenges, combined with the cultural exchange and professional networking opportunities, has made me more confident in pursuing research-based work and methodologies. I am grateful for this exceptional experience, as it has prepared me to thrive in a globalized and interconnected world while fostering a passion for continuous learning and personal development.

Charlotte Imperatore

Chile

College of Arts
& Science

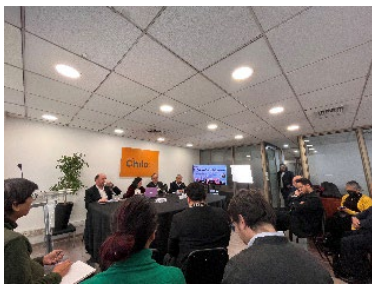
Chile21

Global Studies
and Spanish



Research Assistant

Company and Position Description: This summer I lived and interned in Santiago, Chile at Chile21, a non-profit progressive think-tank. In the first four weeks of my internship, my coworker and I created a comprehensive presentation and a report in Spanish on 8 different non-profits and NGOs in both Chile and Europe that we believe Chile21 would benefit the most from. We found organizations that aligned with Chile21's values and purpose and researched their finances to make a realistic and sustainable partnership. Then, with feedback from the director and a new direction, we began grant-writing for the U.S. Embassy. Working in conjunction with them unveiled a plethora of opportunities and funding for Chile21. In the next year, Chile21 will apply to two grant programs offered by the U.S. Embassy. In the last two weeks of this internship, I will be utilizing my comparative research on policy in the United States and Chile to create a podcast in Spanish for Chile21. The purpose of the podcast is to compare and contrast the United States and Chile using our completed comparative research. Some topics include immigration policy and national sentiments, the education system, the healthcare system, and a decentralized country.



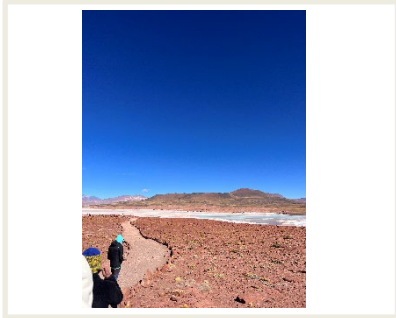
Chile21 conference



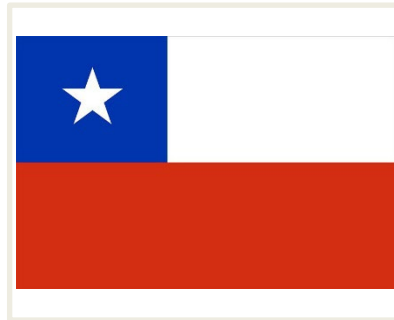
Coworkers

Charlotte Imperatore

Chile



San Pedro de Atacama



Salar de Atacama

Value Derived from the Experience: I will forever be grateful to the Iacocca International Internship Program for my experience in Chile. Receiving the opportunity to live and work fully funded in such a welcoming, fascinating, and evolving country and immerse myself in the Spanish language is something I could never have imagined for myself. The past 7 weeks have felt very surreal, and as I finish up my last week, I am reflecting on the immense value that I have been privileged with here in Santiago. In my internship, I have learned that a workplace functions more effectively when coworkers get to know each other on a personal level when they show that they care about what is going on in their real lives. I was blessed with a work environment of constant conversation – even when they had to be patient with my Spanish – that made me look forward to contributing to the company. Furthermore, my Spanish improved the most when my boss, the secretary, the cleaning woman, and other interns and I would sit at lunch together for two hours every day to discuss our projects and major issues happening in Chile and the United States. There was space for me to have a voice for my opinions and for my Spanish. I will also be leaving Santiago with five new astute, adventurous, and curious friends that I may never have met without this opportunity. Throughout my time here, we have taken advantage of every weekend to travel to a new region of Chile and challenge ourselves every day. The people I have met here are open to feeling uncomfortable in a new culture and adapting to it, even when it was easier to stay comfortable in what we knew from the United States. There was constantly a supportive and encouraging environment, which I will remember forever. I also owe the Iacocca International Internship Program so much gratitude for showing me a place like Chile that I now have the resources and network to return to in the future if I choose to. Having the option to continue my work here is an opportunity that I hope to take advantage of. Thank you Iacocca and thank you Chile!

Devon King

Ireland

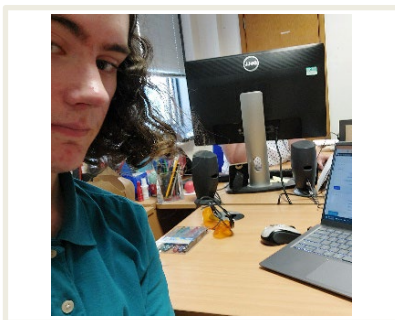
Intercollegiate

Marketing and
Psychology

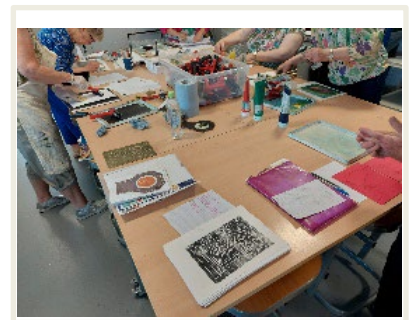


Dublin City
University's
Outreach and
Social Media
Coordinator

Company and Position Description: Our office was focused on creating spaces for learners older than the typical college age, especially old age pensioners. We create specially designed courses to help teach these students information that might be particularly interesting or relevant or that may not have been available the first time through the education system in addition to other programs designed to help enable students creatively, socially, or both. My responsibilities included contacting external organizations to schedule events or reserve spaces and managing our social media presence to advertise our programs and celebrate our students. As it was a small office and I had some technical expertise, I also aided in the creation and interpretation of some of our research materials, which served to better demonstrate the need for and value of services like what we provided to governments and other universities.



At my desk



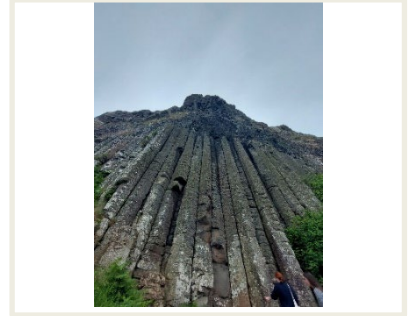
Building Stories students

Devon King

Ireland



Howth coast



*Granite pillars of
Giant's Causeway*

Value Derived from the Experience: I have a difficult time putting how valuable this experience really was, even to myself. There were so many things, all very small, such that I felt everything was different but pointing out what was different is still very difficult. Some things are simple though: I can say that my empathy is much better now than before I went; I didn't fit in with Irish culture and many of the interactions I had were very tiring and grating, and learning to overcome and adapt to that, to leave behind my way of doing things to adopt a method I dislike, became like second-nature by the end of my experience. I am also much more prepared career-wise, now with concrete experiences of what I like and what I don't about the field I am aiming for, experiences that will help me craft my work going forward. However, what feels like the most significant changes to me, the most significant lessons learned, are still so subtle that even the time I've had back with my home culture has been unable to show the contours of my new person. I will cherish this experience for years to come, most assuredly.

Nana Kyekyeku

Chile

College of Arts
& Sciences

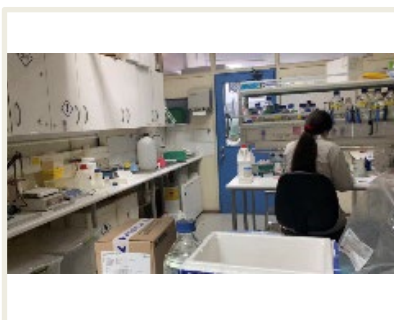


Pontificia
Universidad
Católica de Chile

Biochemistry

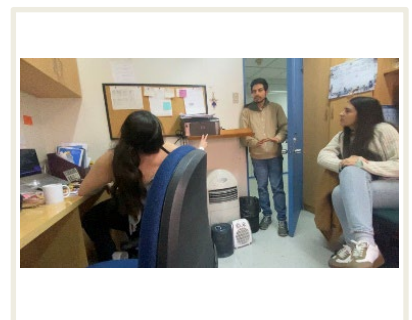
Researcher

Company and Position Description: The first 2 weeks there I was just learning basic techniques you would need for a biology lab. Although I am a biochemistry major, most of my studies have been chemistry-based so I needed to learn how to do techniques like western blots or electrophoresis. After learning the techniques I was able to work on the main focus of our cancer research which was vasculogenic mimicry. This is a phenomenon where cancer cells gain the ability to organize themselves into tubular structures that can attach to normal blood vessels and obtain nutrients and oxygen. While my lab professor was really nice and helpful I worked mainly with the grad and undergrad students. There wasn't much of a language barrier because I was encouraged to talk in English and they were encouraged to practice their English with me because unfortunately a lot of scientific papers are written in English and the professor wanted his students to get better at English. We had lab meetings every Tuesday to present the experiments we were working on during the week. By the end of internship, I was able to experiment by myself and give insight on experiments during our lab meetings.



In the lab

IES
ABROAD



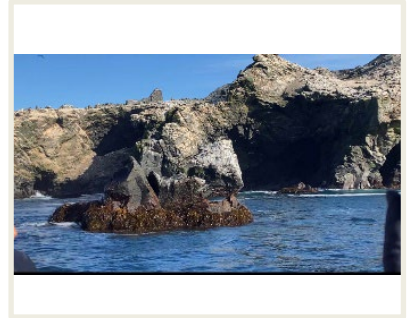
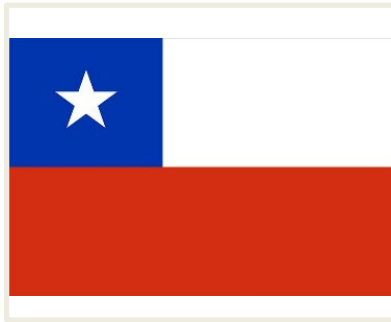
With my coworkers

Nana Kyekyeku

Chile



Isla Choros with friends



La Higuera

Value Derived from the Experience: One of the best things about the Iacocca International Internship program was that I got to know the people that were going on the same internship as me. There were a lot of university students that were from the same university in IES Santiago but they didn't know each other. I think it was only the Lehigh students that knew each other and it was a sense of comfort to know that I could always talk to them if I needed anything even though we had different job placings. Also knowing that everything wasn't going to be easy is really good to know. I think without the internship I would just go and expect everything to go well but being told beforehand that there will be times where I'm homesick, frustrated and confused made me feel prepared. The first week we were there I was really homesick but I knew that was a possibility so I wasn't so shocked by it and knew it would end eventually. The WordPress also allowed me to express myself and I didn't even think anyone but Carol was reading them but it was super nice and comforting when Charlotte read mine and asked me what's wrong.

Rachel Lischin

France

Intercollegiate

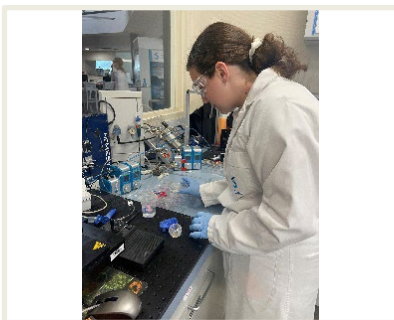
Lab of the Future

IDEAS

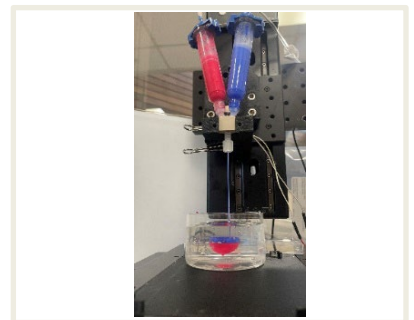


Materials Science
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: In my internship, I was assigned to a project with the goal of manufacturing patient-specific model kidneys using a 3D printing technique intended for soft materials. The purpose of these models is not to have transplantable kidneys, but rather life-like ones that can allow surgeons to practice as well as explain diagnoses and procedures to patients. My role in this project was to characterize the flow of and interaction between different fluids in the printing needle, which will later be important for switching inks mid-print. In characterizing the fluids, I imaged the flow under different conditions and used recordings to analyze the diffusion between them.



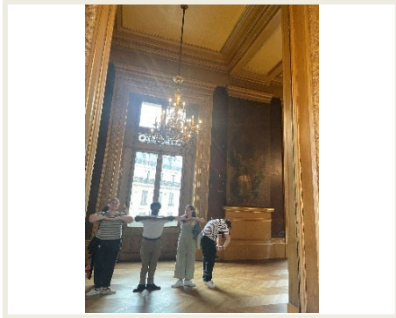
Working in the lab



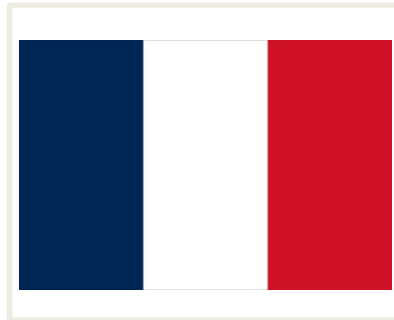
3D printing results

Rachel Lischin

France



*Spelling out IIRP in
Opera Garnier*



Biarritz, France

Value Derived from the Experience: The Iacocca International Internship Program has been such an amazing opportunity in many ways, but I think my favorite part about the program is that I did not have to choose between a summer internship and an exciting, travel-filled summer. It really was the best of both worlds, as I gained valuable research experience while getting to experience another culture. In terms of professional development, this was the first time I was able to work full-time in a lab setting, and it really helped me solidify and reinforce my goal of having a career in research and development. On the other hand, the cultural experience of living abroad for 8 weeks is one that I will remember and appreciate for the rest of my life. Traveling to a different country is one thing, but living there for 2 months feels like an entirely different experience. You really begin to see the similarities and differences in everyday life, and the way people see the world. With how exciting the experience was, I could definitely see myself forgetting the goals I had for the program, and having the assigned updates on WordPress was very helpful in giving me time to breathe and reflect. This program is really a dream come true for anyone who wants to make the most of their time off from school, and I am so thankful to have been given this opportunity.

Francesca Logozzo

Luxembourg

College of Arts
& Sciences

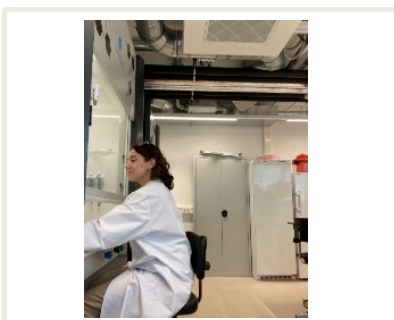
Biology



Luxembourg
Institute of Health

Laboratory Intern

Company and Position Description: The Luxembourg Institute of Health is an institute containing various research groups studying topics that can range from nutrition, cardiovascular health, diabetes, and cancer. The mission of this organization is to conduct patient-centered research that contributes to translating experimental results and analyses into optimized patient treatments. My work consisted of contributing to the NutriHealth research group, run by Dr. Torsten Bohn, a research group dedicated to learning about how people's nutrition impacts their health and what diets are best. I worked in the lab carrying out various tests on plasma and urine samples from participants who were given diets high in fiber for one week and then diets low in fiber for another week. Then we compared how their plasma and urine samples varied in oxidation and antioxidation levels depending on fiber content to see how this impacts the gut microbiota and chronic health. My first responsibility was to carry out a creatinine urine analysis, which measures the amount of creatinine excreted by the body. The amount of creatinine is proportional to an individual's muscle mass and is used to normalize data in assays through urine samples, which is why this was one of the many tests that were conducted. The second tests that I carried out were DNA/RNA oxidative damage ELISA tests, which detect the amount of oxidized guanine species in DNA or RNA. Oxidation that occurs as a result of aging or disease causes damage to DNA and RNA so the results from my tests showed how much damage diets high or low in fiber caused due to oxidation.



Working in the lab



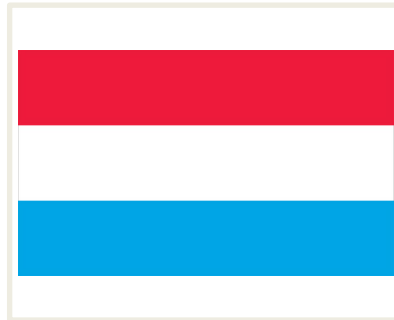
My lab station

Francesca Logozzo

Luxembourg



Sightseeing a castle



Enjoying a picnic

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience at LIH was extremely valuable to me as it gave me the opportunity to participate in soon-published research and allowed me to experience what it really means to earn a Ph.D. and conduct research as a career possibility. I got the chance to work in a large team and gained perspectives from many different minds, but at the same time, I also had the chance to be very independent in the lab. There were only 2 other people working in the lab carrying out their own experiments as I worked too, so I was on my own for a lot of the work and just asked questions as I went along. I think the most valuable thing I learned was how to be more confident and outspoken in my abilities. In my meetings with my boss, I was the one to suggest that I be given some responsibilities in the lab at the beginning of my internship, and by the 5th week, my coworkers had seen my abilities and skills and felt that they were able to trust me with more complicated tests and gave me experiments to carry out while they were away on holiday. It was nerve-racking at first to think about carrying out the work with no one there to turn to if I needed anything, but the fact that they trusted me with the work and gave me guidance before they left showed me they themselves believed in my abilities and valued my work.

Virginia McMahan

Luxembourg

College of Arts
& Sciences

Cognitive Sciences



Luxembourg
Institute of Health
Deep Digital
Phenotyping
Trainee

Company and Position Description: The Luxembourg Institute of Health is a leading research institution in Luxembourg, looking to improve patients' lives through biomedical research. The Deep Digital Phenotyping unit focuses on investigating vocal biomarkers for early detection of chronic diseases, using artificial intelligence to develop digital biomarkers, and researching type 1 diabetes. During my internship I have been tasked with designing and writing a systematic review. This review focuses on how closed-loop insulin delivery systems affect the diabetes distress of patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes. I performed this review under the supervision of Dr. Gloria Aguayo and Dr. Guy Fagherazzi. A systematic review is an involved process, starting with defining the scope of the review in the protocol and designing a search strategy with a science librarian. Every paper resulting from the search is then independently read by two reviewers. The process continues by extracting the data from the included studies and, if possible, performing a meta-analysis on the data.



Sprint session



Team retreat

Virginia McMahon

Luxembourg



Vianden castle



*Place de Metz,
Luxembourg*

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program might have been the most valuable decision I made during college. No other program could have offered me the support and opportunities that the Iacocca International Internship Program has. My trip being almost fully funded by Lehigh allowed me to do my best work in my organization without the stress of the financial burden on myself and my family. I have also been particularly fortunate to be placed in Luxembourg. I feel tremendous support from my supervisors and coworkers, support that I will be able to draw upon long after this internship has ended. The cultural diversity in this small country is not something I was expecting, I have been able to meet people from all over the world. Luxembourg is also uniquely situated between Belgium, France and Germany, allowing for easy travel between all three countries and their major cities. Not only have I grown comfortable with my ability to problem solve and adapt, but I have also developed confidence in my professional skills.

Alex Meyer

France

College of Arts
& Sciences

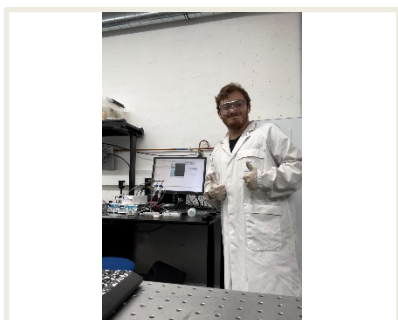
Biochemistry



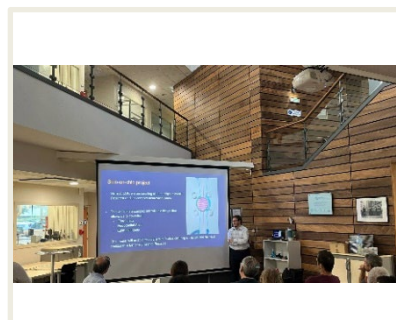
Lab of the Future

Materials Science
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: As a material science intern, I was assigned to a project called “The Characterization of a Skin-on-chip Model for Rosacea”. This project surrounded the development of a more physiologically-accurate model to represent the chronic skin disease, Rosacea. Allowing for more accurate research into the causes of the disease and potential treatments for the disease. As an intern, I was in charge of characterizing different properties of the microfluidic chip that could interfere with physiologically accurate cellular culturing. Notably, this task called for me to measure both the hydrophobicity and permeability of different porous membranes that had been treated with different chemical and physical agents. The second aspect of my internship involved developing and manufacturing a novel microfluidic chip design that would enable future researchers to test different culturing conditions. I designed this chip to allow researchers to test 8 different flow rates simultaneously, allowing for easier and quicker optimization of culturing conditions. This work overall, should play a small part in enabling future researchers to better design their Skin-on-chip models for rosacea and other diseases.



In the lab



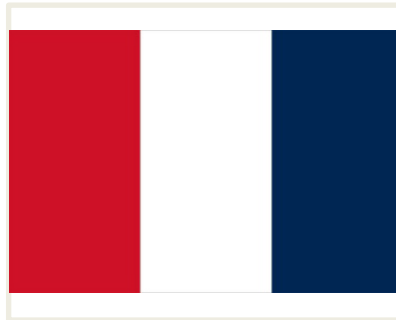
Final presentation

Alex Meyer

France



*Vineyards of
Saint-Emilion*



Peixotto park

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience has greatly impacted my life both professionally and personally, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

Professionally, I have planned on joining a Ph.D. program after graduation for a couple of years now. However, now that the time to apply is rapidly approaching I recently started having doubts and concerns about my future. The biggest fear I had was that I only enjoyed research because of my limited experience with academia-style research and would hate a more privatized research setting. During the internship, I kept asking current Ph.D. students and Post-doctoral researchers if they enjoy what they do and if there are any aspects of their job they dislike. Through these talks and through actually doing the work myself in a non-academic setting, I was able to silence these concerns and reinvigorate myself toward my future path.

Personally, I have felt that before this experience I had been in a rut for a while, with no clear path out. However, the people in my new office all seemed to enjoy work while also having a productive personal life, which was exactly what I have been struggling with. After talking with them and the other interns, I was truly able to enjoy my time in France while being productive at work. This showed me how to truly “stop and smell the roses” with every aspect of my life, and is something I will take with me forever.

Matyas Negash

Germany

P.C. College of
Engineering

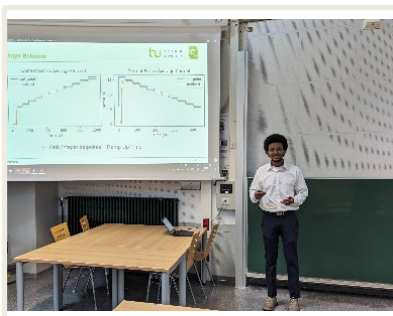
Mechanical
Engineering



TU Dortmund

Electrical
Engineering Intern

Company and Position Description: The electrical engineering lab works at the forefront of flexibility markets, which are markets where electricity can be traded in a systematic way. After the transition to more renewable energy sources, like wind and solar (both of which are variable), there becomes a need to better handle issues like grid congestion and the flexibility market is one way to deal with it. In the lab, I worked specifically with the electrical vehicles on a program underneath my two supervisors, to deliver flexibility. Flexibility being defined as an electrical volume of power that a system can provide in hopes of easing grid congestion. My tasks included communicating with the car using an API to remotely enable, and disable charging, and set charging setpoints. At the end of my internship, I was able to deliver a program that delivered a flexibility volume averaging 95% accuracy of the prescribed charging volume in the set time. The program will hopefully be incorporated into my supervisors' bigger project, GLocalFlex after a match is made on the flexibility market to deliver the accurate volume of power in either decreasing or increasing charging according to grid conditions.



Presentation day



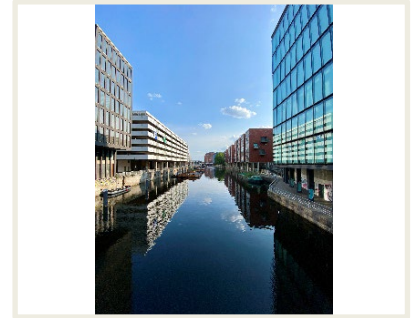
My supervisor and I

Matyas Negash

Germany



Brandenburg Gate



Canals in Hamburg

Value Derived from the Experience: From the Iacocca International Internship Program, most of the value derived was in personal growth and professional development. I found a sense of accomplishment in going to work every day and confidence in the work I interacted with on a daily basis. Professionally, I learned a lot about workplace interactions, especially from my supervisors in how they addressed challenges and setbacks. It was as if they were working from a handbook, checking through a checklist of what could be the problem, a handbook I hadn't seen before. Culturally, I was able to visit family I had never seen (or frankly known) about before and glimpse, acclimate, and revel at a culture so similar yet so different from my own. This experience held up a mirror into my life and the culture I live in in the States, and what I can change about my habits here. These 3 months, I will cherish as my first international experience, and hope that a program that was run this well is available to more Lehigh students.

Joshua Nsubuga

France

Intercollegiate

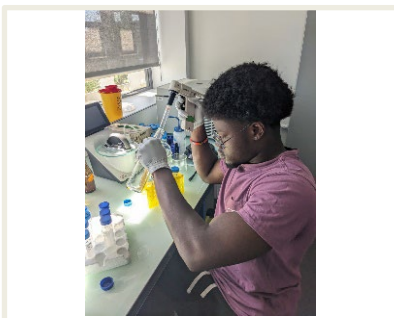
IDEAS



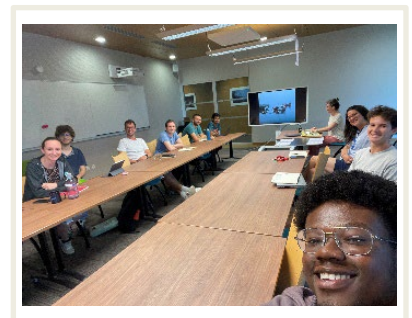
BioImaging &
Optofluidics Group

Materials Science
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: BioF uses microfluidics and 3D optical imaging to explore applications in tissue engineering, oncology, and regenerative medicine. The specific technique BioF uses is called Cellular Capsule Technology, which is a novel 3D approach to culturing cells. By imaging stem cells in hollow spheres, we can answer biological questions that resemble our 3D world that could not be answered using 2D Petri dishes. This builds a better match between the biomedical questions we ask and the tools scientists use to answer them. Advancements in 3D culture may lead to animal-free drug testing, tissue and artificial organ engineering, and advancements in cancer and neurodegenerative disease research.



Working in the lab



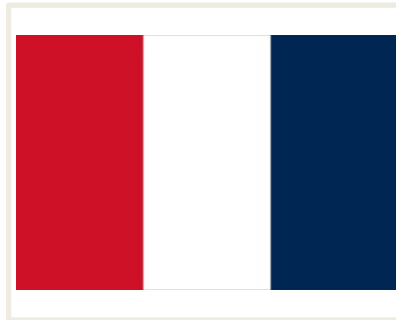
Lab meeting

Joshua Nsubuga

France



*Internship group
at Parc Peixotto*



First Bordeaux dinner

Value Derived from the Experience: This opportunity broadened my scientific range and inspired me to continue my education to become a culturally-minded physician-scientist. On the job, I learned engineering techniques, finding patterns in concepts, and lab technology like microscopy. Outside the job, I learned even more about myself and the importance of slowing down. I also recognized the importance of perspective, identity, and connection through the politeness, humor, and appreciation for quality time that my French counterparts showed me. I won't forget the hours of conversation I spent learning about their personal values; the friends and experiences I came across undeniably made my time in France an unforgettable experience.

Thank you BioF and the Iacocca International Internship program at Lehigh University for this amazing experience. I will take the skills and knowledge I've learned and apply it to all facets of my life.

Katie O'Donnell

Spain

College of Arts
& Sciences
Int'l Relations
Modern
Languages
and Literature

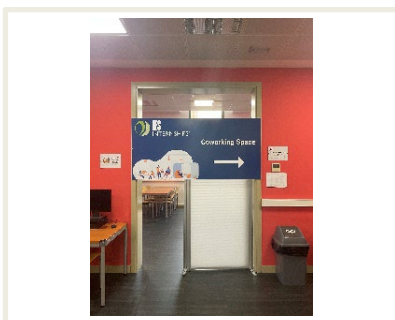


GBSB Global
Business School

Business Admin
Intern

Company and Position Description: Within GBSB is the G-Accelerator program, which is a part of the Entrepreneurship Center at GBSB, with the purpose of supporting students who aim to start an entrepreneurial project. This program offers participants training, mentoring, networking, and financial support. The training program lasts for six months and is divided into four blocks: Triple Impact, Ideation, Market Testing, and Management Skills. Within each of these blocks are subsections that allow for a specific focus on an area. The mentoring program is divided into two major categories, with the first being a trainer assigned to you in order to assist you throughout the program. There are also expert mentors that are temporarily assigned to you depending on the stage of the program you are in. In the networking portion of the program, students network with the beneficiaries of the program, as well as the international entrepreneurial community, providing a strong sense of community and resources. Lastly, with financial support, up to 3,000 euros are provided to students whose pitches make it the entire way through the program.

Through my internship, I worked alongside my supervisor Alessia, in order to make sure that all of the details and planning stages were set before the launching of the G-Accelerator program on June 21st. After the program had launched, and the students were attending the sessions, I worked to keep the Moodle platform up to date and assist Alessia wherever possible. Moodle is where the four blocks of the training section are organized, as well as each of their subsections. From here, the students have access to the slides that are presented by guest lecturers each week, as well as to the QR codes that allow Alessia and the G-Accelerator staff to track who is attending each session. Moodle is also where assignments are posted for the students to complete. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes preparation and planning that goes into making sure that this platform is up to date and running properly in order to ensure the program runs smoothly, and this is where I come into play. Overall, my tasks directly correlated to the maintenance of the G-Accelerator program and assisting my supervisor.



IES coworking space



*Inside the IES
Abroad center*

Katie O'Donnell

Spain



Exploring the streets of Barcelona



Socializing with friends

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program was one of the best things that I have done in my college experience thus far. Having the opportunity to intern in Barcelona, Spain for nine weeks fully funded would have never been possible had it not been for the IIP. The skills that I have learned while living abroad, as well as the things that I have experienced living in another culture and around another language, are things that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I have been able to improve my Spanish skills this summer, travel to other countries around Europe, and meet so many new people. The WordPress allowed me to reflect on my experiences abroad on a weekly basis, which I know I otherwise would not have done. So, I am really excited to look back at all of my posts, and other people's posts in the fall and for months to follow and be able to cherish all of the memories that were made. I am super grateful for Lehigh and this program, and I hope that other students had similar great experiences this summer and that others will be able to do so in the future!

Oluwafunmbi Ojo

Luxembourg

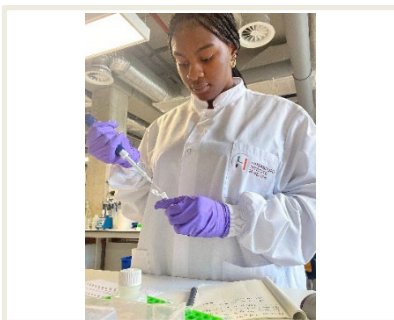
College of Arts
& Sciences
Behavioral
Neuroscience and
Health, Medicine
& Society



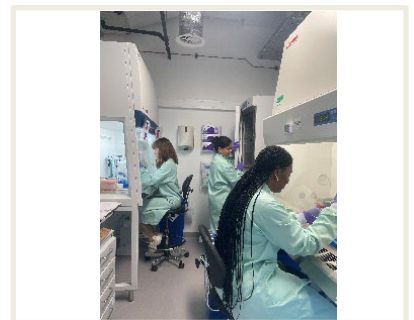
Luxembourg
Institute of Health

Biobanking
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at the Luxembourg Institute of Health NORLUX Neuro-Oncology lab. As a Biobanking Research Intern/Trainee, my role centered around gathering and organizing crucial data for biobanking purposes, specifically focusing on metastatic tumors and rare tumor types, such as diffuse gliomas and ependymal tumors. Working closely with the central hospital of Luxembourg, I participated in obtaining cancer patient biopsies with their consent, which were then utilized to derive patient-derived tumor organoids. These organoids were later implanted in mice, to establish a Patient-Derived Xenograft (PDOX) model to investigate tumor behavior and explore potential treatment options. Additionally, I contributed to the collection of blood, plasma, and tissue samples for organoid derivation and played a role in shadowing the Post-Doc students in drug screening testing to seek effective treatments to target and eradicate tumor cells. This hands-on experience in biobanking and cancer research has deepened my understanding of research and its potential impact on advancing cancer treatment and patient care.



Working in the lab



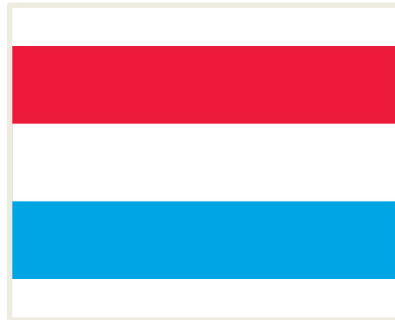
*Working with
other interns*

Oluwafunmbi Ojo

Luxembourg



Enjoying time with friends



Exploring a castle

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an unexpected and transformative experience that I never imagined having. It had its highs and lows, but it truly helped me grow as an individual. It has provided me with the opportunity to work in an international research setting and immerse myself in new cultures. One of my favorite things was being able to explore and access neighboring countries easily. The overall relaxing atmosphere of the country allowed me to unwind and fully enjoy my experience.

Although it didn't start exactly as I had hoped, I was determined to make the best of it, and I'm glad I did. The journey was filled with adversity and challenges, but I was able to overcome and adjust as needed. The challenges I faced taught me resilience and adaptability, and they ultimately contributed to my personal growth and development. It has also strengthened my career readiness by making me more aware of the pathway that I choose to pursue in the future. I learned that I have to be very open-minded and ready to learn regardless of what environment I'm in.

Overall, the Iacocca International Internship Program has shaped me both professionally and personally. It has provided me with unique and unforgettable experiences, allowing me to build deeper connections with my lab members and get to know two of my fellow Iacocca Interns (Fran and Gigi). I am grateful for the opportunity, the lasting memories, and the meaningful connections I made.

Bianca Palomino

Israel

College of Arts
& Sciences
Earth &
Environmental
Science

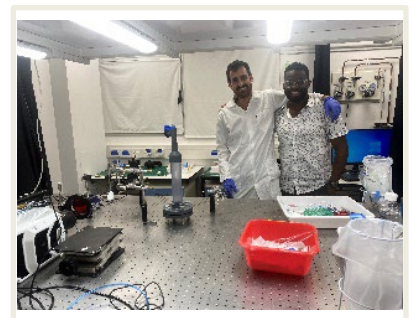


Technion-Israel
Institute of
Technology
Environmental
Engineering Intern

Company and Position Description: My host organization was the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology at the PMV (Porous Media Visualization) Lab of Environmental Engineering. The first project I was given was to informally research green roofs and their LCAs (Life Cycle Analysis) as they relate to the climate of Israel. Two papers were combined in an Excel sheet that concluded an analysis of the LCAs of green roofs. These two papers measured the impact categories in the same units making it simple to compare and integrate both data. This allowed for a more comprehensive view of the boundless research on green roofs and the many ways to implement them. The second project was to replicate a prior experiment that increased the capacity of soil to hold water in an effort to mitigate floods. This was done with a new soil medium, an alluvial/silt-clay soil, that is more common in Mediterranean urban environments. Three experiments were carried out and analyzed in an Excel sheet and furthermore in a research report. The general day-to-day was to arrive at 9 in the morning and leave around 4 in the afternoon. Towards the end of the internship, more hours were dedicated to finishing the projects given to me. Overall, I learned new concepts from each of the projects but also learned from the research of my fellow lab mates who were pursuing either their Ph.D. or Master's degrees. I am grateful for the opportunity to delve into both projects and for the friendliness of the others in the lab.



Testing soil



Showing experiments

Bianca Palomino

Israel



*Camels in Petra,
Jordan*



*Old City
Jerusalem*

Value Derived from the Experience: The value of participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program is incredibly unique, special, and personal. For one, after having spent two months in Israel, I can say with enough certainty that this country is like no other place in the world. The culture is embedded in Jewish practice as even the weekend is on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday due to Shabbat. During this practice, all public transportation and most stores close down from Friday afternoon into Saturday evening. There is also a song that is played loudly in the city of Haifa for all to hear when Shabbat begins. On the Technion campus there is also a synagogue which can be likened to the chapel on Lehigh's campus seeing that Technion is not a Jewish college per se just like Lehigh is not a strictly Catholic university. However, it differs from Lehigh's chapel in that the synagogue is only used for Jewish services while the Lehigh chapel is used for a number of different religions and faiths. These are practices that magnify the Jewish tradition and embed it into the lifestyle. The experience was special as well in the many people that I was able to meet throughout my time there. I am grateful for the many conversations around the political climate, the faith and even academically seeing that Technion is a very academically rigorous institution. Among these conversations, simply being able to live life with people is something I hold dear to my heart. Finally, on a personal level, Israel is known as the Holy Land across the Abrahamic religions and being able to spend 2 months there as a Christian was really beautiful for me. To be where Jesus walked, ate, and taught and to meet other Christians as well as to hear their own stories on how God is working in their lives. I am so grateful to have had this experience and will continue to encourage others to apply and explore the world!

Tahmina Raisa

Spain

College of Arts
& Sciences

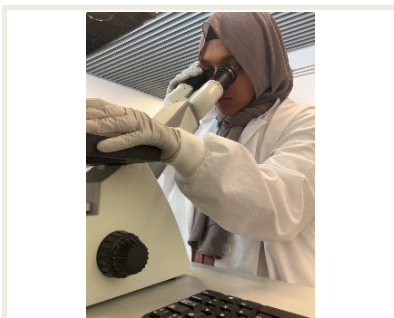
Biochemistry



University of
Zaragoza

Biomedical
Engineering
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: Our lab here is focused on topics surrounding cancer models, cell and tissue mechanics, cellular migration and tissue engineering, etc. I specifically was assigned to work with the lab technician and accompany her with smaller projects that eventually contributed to her main project. Every week, I was assigned to make a set number of microfluidic chips that have a specific geometry with respect to the type of experiments conducted. I was responsible for preparing them using PDMS, autoclaving them, and then sealing them onto individual plates until they were ready for use in cell culture. I conducted multiple assays with my supervisor through which I learned a lot more about Chimeric Antigen Receptor or CART cells which is one of the main components used in the immune-therapeutic approach in this lab. I seeded CART cells with and without MDA and also conducted immunofluorescence staining to check for certain molecules in CART and PBMC and also conducted assays to check their migration in software such as ImageJ and Matlab. Overall, I was able to gain valuable experience and gain lots of research skills which I will be able to apply in my field as I continue to advance in my career.



Looking at cells



Working in the lab

Tahmina Raisa

Spain



*Soller in Palma De
Mallorca*



Madrid

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an immensely enriching experience that has left an indelible impact on both my personal and professional growth. Over the course of 8 weeks, I was able to engage in a unique research opportunity while also developing essential laboratory skills that will undoubtedly shape my future career in the scientific field. Beyond the technical knowledge I acquired, the program provided me with a transformative global experience. Immersing myself in a foreign country, away from the familiar comfort of home, allowed me to develop a sense of independence, resilience, and adaptability which I value immensely. Navigating cultural differences and language barriers taught me invaluable lessons in communication and understanding. Moreover, living in Zaragoza introduced me to the richness of Spanish culture, from its wonderful historical landmarks to its vibrant cuisine. I was also able to foster meaningful relationships with not only my supervisor but also the graduate students here who taught me further about the culture here and contributed greatly to my overall experience while working here. Overall, the Iacocca International Internship Program has been a transformative journey, instilling in me a profound appreciation for cultural diversity and the confidence and adaptability skill to tackle future challenges head-on. This experience will help serve as a solid foundation for my future endeavors, as I carry forward the lessons and memories from this incredible journey.

Emily Randolph

Uganda

P.C. College of
Engineering

Bioengineering



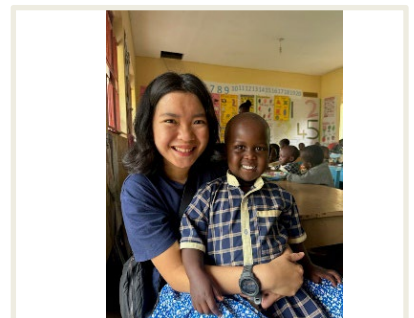
PDI

Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a non-profit organization in Bududa, Uganda dedicated to empowering youth and giving them the resources they need to build sustainable livelihoods. The branches of PDI that I was fortunate enough to be involved in were the preparatory school, office, sports program, music program, and English program. In the school, the students are ~3-5 years old so I was mainly there to help students with their lessons and monitor behavior. Something really cool we were able to do was re-introduce a teeth brushing program to the school as many of the kids aren't able to do this at home. In the office, I worked on different administrative areas of need for PDI including crafting staff bios and program descriptions to put on their updated website, carrying out check-in assessments of kids in the sports program, and digitizing information. For the sports program, the main focus is on soccer and both participating in practices and watching games is really enjoyable. The music and English programs are both super fun to participate in and they fall under the PDI Resource Center which they hope to expand in the coming years. There were a variety of things to do every week and we rotated often. We also got the opportunity to shadow at a couple of local health clinics, which was really special. Overall, it was an amazing experience that I am extremely grateful for.



Working with students



*Me with one of
the students*

Emily Randolph

Uganda



One of our hikes



Group photo

Value Derived from the Experience: The Iacocca International Internship Program provided me with a community of other Lehigh students that I learned a lot from as we all prepared together to go abroad. It allowed me to not only meet some of the people going on my experience but to form connections with others. Having the prep focus on both the career and cultural aspects of the internship was extremely beneficial as it really made me think about what I want to do in the future and how this internship aligns with that. I enjoyed reading the WordPress blog throughout the summer to see what everyone else was up to and to see any similarities or differences between their experiences and my own. Being in the country for 7 weeks was extremely special and very much needed. Many of the meaningful connections I have here now were not this strong even two weeks ago. You really do need to stay in a place for an extended period of time to fully immerse yourself and I'm very glad I was able to do that through IIP. I also learned so much about myself including how I approach new situations and challenges as well as possible career paths.

Vito Russo

Jordan

College of Arts
& Sciences

Anthropology



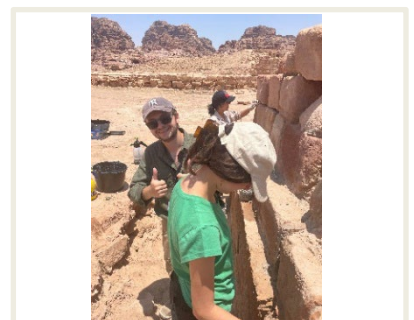
SELA

Archaeology &
Community Intern

Company and Position Description: I was sent to Jordan to work for a start-up named SELA with my internship largely centering on two main aspects: conservation and community mapping. The first, conservation, took place during our first few weeks in Jordan, when we were living and working around the city of Wadi Musa. Wadi Musa is an incredibly important city in Jordan because it's located directly beside the ancient city of Petra, which was the primary location of most of our training. As such, many of the locals living in and around Wadi Musa are involved in the incredibly extensive tourism industry of Petra. SELA aims to preserve much of the history, culture, and heritage of the area by keeping Jordanians in touch with this legacy despite a growing industry of outsiders consistently moving in and out. In our first few weeks at Petra, we were working with their archaeology teams, learning about conservation. Petra is full of centuries of history that has been maintained in a myriad of ways, from large reconstruction of buildings to hastily rescued walls glued by cement. The biggest takeaway from the conservation training we received was just how intricate of a process it is – in the past, with foreigners in charge of maintenance, conservation was inconsistent. Now – with companies like SELA taking an active role in working to preserve the structures of Petra, the local communities, who maintained the site for centuries, have a hand once more in preserving their heritage. Our job was to learn from them. After our training in conservation was finished, we transitioned to the main objective of our work in Jordan – community mapping. Community archaeology isn't a new phenomenon, but for much of the profession's history, locals have taken the backseat to foreign experts. Our goal in community mapping was to pilot something different for SELA: suggesting a path forward, and prioritizing the voices of community members in the preservation of Jordanian heritage. In short, we conducted just over 60 interviews across our time in the country, with the result to be a summarizing report of our findings, outlining not only the similarities between interviewees but suggesting potential ways to further tailor SELA's focus to the things that Jordanians truly care about preserving. I think this is where our work really stands apart from traditional archaeology; we were there to listen and learn from people, not tell them what to do.



Conservation training



Applying lime-mortar

Vito Russo

Jordan



Worksite goat



Headscarf I got as a gift

Value Derived from the Experience: Witnessing what I did in Jordan was life-changing. I'd never seen most of it before – the desert, the towering red cliff faces, or the way the sky looks at night when it isn't obstructed by even the faintest light. As I told my professor, Dr. Mickel, who not only introduced me to this program but was there for us in country, this was an opportunity I would not get to have otherwise. I'd never left the country, I'd hardly left the East Coast. Getting not only to experience my first time abroad in such a beautiful place, but also to take part in a project that aims to decolonize such an important industry, was an amazing journey for me. This is of course alongside all of the smaller parts, which were just as often as beautiful, like the many conversations with hundreds of the most diverse and kind of people, who never refused us a single courtesy. That kindness is definitely the thing that sticks with me most, even after arriving back in the US. It makes me want to return more than anything, which is the best praise I could give.

Liana Secondino

Uganda

College of Arts
& Sciences

Journalism

PDI



Sustainable
Livelihood Intern

Company and Position Description: As an interning teacher for my host organization and certified NGO, Pathways Development Initiative (PDI), located in Bududa, Uganda, I have participated in and created several initiatives within the organization. Initially started as a football program, PDI has since expanded to a preparatory school, a second-chance program for youth who are raised in inequitable circumstances, a sports academy, and a hygiene program. I worked in three classrooms with different grade levels and worked alongside teachers. My main responsibilities in the classroom were teaching English lessons. When I wasn't teaching, I was walking around the classroom providing individual attention to students who were struggling with their classwork, and after school, I wrote out lesson plans.

During my internship at the school, I helped launch a health and hygiene program that my peers and I created. We provided and individually labeled 100 students' toothbrushes and created posters with our very own rhymes for washing hands and brushing teeth. Additionally, I helped to create an Excel sheet that keeps a record of students' paid tuition fees. I helped research and write grant proposals, worked closely with village health teams and nearby hospital staff to extract immunization records for students at the school, and created a GoFundMe that is pertinent to fulfilling school costs. I also interviewed PDI alumni to write success stories for the organization's website.



Hygiene program



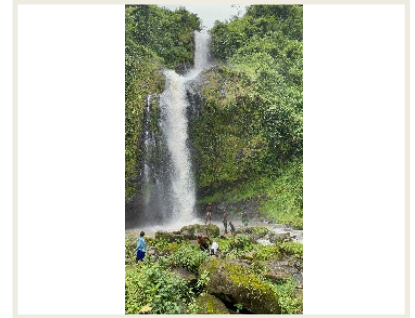
Working with students

Liana Secondino

Uganda



Some of my favorite students



Waterfall

Value Derived from the Experience: If I hadn't been an intern in the Iacocca International Internship Program, this experience and the communities that I've developed relationships with would not have been possible, especially since this has been my first time leaving the country. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it was hard to be as involved with IIIP this past spring semester, but close contact with leaders of the program made accommodations that made me feel included and recognized. Personally, I don't think I would have had such a wholesome, impactful experience if it wasn't for proper preparation in regards to self-reflecting and setting goals as well as getting to know my peers within the program. During my time here and with the program, I've truly drawn upon the values of teamwork and community, gratitude, adaptability, and resilience. I've become extremely close with my IIIP peers through interning and project collaboration, especially because we previously learned a lot about one another through WordPress posts. Also, my research of core values and competencies has helped me to understand my strengths more in areas like adaptability, global/cultural fluency, empathy, most importantly professional development toward my career in journalism. Particularly in recognizing and having an eye for the bigger picture, the systemic oppression of post-colonialism in Uganda, and how it hinders the ability to create organized self-governing systems in education. That being said, there's a lack of urgency for pressing needs within the community and as a journalist who always probes into injustices, my research of Bududa and self-introspection prior to my arrival has amplified my ability to adapt to different communication styles and become fluent in sensitivity and patience towards communities.

Rachel Sobocinski

Croatia

College of
Business

Business
Info. Systems

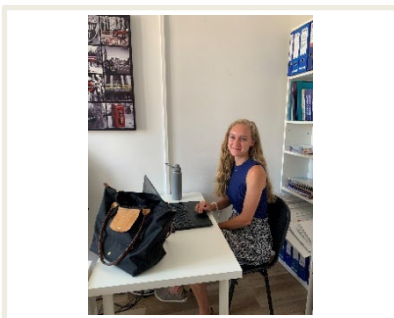


PAR University
College

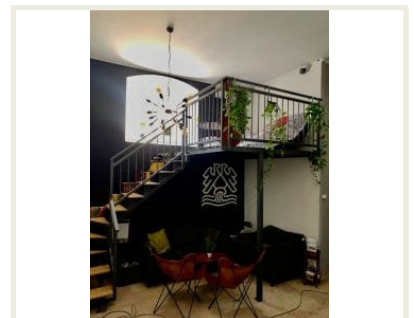
Program Dev.
Specialist

Company and Position Description: PAR University is a private higher education institution in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County in Croatia that is the first and only of its kind. It focuses on bachelor programs in Business Management and Management in Gastronomy and Restaurant Business, as well as graduate programs in Business Management with concentrations in Financial Management, Enterprise Management, and Sport Management. The vision for the future of PAR is to become the leading institution of international education in the region. It helps connect students from all over Europe and gives them an educational experience of change, growth, and success.

My position at PAR University was under the title of Program Development Specialist in the International Office. I focused on the research and development of short-term programs for university students, as well as prospecting high school students. Along with those tasks, I completed context analyses of the education systems in nearby countries in Europe, such as Romania, Serbia, and Cyprus. As a final project in my internship, I also created promotional material and content from my experience as an intern working and living in Croatia for seven weeks with another Iacocca Intern, Julia.



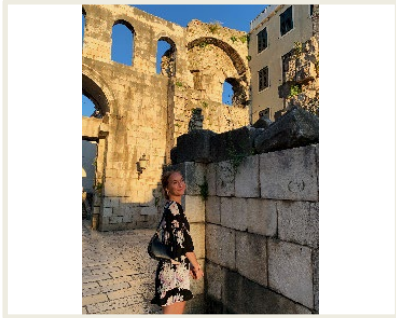
Working in the office



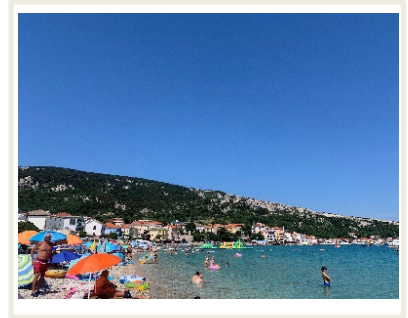
PAR offices

Rachel Sobocinski

Croatia



Split, Croatia



One of the beautiful beaches

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has given me the benefits of gaining professional development, as well as knowing, learning, and understanding the importance of cultural competency. For my first time abroad, I was nervous but excited. My nerves were settled throughout the preparation phase of the program as I had support and recognition of my feelings from the other interns. During my internship abroad, I did not know how much the support system would grow and would help the adjustment process. It greatly helped knowing I was not alone in my initial feelings of culture shock, anxiety, and being overwhelmed. The biggest support I had, though, was from the fellow Iacocca Intern I was with, Julia. Since we were the only interns at our host organization, we really leaned on each other for support and guidance in navigating this experience together.

Throughout this entire experience, I learned so much about myself and grew entirely as a person. I gained many professional skills, such as the knowledge of working in an office with colleagues of different ages and experiences, the value of communication, especially in an environment with a different language, and how to work productively and efficiently with others in a professional environment. I also gained skills and experience in how to live in another culture and the adjustment process that it takes to do that. There were many challenges and obstacles that we faced that we didn't necessarily anticipate but helped us grow as people together.

Isabelle Torrijos

Czech Republic

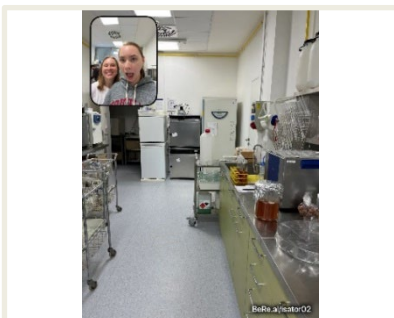
P.C. College of
Engineering

Materials Science
and Engineering

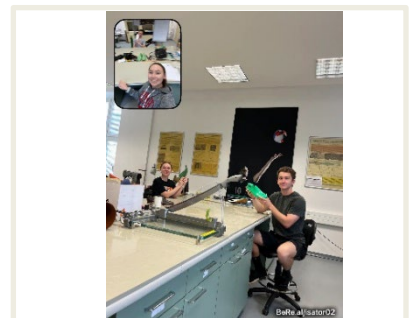


Tomas Bata
University
Biomaterials
Research Intern
Footwear Design
Intern

Company and Position Description: This summer, I worked in Zlín, Czech Republic at Tomas Bata University. Here, I had two roles. One was a biomaterials research intern where I was led by two PhD students as they taught me how to synthesize and test bacterial cellulose for antibacterial and tissue engineering purposes. Some of my responsibilities included going to the lab when the Ph.D. students were in the lab, creating plates of bacteria, performing the steps of making bacterial cellulose (each process takes two weeks), compiling external relevant research, and writing an end-of-internship lab report. The other role was a footwear design intern where I collaborated with a Czech footwear designer and he taught me how to both design and hand-make a pair of women's heels from just a 3D shoe form. Here, I visited two shoe-making factories to learn about how technology is improving the footwear industry, drafted three different footwear designs from a 3D printed shoe model called a shoe last, learned about the different parts of the shoe and how different materials give parts of shoes different properties and finally constructed the shoes using methods of sewing and gluing.



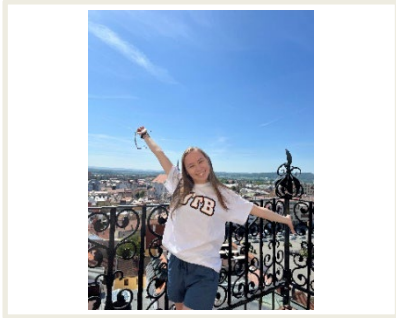
Microbiology lab



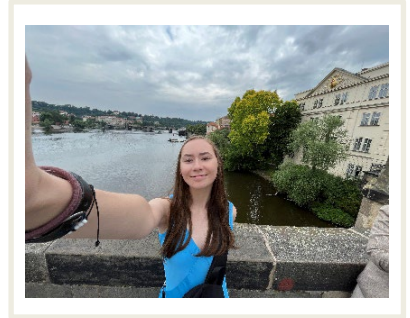
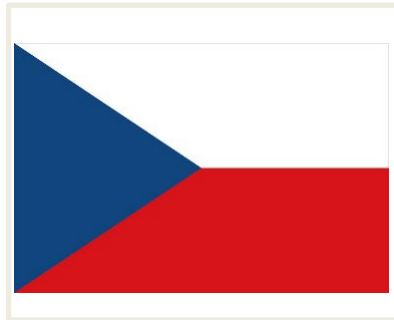
*Working with our
molds*

Isabelle Torrijos

Czech Republic



Kromeriz visit



Prague trip

Value Derived from the Experience: Being an Iacocca Intern is an invaluable experience that I am so fortunate to have participated in. Working and living abroad made me realize how even though I am far from everyone I know and love, the world is so interconnected that I am never truly isolated. This experience allows me to reflect on myself more while also pushing the boundaries I subconsciously had created for myself. I am finding myself much more independent and self-reliant than I expected. I am comfortable taking public transportation by myself, traveling and going to new countries alone, advocating for myself when things do not go as expected, and presenting my best self to everyone around me. My experience may have looked different because I took on two roles and one was mostly independent research, but working with Ph.D. students gave me a sense of what life may be like if I choose to pursue further education. Overall, I think my time as an Iacocca Intern provided me with lifelong memories, experiences, and lessons that I will carry with me throughout my future career and even life.

Coby Walmsley

Czech Republic

P.C. College of
Engineering

Mechanical
Engineering



Tomas Bata
University

Environmental
Researcher

Company and Position Description: I worked in the Center For Polymer Systems doing environmental engineering research and also in the Footwear Research Institute, where I learned about the material specifications and processes used to make modern men's and women's shoes.

For the Center of Polymer Systems, I worked on environmental and economic Life Cycle Analysis for Lithium-Ion batteries for electric cars. I made Matlab simulations, replicated papers, and Greg Dardaris and I disproved a paper that the institution had been referencing for about five years. We replicated multiple other different LCA studies done by the school or other collaborating institutions. We also attended international environmental policy meetings and brought up mistakes we had found in another university's Life Cycle Study.

Basically, our Life Cycle Analysis research goals involved finding the total negative environmental impacts or costs from every stage of lithium-ion battery production, transportation, use, and disposal. Negative environmental impact was quantified with factors like CO2 emission equivalent, damage to human health, or heavy metal release.



Manufacturing shop



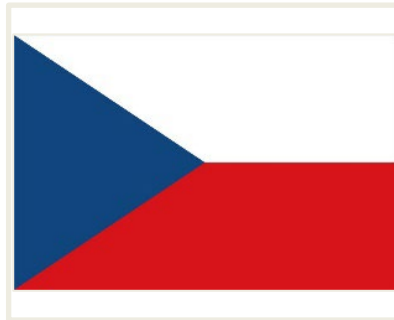
Working on our shoes

Coby Walmsley

Czech Republic



All the interns together



Working with the other interns

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience definitely built my professional skills and general confidence because of how often I was thrown into situations where I was expected to be much more knowledgeable than I already was, and I would have to repeatedly turn my boss's perspective of me around, which I always did. The food, the people, and the travel in the Czech Republic were all incredible, and they definitely added a much deeper experience than a domestic internship would have given me. Overall, I took enormous value away from this experience and would definitely recommend applying to anyone at Lehigh.

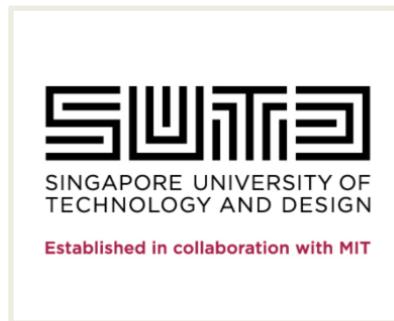
Luke Weaver

Singapore

College of Arts
& Sciences

SUTD

Physics

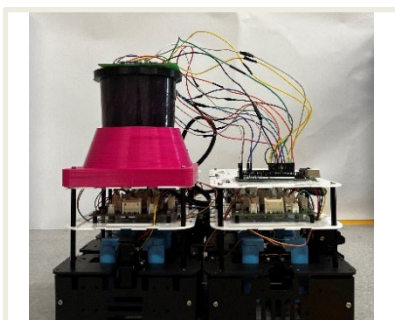


Research Assistant

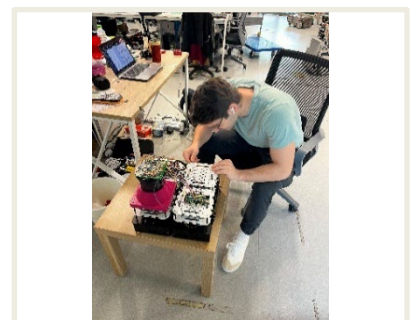
Company and Position Description: The lab that I was a part of was focused on research and development of different robotics technologies, especially on reconfigurable robots and their possible sanitation and cleaning applications. The main focus of the lab was “from conception to market”. In other words, we worked on creating robots with the intention to sell and market them, unlike other labs which may focus primarily on advancing knowledge of robotics.

I worked on the Smorphi platform, a Tetris-inspired reconfigurable robot, to research how it might be used to transport cleaning liquids. I was responsible for creating a “slosh model” to observe how the movements of the robot may affect the liquids it is carrying. In doing so, I designed and manufactured a sensor array, for which I wrote the firmware and software responsible for interpreting the data gathered from it. Additionally, I created mounting hardware to interface with the Smorphi, allowing the robot to transport liquid while simultaneously gathering data from the sensor array.

From the data gathered, I wrote a Sensor Letter to be published in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) about the application of the sensors that I used to construct the slosh model and how it improves the understanding of such models. For this paper, I communicated with and conducted experiments with, a colleague in a sister university to verify the experimental results.



Complete experimental setup



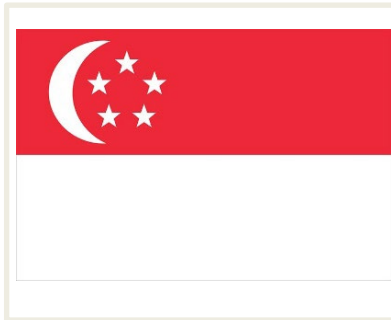
Debugging

Luke Weaver

Singapore



*Beautiful sights of
Singapore*



Playing football

Value Derived from the Experience: While participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program, I learned a number of valuable skills and lessons. On one hand, I grew with respect to my cultural awareness and respect. It is quite easy to anticipate how you may act in a new country, environment, or situation in general. How you actually act and respond is another story. I experienced a number of new cultures and, most importantly, learned how to respectfully inquire about said cultures and make new friends across cultures.

A major skill that I developed throughout this program is grit. It is not easy to be thrown into a new country and environment with what feels like no support. To build on this, those in Singapore seem to be quite reserved and it can be quite difficult to make new friends here. As a result, I felt quite lonely and isolated for three-quarters of the program, however, I slowly got to know my colleagues and made friends. From this experience, I learned that sometimes it takes perseverance and grit to emerge on the other side.

While working on the project and paper, I improved some of my technical skills, including Serial Communication, I2C Protocol, Bluetooth Serial Communication, and formal paper writing. I further developed my 3D modeling and printing skills while strengthening my problem-solving abilities. Additionally, I learned more about collaboration on papers and experiments.

Julia Wilczynski

Croatia

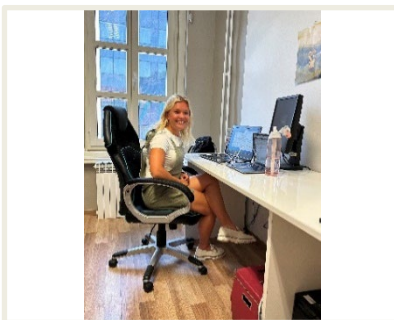
College of Arts
& Sciences
International
Relations and
Political Science



PAR University

Assistant
International
Officer

Company and Position Description: PAR University of Applied Sciences is a private college in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County of Croatia and is the only private higher education institution in the region. It offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business management and gastronomy. It is also very involved with international projects and actively engages with the European Union's ERASMUS+ program. The ERASMUS+ program is an initiative started by the European Union to support education, training, and sports in Europe through student and staff mobility. My internship responsibilities revolved around working within the scope of the ERASMUS+ program to expand inter-institutional agreements between PAR and other universities in Europe and to create promotional materials for the university. I drafted emails, sent them to universities, and set up meetings to discuss building partnerships with PAR University. I also set a goal to build partnerships with universities outside of Europe to extend the reach PAR has. During my time at PAR, I also interacted with students and got a sense of their goals regarding the utilization of their student mobility, which is a way for ERASMUS students to study abroad. Overall, I am glad to have positively impacted international students at PAR University and helped create new connections between PAR and other universities around the world to support the vision of the ERASMUS+ program.



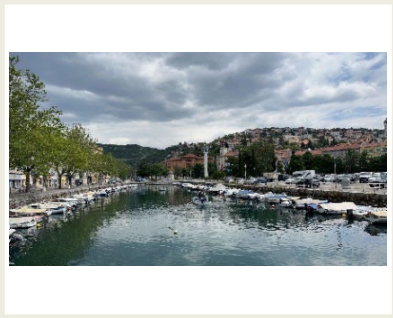
In the office



Office group photo

Julia Wilczynski

Croatia



Rijeka



Zagreb

Value Derived from the Experience: The Iacocca International Internship Program is one of the most fruitful and unique experiences I have ever had. It offers more than a traditional internship that is based close to home or through a remote platform. The cultural aspect of this experience is what makes it special because it emphasizes growth in places other than just professionalism. Through being placed in a foreign country, you inevitably learn to adapt to a different way of life that you might have not considered before. Being out of your comfort zone is where most of the growth happens, and where you learn the most about yourself. In my experience, I learned how to independently navigate challenges, how to be open-minded with experiences, and all about a culture other than my own. I also gained an amazing friendship with the other Iacocca Intern with me on the experience, Rachel. My experience being part of the Iacocca International Internship Program has allowed me to see and learn about things that I never have been able to experience before, all while working on my career goals and aspirations. This has been one of the best things to ever happen to me and I will forever remember it as a very positive and rich experience.

Sarah Wilhelm

Bermuda

Intercollegiate

Bermuda Institute
of Ocean Science

IDEAS



Research Intern

Company and Position Description: BIOS addresses critical environmental issues (both locally and globally) by researching the ocean. BIOS is home to the longest-running time series on seawater chemistry, biology, and physics, providing critical data for longitudinal studies surrounding a variety of topics. Through field expeditions and state-of-the-art research, BIOS scientists make groundbreaking discoveries in the marine science field.

During my internship I conducted my own project studying the temporal and spatial dynamics of marine viruses, essentially comparing viral dynamics from the Sargasso Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean by looking at viral abundance over depth and seasons. My duties for this included processing water samples, imaging filters on the microscope, and analyzing the images to collect data. While at BIOS, I was given the opportunity to participate in the BIOSSCOPE cruise, a five-day multi-institutional research expedition aboard the R/V Atlantic Explorer in the northwest Sargasso Sea. On this expedition, I took sole responsibility for collecting viral abundance data for a collaborative project with a visiting scientist, as well as working with another team of scientists to help collect samples and data for their fungal experiment.



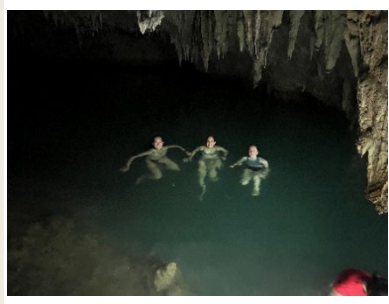
Immersion Suit



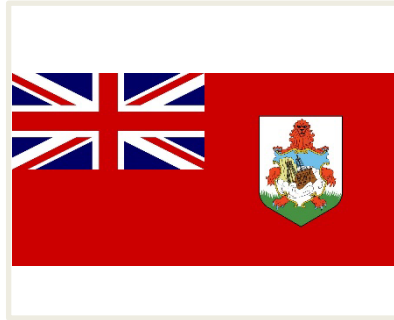
*Sampling from
the Niskin bottle*

Sarah Wilhelm

Bermuda



Blue Hole National Park



View of BIOS

Value Derived from the Experience: The Iacocca International Internship Program has been the perfect opportunity to gain valuable work experience while still being able to travel and experience a new culture. Getting to live in a different country for two months has really broadened my horizons. I've been able to meet so many people in the marine and environmental science field, allowing me to learn about the different careers available to me. Not only that, but in my internship, I gained technical lab skills and data analysis techniques that will be helpful in the future. I also gained more experience with scientific writing and communicating effectively with other scientists. This internship allowed me to experience working in the field I am interested in, while also letting me explore a new country.

Alexandra Wnuk

Spain

P.C. College of
Engineering

Materials Science
And Engineering

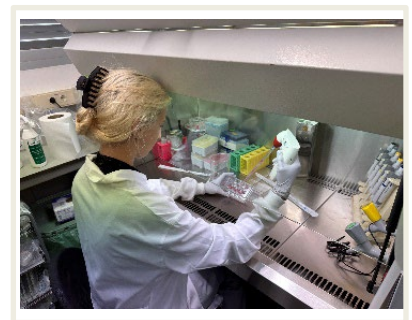


University of
Zaragoza
Biomed.
Engineering
Research Intern

Company and Position Description: At the University of Zaragoza, I worked in the Biomedical Engineering department, which had several ongoing projects regarding cellular migration, hydrogel applications, and tissue engineering. I worked with my supervisor on an experiment regarding the morphology of two pancreatic cancer cell lines, where my main goal was to quantify changes in cells' morphology when subject to various coatings over a two-week period. On a weekly basis, my responsibilities included seeding the cells, preparing well plate coatings, photographing cells via light optical microscope, and analyzing them using ImageJ software. I would upload my photographs into the software and measure the cells' length and aspect ratio, then present this data into a violin plot using GraphPAD. I did this for 100 cells per coating and time point, which amassed over 4,000 cell measurements that I performed manually. Additionally, I immunostained cells and operated a confocal microscope to observe if the cells displayed any mesenchymal characteristics, which meant their morphology had changed during the EMT (Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition). Towards the end of my experience, I began to work on creating new hydrogel mixtures and testing their applications in microchips. Overall, this was my first research experience and I gained a lot of knowledge regarding lab techniques and cell culture. My work from this experience will be published in a paper, which I am beyond thankful for and proud that my work here had a meaningful contribution.



Observing cell morphology



Working in the Fume Hood

Alexandra Wnuk

Spain



Madrid, Spain



Barcelona, Spain

Value Derived from the Experience: During the Iacocca International Internship Program, I have derived value in cultural, personal, and professional ways. I am forever grateful for this opportunity giving me the experience to live and work in Zaragoza, Spain for eight weeks, where I learned so much about myself and the world around me. I had the privilege to perform research in a laboratory where my colleagues and supervisors were so welcoming they made me feel open to ask questions, practice my Spanish, and spend afternoons with them walking around the city center. In these conversations, I learned the most about the culture by asking them questions ranging from their childhood to their traditions, which has made me grow my global competence. Additionally, I've grown my independence and adaptability in a challenging yet rewarding way. I have navigated the transportation system myself, solo-traveled, and learned how to advocate for myself. Certainly, none of this came easily, but being in Spain with Tahmina, another Iacocca Intern, and reading IIP WordPress posts from my peers have developed into an unbelievable support system. This gave me the confidence to perform my best in the workplace, where I gained valuable research experience in a field, I had never given thought to before. By performing hands-on work on a project that has the potential to positively impact others, I am now considering pursuing higher education in the future. Overall, I am beyond thankful for this opportunity and the lessons I have learned will stay with me for years to come.

Zaara Yakub

Ireland

P.C. College of
Engineering
Computer
Science &
Engineering

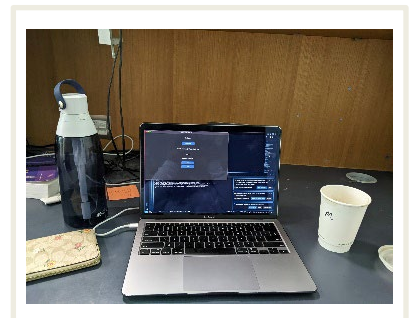


AI_PREMie
Data
Science/Software
Development
Intern

Company and Position Description: AI_PREMie is a tool that harnesses artificial intelligence to diagnose preeclampsia and predict its progression over time. Preeclampsia is a disease that can occur during pregnancy, affecting 1 in 10 pregnancies. Due to its elusive symptoms, it often remains undetected until complications become life-threatening or too late for effective intervention. Therefore, early diagnosis is crucial to provide health risk assessments and support clinical care decisions with data. Despite lacking a background in biology, I applied my skill set in computer science to create a tool capable of quickly analyzing large amounts of data collected from patients. Specifically, the lab I worked with collaborated with clinical care facilities throughout Ireland to collect blood from patients, from which platelets were obtained and analyzed using mass spectrometry procedures. This allowed us to closely examine the protein peptides present in the blood. Identifying a peptide that exists in diseased patients but not in healthy patients could serve as a clear indicator of preeclampsia, simplifying the diagnosis process. During my internship, I successfully coded a program that automates the creation of a statistics summary report, swarm-plot figures of peptide expression, and formatted Excel sheets, all from a single messy data file containing thousands of rows of peptide information. To ensure accessibility to my colleagues in the lab, many of whom are unfamiliar with coding or data analysis, I developed a user-friendly GUI program. They only need to download this program, select the desired data file for analysis, and with a simple click of 'run,' streamline the data analysis process.



Last day at work



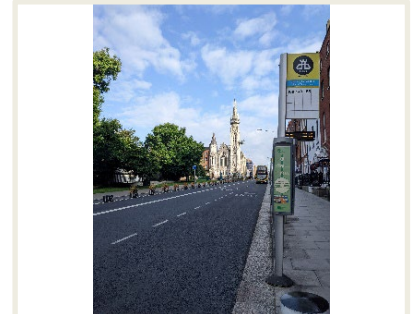
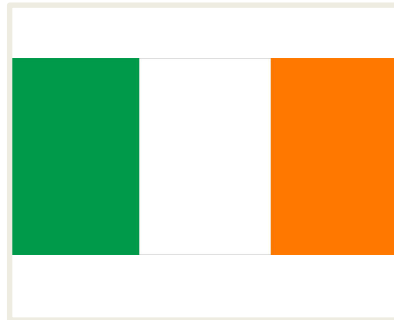
My workspace

Zaara Yakub

Ireland



Cliffs of Moher



Daily bus stop

Value Derived from the Experience: Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an invaluable opportunity for me. Throughout this summer, I had the chance to immerse myself in my first in-person work environment, which significantly contributed to my growth in communication and presentation skills—both professionally and personally. Navigating Dublin independently and immersing myself in the local culture allowed me to assert myself and adapt quickly to new situations, enhancing my ability to make informed decisions. Moreover, the international work experience I gained during this internship is vital for adjusting to the modern-day workplace, where global teams often collaborate on tech industry projects. I encountered new challenges that I hadn't had in my studies, which improved my problem-solving skills. Fortunately, I had an exceptional manager and supportive peers who provided me with the tools and autonomy to assess problems creatively and find innovative solutions. This experience taught me to embrace challenges and the feeling of not knowing everything, as it ultimately led to my personal and professional growth. I now feel more comfortable stepping out of my comfort zone, knowing that it is an opportunity for continuous development.

Iacocca International Internship Program



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Anastassiya Perevezentseva, Assistant Director: aap218@lehigh.edu

Abby Hill, Coordinator: abh223@lehigh.edu

<https://global.lehigh.edu/internships>



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