Iacocca International Internship Program

Student Report

Summer 2021
Lehigh University’s Iacocca International Internship Program received the 2019 Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education for student mobility from the Institute for International Education (IIE).
# Summer 2021 Student Report
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Company and Position Description:
Healthwatch is a nonprofit London based organization within the hospital and healthcare industry. The company size is somewhat small, with 10-12 employees. The organization mostly relies on volunteers for research. Healthwatch Greenwich was established in 2013 as a champion for health care services in that specific borough. Greenwich residents are the main purpose of the work done at Healthwatch. The organization relies on resident experiences with healthcare services in order to find improvements. Healthwatch Greenwich involves projects with the goal of improving healthcare accessibility. The organization works to address certain inequalities, patients with disabilities, communication issues, and safety precautions.

My work as a volunteer consisted of compiling data into spreadsheets, attending community meetings, discussing health-related improvements over zoom, and searching social media for patient reviews. I compiled patient reviews on GP visits, dentist offices, hospital experiences, and more from platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. I also attended community meetings on health care inequalities created by COVID-19. A larger project I was able to work on included compiling recommendations from reports across all South East London Branches into one large excel document.
Value Derived from the Experience:

My future plan is to apply to medical school. I wanted to enjoy an internship in the healthcare industry as well as travel abroad. This way I would be able to understand more about patient satisfaction, healthcare issues, and ways to combat certain inequalities in communities, while improving my emotional and cultural competency. A career in medicine involves many different skills including communication, empathy, an analytical mind, and so on. Cultural competency is also very important when becoming a physician. It is tied to communication. Doctors must be prepared to treat patients from many different cultures, of different genders, religious backgrounds, and more. This encourages trust and dialogue when interacting with patients.

I believe this internship will definitely help me in the medical field because it basically encompasses all these aspects. I was able to learn about healthcare in a different country, increase my knowledge of another culture, and build my communication skills by meeting new colleagues and attending zoom sessions. Attending meetings to understand the effects of a worldwide pandemic was also able to open my eyes on a global level. These aspects of the internship are what made it valuable to me.
Company and Position Description:

This summer I worked for Voxburner, a youth marketing company that helps brands and businesses understand and connect with Generation Z. I worked with a small team of 7 people including myself. Voxburner has two main products, and two products that supplement those. Each year they hold an event called the Youth Marketing Strategy, a convention that takes place in the US and the UK to facilitate networking between brands and agencies. Their other product is Voxburner+, a service that provides reports on Gen Z trends and values as well as free tickets to Voxburner events like YMS. Voxburner's smaller products include a blog and a podcast where they discuss Gen Z trends to promote YMS and Voxburner+.

My tasks mainly consisted of writing 1-2 articles a week for the blog, doing Gen Z market research, and speaking on panels at events.
Value Derived from the Experience:

Looking back on my time at Voxburner, I learned a lot about myself both personally and professionally. As an English and Japanese major, I knew little about marketing outside of the ads I have seen on Youtube. Working with Voxburner gave me an inside look into what matters to marketers, and I was able to pick up a lot of marketing jargon. When I was explaining my internship to a few friends, they even had to ask me what some jargon meant. I also improved my writing skills through the internship. I was required to follow a company style guide for blog posts when I had never taken on a company's language before. I also had to write faster. Rather than having weeks to write articles, I only had a few days.

As for more personal improvements, I learned to be more observant in the workplace. I dressed very professionally during the first week of my internship, but noticed that my co-workers were not doing the same. I also noticed that they were interested in getting to know me as a person outside of our work, which was something I was not used to. After making these observations, I relaxed a bit and wore more casual clothing as well as had personal conversations with co-workers. These changes proved we had a mutual understanding of workplace expectations which improved workflow.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I worked at Net4market which is an e-procurement platform that aims to improve the experience of selling and buying supplies and services in Italy. They are currently working on and building a new business network platform to act as a one-stop shop for companies to sell more, cooperate with other companies, and manage their businesses.

My role as a marketing launch intern was to focus expanding the platform into the U.S. through creating a small networking circle of companies in Bethlehem. In the early stages my role involved a lot of translating and designing brochures. Later in the internship my role shifted to customer discovery, email-advertising and contacting companies.
Value Derived from the Experience:

The internship helped grow both professionally and personally. It greatly enhanced and nurtured my communication and time-management skills as well as my intercultural fluency.

Personally, the virtual internship truly made me appreciate my time and made me more aware on what I usually spend my time on. On different note, I was also able to learn a lot about Italy and Europe through conversations with our colleagues which made even more hyped up to travel in the future.

Professionally, I was able to get the experience that I wanted to explore a new entrepreneurial interest of mine. My work also involved a lot of cold-calling and emailing which were sometimes met with rejections, this greatly improved my confidence and made me improve my professional communication skills.
Company and Position Description:

Ribbon Biolabs is a company that works to develop revolutionary technology for fast and efficient automated synthesis to DNA to innovate the biotechnology field. They utilize biochemistry, computing, and automation to make complex DNA accessible and affordable to customers in the biotech industry and in academia.

This summer, I interned as a data analyst/programmer for the company. This involved learning to code with Git Bash and using it to progress the company’s technology. With this knowledge, I developed scripts that automatically downloaded datasets from the NCBI, as well as scripts that reformatted file to prepare them to be inputted into other programs. Finally, I created an organized database for the genomes and files to be stored in.
Value Derived from the Experience:

My regional team was great to connect with when having a virtual international experience. Together, we enjoyed cooking the food of this different culture and appreciating it. The presentation we compiled at the end of the experience and the fun facts we learned were great to learn and visualize the country we were working in.

Professionally, I gained intercultural communication skills, and the differences between Austrian work culture and American work culture. I learned how to be able to gauge the environment I was working in, and the level of professionalism that the company exercised. Many of my peers and I made our own work schedules, so we all gained the skills to hold ourselves accountable to get work done at our own times.
Company and Position Description:
This summer, I virtually worked for the Vall de'Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona, Spain as a Transcultural Psychiatry Intern. This department provides mental health and social work services to the native population, as well as refugees in Spain.

I was one of three undergraduate interns performing research on cultural competence in social work in America/Canada vs. Spain and how the discipline has evolved in different cultures. I worked to perform literature reviews on the subject and form conclusions about the disparities in culturally competent social work in the different countries.
Value Derived from the Experience:

I began this internship immediately after finishing my senior year at Lehigh. It was a great segue into the working world and gave me a chance to grow while also searching for a full-time position after graduation. I had a chance to sharpen many of the skills I had learned at Lehigh in a virtual working environment, database research, communication, time management etc.

I learned how to navigate many inter-cultural barriers and perspectives. I am also very fortunate that I was able to form a professional connection with my supervisor that I can count on for years to come, as well as with the IIIP team from this summer.
Company and Position Description:
PAR University College is the only private university in Rijeka, Croatia. My internship was web design for Gordana Nikolic, the founder of PAR University college. Because I was working for Gordana, my internship was focused on more than just PAR University college. Gordana is a very accomplished woman. She has a master’s degree as well as a PhD. She founded Business School PAR in Rijeka, Croatia. She also has been published professionally over 60 times, including two books. Gordana is involved in many business organizations as well as organizations for women in business. Gordana is amazingly accomplished and I was honored to work for her and learn about her.
Ivan Rakatic, Professional Soccer

Cultural Food.

Value Derived from the Experience:
This experience helped me grow a lot personally because I think I improved in all my cultural competencies. I especially think it helped me with my time management skills. Mostly, however, I think this experience has helped me the most by working and interacting with my advisor, Sanja. She was so professional, yet kind, as well as funny. She looked up to Gordana so much, but I really looked up to her, and still do. She was so flexible and understanding, and I learned a lot from her in terms of how I wasn’t to present myself professionally as a woman in the workforce. Overall, it was a great experience for me and I learned a lot.
Company and Position Description:

I am interning in a Label and Editorial company called Acqustic. Within my team, there are about 10 people working. This company is based in Spain. The Operations department is specifically responsible for the curation of music playlists, digital distribution, and operational management of the label and the rest of the services offered to musicals such as interviews, promotion, release campaigns, and invoicing.

This COVID-19 transition was extremely hard for Acqustic because rethinking the whole company was now necessary. Having concerts on live became a thing, moving away from the traditional concerts has to go away, the artist no longer knowing what to do in this situation, all took a toll on Acqustic. However, the company made some major adjustments and it started with changing the whole website. Creating secret concerts became a thing. Fans were able to purchase tickets to be a part of an exclusive event. Fans were also able to book an artist for a concert at home. Most things became virtual or catered to an in-person small event. Acoustic now had to think small, as going big would create bigger issues.
Value Derived from the Experience:

I work for this company called Acqustic which is a Label and Editorial startup company. Working in the Operations department in a music industry was interesting. I understood at the end of the internship that everything is business. We live in a capitalistic world, why wouldn't everything be business? I reviewed 50 songs to upwards of 100 songs per day. With a 3% approval rate, I did not really approve of a lot of songs. I realized how hard it is to get recognition as an artist.

The music industry will always be a thing because it is part of human history. I always loved music, but I fell in love with it more as it is something that I am focused on more every day. I learned to give my summer more purpose. I love what I did because I shifted my interest towards working for Spotify. That is my ultimate goal and I know how competitive it is which is why I am interning for Acqustic again in the fall as a Product Marketing Intern. Because I stood by what I wanted and did not settle, I was able to get what I wanted. I am not saying I do not compromise, but I know my worth and as a woman who works, I should know how to demand. Being used is pretty easy when one is not affirmative and does not assert. I realized if you do not stand up for yourself nobody will.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I interned with the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), an interdisciplinary research center focused on bioengineering and nanomedicine located in Barcelona, Spain. At IBEC, I was a research intern under the nano bioengineering group.

I implemented a MATLAB cell migration simulator to receive theoretical results to be used in comparison with experimental results already completed at the Institute. I also extracted data arrays after changing different parameters such as cell clutch number and substrate stiffness to see if these factors change the way the cells migrate.

I was also assigned to determine what values to use for parameter selections and used ImageJ software, a program that images cells, to calculate cell perimeter and area values. This simulation required lots of trouble shooting as it was a very dense code with multiple components to retrieve the necessary data.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship taught me various skills both on a technical and personal development level. I was introduced to the industry research environment and the field of nano bioengineering and honed my engineering programming skills. It was interesting to see the application of programming skills learned in the classroom in the work environment. I am thankful to have improved my skill set as this will be very useful for future opportunities in the biotechnology industry.

While working directly with my supervisors and team in Barcelona, I was able to learn more about traditions, holidays, and overall culture of Barcelona and Spain. The IIIP projects and seminars also expanded my knowledge about other countries and their cultures as well. I was able to create connections on an international scale even through a screen and I hope to maintain these relationships even after my internship to continue my inter-cultural engagement.

The virtual platform this summer has really taught me how to manage my time efficiently and communicate effectively with others. With the six-hour time difference, it was crucial for me to be proactive in my interactions with the team and for me to hold myself accountable for my responsibilities. These are skills I hope to carry on for future experiences.
Company and Position Description:
The name of the organization I interned for is called Finlays. Finlays is a leading B2B Tea, Coffee, and Botanical Solutions Supplier. This means that it is a major company that supplies tea and coffee ingredients and raw materials to big corporations like Starbucks, 7-Eleven, and other multinational corporations that sell coffee and tea in any substantial capacity. Finlays started in London, United Kingdom and has existed for over 270 years; ever since 1750.

While at Finlays, I researched the sustainability strategies, customer needs, and trends of global coffee and tea corporations. I presented research to the Global Insights Manager, that will be distribute throughout the company on the business and sustainability models of major corporations. And I overall worked within the Corporate world to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Value Derived from the Experience:
The hard skill I have honed over the course of the summer has been Excel and PowerPoint skills. I was required to input most of my research and data into Excel so I learned how to use it well. For a soft skill that I have grown in getting better at, it is my presentation skills, as I have had to present my research findings in detail to my supervisor every week. Presenting is very useful in any work environment so I am glad that I have had more of an opportunity to practice it.

Overall, what I can draw from my internship is my new experience in business insights and sustainability efforts by powerful global actors such as multinational corporations. Though my main career focus is on diplomacy and human rights advocacy, I feel as though a future employer would find my experience in the corporate world to be just as relevant and useful, especially since corporations are also powerful actors when it comes to human rights. This internship helped me to understand the factors that push corporations, like consumer demands, laws, etc., to pursue sustainability and labor rights policies in their global supply chains and networks. The relevance of this corporate work is also intertwined with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals too, which I am also really personally and professionally passionate about.
Company and Position Description:
EPES (Educacion Popular en Salud) is an NGO striving to protect and improve the health, rights, and human dignity of marginalized communities. Their methodology is grounded in the philosophy presented in Paulo Freire's book Pedagogy of the Oppressed. Their aim is to educate the oppressed, but instead of doing so in a way that domesticates them into accepting their situations and the dominating culture, EPES actively works towards developing their critical awareness of their own conditions in order to assist in the liberation of the oppressed. They believe that by engaging in the continual process of reflection and action that both individuals and marginalized communities can experience a cognitive and spiritual transformation. My work included independent research on the migration situation, with a focus on Haitians and Venezuelans. I created two presentations for the organization to use, one in English and one in Spanish.
Value Derived from the Experience:

My internship experience has given me the opportunity to become more confident in my ability to adapt and succeed in a professional environment. Although our experiences were limited to a virtual space due to COVID, I learned a lot more than I had originally expected about my own capabilities during this internship process. I have a newfound confidence in my Spanish skills, in my critical thinking, and in my research topics. Due to the independent nature of my work assignments, I was able to put my skills to the test and managed to learn an incredible amount not just about my research topic, but myself as well.

I feel much more impassioned about working with Latin American immigrants in the future. And while the current situation may not entirely reflect what the situation will be like five or ten years from now, I feel much more secure in what I want to do now that I have worked a bit in the area of migration policy and social justice.
Company and Position Description:

I had the pleasure of working with Paced Group in London, and I worked for a smaller company under that holding group. I did a majority of my work with Brewed by Hand, a company that handled mostly different coffee companies. I worked on social media posts, business cards, printed collateral, and a look book.

The look book I worked on is a critical piece of work in my portfolio now! I had so much creative freedom while working on the book, as I designed about 80 pages front to back cover. The look book featured Loveramics brand coffee cups and products used in many locations and coffee shops across the UK. I was able to really use my knowledge and skills from my classes in this project, as well and learn more things about corporate design.
Value Derived from the Experience:

The biggest thing I learned from this experience was the difference between US and UK work/office culture. I went into this internship expecting a rigid working environment, like something I’d see in the states. Instead, I quickly learned this internship was the opposite, in a good way, and allowed me a lot of creative freedom instead of worrying about deadlines and the sake of getting work done to please others.

The biggest difference was the interview process. I had practiced a certain style of interview tips and techniques in order to pitch myself as the best of the best candidates. Although these tips were very useful, I didn't feel pressured in my interview to act a certain way that wasn't actually me. My supervisor interviewed me and it was very casual and not terrifying at all. My supervisor was so kind to me, talked to me like we had been friends for awhile, so it wasn't intimidating at all. I still effectively used the tips I had learned for a US conducted interview as I discussed my strengths, weaknesses, interests, and much more. Overall, I had a wonderful experience at Brewed by Hand and Paced Group and recommend this internship to everyone!
Company and Position Description:
Hutchison Ports is an international network of ports in logistics and transportation businesses, including cruise ship terminals, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair. Its network is built on firm commitments to the communities where they operate; to support local economic development, to open new international trade opportunities and contribute to long-term advancements in local infrastructure. Hutchison Ports develop and manage all aspects of port operation and trade-related logistics, sharing proven operational practices throughout its network for the good of global commerce.

An internship with the Group Commercial team will provide great exposure to the dynamic industry through desktop research and analysis, and interns will acquire transferable skills for future careers. The intern will be assigned various research and analysis projects related to the industry and global trade covering aspects such as macro-economic trends, government/port policies and initiatives and terminal competitor analysis. The intern will provide support such as desktop research, data gathering, analysis and preparation of briefings and management presentations.

Tuesday Weekly Meeting

Commercial Department Meeting
Value Derived from the Experience:
The Iacocca International Internship Program was an unbelievable experience! It helped me develop personally and professionally. I became more confident with myself because I was praised for my work and I got accepted into the program. There were moments that I was unsure of how to complete a task, but I was able to problem-solve on my own. I also began to explore more cultural opportunities in my area and share those with my friends and family.

During my time at the internship, I was able to learn what skills I need to be competitive in the Supply Chain market. I have developed a deeper understanding of how international supply chains work and the skill I need to further develop. My supervisor has also helped me understand the importance of research in an industry that is constantly evolving. One of my tasks was to interview Managing Director Mark Yong from Blume Global. I had the opportunity to network with him and to receive advice on applying to internships and what type of courses I should take. Attending virtual webinars helped develop my knowledge on international business and interest in earning my certificate in International Business.
Company and Position Description:
Healthwatch is an organization that was established in October 2012 and it is the national consumer champion in health and care. It has been given significant statutory powers to ensure the voice of the consumer is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services (PSNC 2021). Healthwatch has local branches for each borough in England; I work with Healthwatch Hackney. Hackney is a borough in London, extending north east from the city. While it has come up in the past few decades, there are still high levels of inequality and poverty within the community. In March 2020, it was assessed that 10.3% of the working age population claimed some sort of out-of-work benefit, the highest rate of any London borough (Trust for London, 2020). This shows us many people in Hackney struggle in accessing life-sustainable work. Healthwatch works within the sector and industry of healthcare. The UK is a global thought leader when it comes to healthcare publishing, It has the highest per capita share of the top 1% highest cited life sciences publications worldwide, and is second only to the US in terms of gross share (Kent, 2019). This shows us the UK is ranked high amongst its healthcare globally. Healthwatch’s collaboration with the NHS aids in the power this non-profit has in the healthcare industry. Healthwatch works with its struggling community on gaining feedback from how accessible these services are, as well as the quality of them to ensure everyone receives the care they need. Healthwatch works with GP practices and ensures their services are accessible and readily available/advertised for all Hackney residents. Another important aspect is providing information about all of the services that are available, and ensuring everyone feels safe utilizing these resources (Healthwatch 2021). Some work I did for this company included: participating in group meetings, facilitating and managing their social media (Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube), General Practice accessibility analysis and reports. Majority of my work was in the General Practice review where Healthwatch ensures each GP website in the borough is accessible.

Feedback from the community is super important!
Value Derived from the Experience:

Some soft skills that I honed during my internship include empathy and responsibility. These are personality traits/skills that you cannot see. Some hard skills that I honed were technological skills and communication skills. These hard skills are skills that you can show and learn. I honed these skills through my work experience this summer. These technical skills that I brought to the internship, and learned through the eight weeks, can be used in future work experiences. I edited YouTube subtitles in my internship for the first time ever. It was definitely a learning experience and it was harder the first time, but I did a lot better the second time. It’s important to me to show progress rather than accomplishment in new tasks. It can never be perfect on the first try. This is important to bring to other future work experiences as well. Progress in learning and new skills is so important and you have to keep an open mind and never give up!

Healthwatch was a perfect fit for me as I was interested in scoping out what a career in Public Health would look like for me! I am very passionate about medicine and public health and have been conflicted in which one I wanted to pursue for a career. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my professional experience as an intern at Healthwatch, I think I realized how passionate I am about medicine and it solidified my future plans of becoming a Physician Associate. This internship really helped me grow into a more mature, self-assured woman. I am eternally grateful for this experience, even if it was virtual, to work across cultures and grow professionally and personally this summer.
Company and Position Description:

I was interned with the Endangered Language Archive however it is connected through its parent organization Endangered Languages Documentation Programme. Beginning in 2002, ELDP was born, and their mission to documenting and preserving endangered languages. They fund depositors around the world to conducing their work of documentation of their researched endangered language. These depositors in turn use the ELA database to archive their documentary collections (ELDP 2021). The Endangered Languages Documentation Program connected was connected with the University of London, one of the most prominent universities in the UK. However, this summer they have allocated to Berlin, Germany being their own organization. I worked on helping translate a Spanish documentation of a Mayan Language called Q’anjob’al to English. The file with the spoken Mayan language has a Spanish description on what was being said in the Mayan language. And so, I translated over 545 descriptions to English. I also created social media posts of ELAR depositors discussing their work on podcasts.
Value Derived from the Experience:
This experience proved to me I can manage my own time and be successful and achieving my goals if I really dedicated time to blocking out my schedule. I also believe that I learned my values in being in a workspace that, being in a job that I am emotionally invested is something I want to aim for in the future. I find myself working harder and as well as giving my 110% when the work I am doing is something invaluable. I also believe having a task-based relationship (a relationship based on how tasks are done) isn't such a bad thing. I really felt supported by my supervisor and even though that physically interaction wasn't there I felt like how well my tasks were executed really shined. Overall, I had a very enlightening experience being a remote intern though it wasn't traditional, and gain a different perspective and I felt like my career goals were clear after this experience.
Company and Position Description:
I worked with nurses and midwifes in the nursing school at the Patagonia branch of Universidad San Sebastian. We conducted an in-depth article search and review to write a systematic review on the topic of mobile and telehealth nursing interventions to assist hypertension patients. Throughout the internship I was also able to speak with fellow nursing students to learn more about their career and share similarities and differences when it came to the education systems in our countries. I also sat in on meetings with patients discussing sanitary practices to help the COVID-19 pandemic and also presentations by other nurses regarding public health initiatives such as vaccine roll outs and programs conducted in schools to help with childhood obesity.
Value Derived from the Experience:

Although this experience was virtual, I still found it extremely rewarding when it comes to my career and personal development. I learned a lot more about the healthcare system and nursing as a profession which I will take with me in my future career in Public Health. By meeting with fellow professionals, I was able to compare and contrast the various cultures to get a more well-rounded view of the world. Through this I feel I have become better at engaging with various cultures and taking different perspectives. I also was able to work on my time management and organization skills as a majority of my internship experience was asynchronous. I have grown more confident in my abilities and plan to take everything I have learned with me in my future endeavors.
Company and Position Description:
I worked with Impact Hub Vienna. Impact Hub has many locations all around the globe. Their mission is to, "Connect, Enable, and Inspire businesses that innovate with heart, balancing social responsibility with profitability to build a world that works for all." At Impact Hub Vienna I was a Data Analysis and Market Research Intern. I analyzed multiple years' responses of their Members Survey and broke down the questions by other variables of interest for multiple groups of people with different aims. Additionally, I researched what organizations were running a program similar to the one my supervisor's team was looking to create and gathered information about each program already in the market.

Some of my final deliverables included an excel spreadsheet displaying the data analysis findings, an excel sheet with market research findings, and a document with specified data analysis findings with various charts and graphs as well as a power point presentation displaying those same findings.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship helped me develop personally and professionally immensely. The working atmosphere and community feel that Impact Hub provided me with sets a precedent for any employment I will seek moving forward. All of the people I met were incredibly inclusive and uplifting while also offering constructive feedback. It has shown me what a positive working environment should look like. Not only that, my supervisors continually focused on what goals I had, how I was getting there, and what resources they could provide me with to help me achieve what I wanted to.

Some of my goals were to be able to articulate myself better, meet new people, improve on my presentation skills. Impact Hub provided me with many opportunities to work towards these goals as well as strengthen the skills I already had. I could not be more thankful for my internship placement and people I worked with.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I had the opportunity to work for Piccin, a Medical Publishing Company based in Padua, Italy. My role was being a medical illustrator! I worked one-on-one with the company supervisor to create detailed digital (via Photoshop) paintings and diagrams of human anatomy and physiology, to be published in posters and textbooks. I worked completely independently on all projects, which included drawing the digestive tract, oral cavity, cross-sections of the pancreatic duct, arterial system, and portal system of the mesenteric veins.
Value Derived from the Experience:

For me, this internship was a huge personal and professional milestone for me. It was one of the most specific and beneficial job experiences I've had to date, perfectly catered to my interdisciplinary education. I learned so much on the job about what the workflow, process, and lifestyle of a medical illustrator entails, and I gained so many technical skills as well. I was able to hone my Photoshop/digital animation skills in an extremely short amount of time, as well become extremely confident in intercultural communication and collaboration.

This job provided me with the knowledge and experience to confidently move forward in my dream career field of medical illustration, which for me is the ideal manifestation of the intersection between art and science. I am forever grateful for the internship experience afforded to me by the IIIP program, because it is an experience I will learn from and carry with me long into the future.
Company and Position Description:
Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) is a non-profit institution founded in 1903 located in St. George's Bermuda. BIOS offers a wide range of educational opportunities, from local marine studies to global environmental issues. This summer 2021, I am working on a remote internship with Dr. Eric Hochberg, my mentor. Eric is an expert on coral reef systems and is a reef system ecologist. He is recently awarded with two grants from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for his research. His research involves using satellite images of the ocean to investigate changes in the coral reef system, which is also what my internship is about.

My internship was using satellite images to determine the organic/inorganic carbon export in the Bermuda's reef platform. In the first two weeks of my internship, Eric spent time teaching me on how satellite images work. Then, I started collecting satellite images on line and processed those images for later data extraction. During this internship, I was required to give two presentations: one introduction on the topic of my research and the other on the final results I found.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship is very comfortable but also valuable. It was a one-on-one internship with Eric and he is very approachable and polite. I learned a lot about politeness and ways of communication. Eric told me that everyone in Bermuda is super polite, where everyone says greetings like "good morning" and "good afternoon", etc. to each other.

Also, I learned about public speaking and giving professional presentations. While preparing for my introduction and final presentation, Eric provided many feedbacks on how to improve my presentation. I was prone to use bullet points on my slides but with Eric's help, I adapted to use pictures and less words to tell "a story" of what I know. Overall, I learned a lot personally aside from just the topic of the research.
Company and Position Description:
Hologic, Inc. is a medical technology company primarily focused on women's health; it sells medical devices for diagnostics, surgery, and medical imaging. The headquarters is located in Marlborough, Massachusetts, but there are branches all across the world. I worked as an intern in the North Asia branch, whose markets consisted of mainly Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea. Out of the four categories of focus (breast health solutions, diagnostic solutions, GYN surgical solutions, and skeletal solutions), GYN surgical solutions and products were what I worked on most.

When I began the internship, I was unfamiliar with the industry and Hologic's product portfolio, but then I spent time learning more about how Hologic differentiated itself in the market, and what key aspects made up the company. My weekly deliverables and work consisted of organizing and collecting data about potential business partners, mainly on financial performance, product portfolio, and company growth. I also collected and reviewed market data for breast health and diagnostic trends and developments to help me to create a marketing plan. I conducted research and analyzed the market dynamics and drivers, as well as determining potential sales opportunities, in addition to offering digital media advertising initiative plans.
Value Derived from the Experience:
Throughout the weeks of my internship, I saw the most growth in my professional skills. Though the nature of remote work limited my first hand experience in working abroad, I got the opportunity to meet and learn from Hologic employees from different regions outside of the North Asia branch, including Australia, Canada, and across the US. They were all so welcoming and taught me a lot about the company and offered lots of career advice as well, which also taught me how to communicate and maintain relationships to expand my network.

Even though I never previously considered working for a health tech company, I learned a lot about the women's health and its industry, and it may become useful in the future. In relation to my studies and professional work, I learned how to collect and organize data and analyze potential sales opportunities, and how to present the information I came up in a marketing plan. This allowed me to improve my research and communication skills as well.
Company and Position Description:
During this summer, I worked remotely for Hutchison Ports, one of the world's leading port networks, located at its Headquarters in Hong Kong. There, I worked as the Commercial Junior Graphic Designer in which I used Adobe programs like InDesign, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, and Photoshop to complete various designs for the company and help market a number of events and projects. Collaborating with my supervisor, I worked towards creating a personal portfolio by designing banners for the company's internal website, a video celebrating long-time staff members, a magazine cover focused on digitalization, and signs for an event offering operations staff members free herbal tea.
Value Derived from the Experience:
Reflecting on this internship, I learned a lot about not only graphic design, but myself as well. Before starting, I had little background knowledge when it came to using the Adobe tools I was expected to know. I was more of a beginner than anything. After concluding my work, however, I now feel much more comfortable using these types of programs. I've even discovered that I really enjoy doing this type of work and can see myself continuing graphic design in my post-graduate future. I'm so happy I got this opportunity because it has, in a way, changed my life and helped me develop new interests!
Company and Position Description:

Net4market is an e-procurement platform through which the companies can manage their business relationship with buyers and suppliers efficiently. One of the major products of Net4market is ‘Business Network’, an e-procurement software. Through this, companies can sell and buy products, advertise themselves, activate procedures or telematic tenders, which will reduce their costs and time of supplying.

I worked in their Marketing Team as a Market Launch and Research Intern. We started our internship by designing flyers, posters, and brochures for the company. Considering that Net4market is trying to expand into the US, we also did some market research and reached out to potential customers and received their feedback. Meanwhile, we also translated their main website and their software from Italian to English.
The internship experience with Net4market was very different and exciting than I thought it would be. As an international student, my first language is not English and I had to communicate with someone whose first language is not English either. It was fun how we were trying to help each other understand the technical terms. So, I believe that this internship was very much helpful in improving my communication skills.

As an Economics major, I was not very much familiar with the software used for designing and marketing. I got to learn a few as we designed our flyers and posters. In addition to that, we also did some market research looking for our potential customers. We designed a survey for the customers, called them, and asked feedback. We learned to make conversations in a professional setting, which will be really important as we move forward. Besides, I also got to learn a few Italian words while translating their websites.
Company and Position Description:
Over the summer I worked as an intern at Hutchison Ports, which is the world's leading port network that operates ports and terminals in 26 countries in six continents. They handle cargo and container handling as well as logistics and transportation businesses involving cruise ships, rail services, and ship repair. I worked as an Operations Intern researching vessel berthing, which is when ships arrive at port and are prepared to have their cargo unloaded, loaded, or stowed. Specifically, I did simulation studies on the task for container berthing with the Anylogic software under Mr. Poon as supervisor.
For my experience, the software was very new and I learned about discrete events modeling, system dynamics, and agent-based modeling. I gained exposure to how seaport terminals worked and the structure of the port as well as how containers are transported from the berthing vessels in terminal operations through literature reviews.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This experience has helped me grow as both a professional and as an individual. Overall, the entire internship has been quite the learning experience since I began not knowing anything at all about container port operations and ships. Now, however, I know about the stowing operations, quay crane movements, and other industry specific terminology such as the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of container yard and berthing operations. I also gained some introductory knowledge on how to use the Anylogic simulation software to handle logistics and supply chain problems. Socially, I think I was able to use the opportunity to improve my speaking skills and ability to connect with people in networking situations. I formed strong relationships with my cultural/regional team through the IIIP curriculum and established a working relation with my supervisor.

If circumstances allow, I am planning to travel to Hong Kong with my regional team partners and visit the Hutchison branch that is there and meet the supervisors face to face. It was a difficult, but rewarding experience and I don’t regret spending my summer indoors to complete this virtual internship!
Company and Position Description:

University College Dublin (UCD) is a public research university in Dublin and is Ireland’s largest university. UCD is internationally known for its excellent quality in teaching and learning. As a research intern, I worked with my supervisor studying miRNAs. miRNAs are a type of short non-coding RNAs involved in gene expression and regulation. Past research has shown that miRNAs regulate the development of human tumors by acting as suppressors or oncogenes. miRNAs play a vital role in cancer and are heavily dysregulated in cancer cells. By studying and identifying new miRNAs, researchers can potentially use their findings for cancer prognosis, diagnostic tools, and future treatment.

For my project, I identified and analyzed authentic miRNAs using the data my supervisor provided. This was done by ensuring the data matches the criteria’s that counts as true miRNA. Additionally, I also used the microRNA database (miRbase) to further validate my results. The database consists of published miRNA sequence annotations from past researchers. From the certain trends I found, I was able to form general conclusions and discover how these trends are also related to species development and evolution. Because this field of research is still fairly new, these conclusions further confirmed past research findings.

Data Given to Analyze

microRNA Database
Value Derived from the Experience:

This experience helped me grow personally and professionally. Creating small goals and communicating with my supervisor was vital to succeed. Throughout the internship, I learned how to manage my time and not be afraid to ask for help. Because I was working independently, I found myself sometimes struggling with my project. However, I was able to have a one-on-one mentorship where my supervisor taught me how to determine my findings. Due to the flexibility, I was also able to balance my time, actively determine my strengths, and improve my weaknesses. Throughout my regional team meetings and weekly meetings with my supervisor, I was able to virtually immerse myself within the Irish culture. With the many attempts of cooking Irish dishes and listening to Irish music, I was able to communicate across different cultures despite the virtual setting.

As a generalist, this internship helped me in discovering different fields in biology. This project helped explain the possible evolutionary changes different species underwent through developmental history while also learning about how our body functions mechanistically. This experience also connected with what I learned academically to a topic I was able to further delve into in research. Working independently prepared myself for my future professional life.
Company and Position Description:

I interned at a London-based retail automation startup called Shopwave that offers retail and fast-service hospitality businesses powerful technologies to automate their entire estate, from legacy software to cloud and mobile apps, as a business analyst and software developer. Shopwave enables clients to integrate inventory tracking and kitchen management with point-of-sale applications to deliver a connected, experiential retail effortlessly across multiple teams, stores, and channels globally. It provides customers with a scalable option without the bureaucracy and hidden fees of large corporations to simplify retail operations and integrate the shop floor with the back office.

While working with Shopwave, I had the chance to participate in meetings, communicate with clients to identify new product opportunities, conduct market and product research, and test beta versions of products that were already in development. I also identified points of improvement and implemented a new method based on fishbone diagrams to improve root cause analysis inside the company. Furthermore, I was able to develop my own application from concept idea to launch. Hopefully, after the COVID-19 pandemic ends, I'll be able to finally visit London and stop by 20 Air St at Piccadilly Circus where Shopwave is currently located.
Value Derived from the Experience:

Although the idea we had envisioned for the internship didn’t work out exactly as we planned, I handled a lot of interdisciplinary tasks. Instead of being exposed only to my areas of interest, I was able to develop other skills and get out of my comfort zone. Working at a startup gave me that opportunity. Unlike my friends that interned at big corporations and had a fixed schedule and job title, I felt like I was always on, transiting between completely different jobs. Although it was hard to get used to at first, I developed a flexibility I didn't have before. I am usually behind a screen coding, but since Shopwave is very externally driven, I had the opportunity to also develop my communication skills.

Learning how to talk to clients in meetings and how to pitch my ideas took me out of my comfort zone and made me more confident in the end. The lack of predictability helped me develop adaptability skills and their goal-oriented culture taught me not just to follow orders but to create my own. Any programmer knows the hard skills I acquired during this internship, but not all of them have the soft skills I developed as well. My supervisor once said, “any programmer can code, but only some can communicate effectively”. This phrase stuck with me and I will always remember it.
Company and Position Description:
The Impacter is an NGO whose goal is to encourage and empower responsible innovation projects. One way the Impacter accomplishes this is through the Business Spirit Platform, an online news source that publishes content related to value-driven business, responsible research and innovation, and sustainable development. As a communications intern, my primary role was to curate an excel sheet database of over 50 different organizations throughout four different European countries that could serve as potential partners and collaborators for The Impacter as we expand our reach.

Additionally, I served as Project Coordinator for the Impact Shakers Award interviews. This award was distributed by one of Business Spirit Platform’s partners, and was given to social entrepreneurs with exceptional start-ups. As part of each winner’s award package, they completed a written interview with us, and we will be publishing articles on each of their start-ups. As Project Coordinator, I handled communication with all 12 winners, including sharing interview materials, answering questions, providing feedback, sending reminders, and expressing our thanks. In addition to these projects, I also had the opportunity to sit in on video calls with company partners, and will be attending several conferences in the fall.

Impacter's magazine, "Profit with Purpose"  
Company Swag
Value Derived from the Experience:
My time spent researching responsible innovation this summer introduced me to a new field of work I had never known existed before. This knowledge has provided me with a new and unique perspective on how businesses can influence the well-being of society, a concept which is applicable to my own studies of health, medicine, and society, as well as my everyday life.

Although the virtual workspace proved to be a challenge, conquering virtual communication, time differences, and cultural differences allowed me to strengthen my communication skills, become more independent, and gain both personal and professional confidence. For example, working on difficult projects with limited guidance forced me to trust my own abilities and to think outside of the box. In the end, I could see a clear improvement in my work when I began to fully adapt this mindset.

Overall, the most notable takeaway from my experience is the wonderful connections I was able to build with my supervisor, the IIIP staff, and the other students in the 2021 cohort. Looking to the future, I am excited to continue attending responsible innovation related events, and am certain the skills and connections I've gained through this program will prove to be very valuable!
Company and Position Description:
I interned for Gymboree Play and Music, a company based in Dublin, Ireland that provides music classes and therapy to preschools across Ireland. Originally a clothing store in the United States, Gymboree Play and Music now operates as a franchise company abroad, serving approximately 150 preschools in Ireland, with a staff of twenty teachers.

During my internship, I focused on updating the curriculum and lesson plans for the classes. I compiled research on the best types of music for children, ensuring that the children received a well-rounded view of songs, from African folk music to mainstream pop. Additionally, I created simple choreography that the children can do to accompany the songs, to help develop their fine and gross motor skills. This required working with a child safety engineer, to ensure that the movements and use of musical instruments and props were safe for the children. I learned tremendously about each component that goes into a lesson plan, from the content to including some themes around character, such as taking turns and being kind to others. My creation of lesson plans will prove to be very useful to me in the future, as I plan on becoming a teacher or perhaps the next franchise owner of Gymboree!
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship helped me develop some soft skills, such as effective and succinct communication, assertiveness, and learning to thrive off of ambiguity. One of the main things that took me by surprise was how much control I possessed over my assigned tasks for that week. My supervisor was very lenient with the direction of my given tasks, which meant that I needed to be well-prepared to assert my desires for that week’s workload. I cultivated the balance between asserting myself, while being respectful and equipped with knowledge on the area of the lesson plan I was working on for that week.

Additionally, this internship reinforced my desire to work in the education sector in a globally-driven environment. For instance, Gymboree revolves around infusing their lessons from music from around the world, as well as instilling cultural appreciation at such a young age. The very idea of exposing children to a vast array of cultures lies at the crux of global citizenship theory and how every person should strive to not merely view themselves as being a citizen of one country confined to rigid borders, but an informed and caring citizen of the world.
Company and Position Description:

This summer was afforded the opportunity to intern with a medical technology company called Praxis Electronic Medical Records in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Praxis Electronic Medical Records (Praxis EMR) has artificial intelligence called Concept Processing that learns from the needs of the user. This company provides an electronic medical record software to a multitude of medical specialties in order to provide a faster and easier way for medical doctors to practice higher quality medicine instead of wasting a plethora of time on templates. Throughout working with this company, I was able to work independently and with my supervisor in order to complete each task at hand; moreover, I helped with marketing of the product in order to help struggling doctors who suffered with template systems.

Praxis is utilized in order to help physicians save valuable time and improve medical quality and patient outcomes as a result of improved medical quality. The main goal of Praxis is to allow physicians to practice faster and easier medicine as well as become the most important medical information system in the world. With that being said, I found it useful to know the background of some physician specialties in order to market the product toward that specific specialty.
Value Derived from the Experience:

I was able to gain a cultural perspective that has facilitated my professional and educational development. I learned how to effectively communicate in order to maximize my time and produce good-quality blogs for marketing. The beginning was challenging learning how to communicate and figuring out the proper time to communicate but working with my career partners and regional teams that were assigned through my university has helped. The most impactful aspect of the internship would be meeting the CEO of the company that I interned for. We almost immediately talking about how I’m in the process of applying to medical school—to my surprise, he had gone through the same process; moreover, he had taken his MCAT, applied, and attended medical school and went on to be a doctor. I found his tips to be extremely helpful, as they subsided some nerves and anxiousness that has been prevalent in my mind the past couple of months.

My greatest lesson learned would definitely be time management. Although I’ve always been good at managing my time and prioritizing in school, adding an internship on top of medical school applications, summer classes, and my part-time retail job has been challenging—but I am proud to say that I have done it! I learned the importance of keeping a detailed and organized calendar.
Company and Position Description:

Our internship, in partnership with the University of Ljubljana’s mechanical engineering faculty, has been focused on the research and advancement of passive radiation cooling technology. Our team is comprised of two Lehigh undergraduates with mechanical engineering concentrations, and one Lehigh material science and engineering graduate student. The first few weeks of work were dedicated to exposure to material for context on the necessary physics, the state of the art, and potential future of applications.

We have read and compiled key concepts from introductory thermodynamics, heat transfer, and optics references. We have also viewed a series of published papers on daytime radiation cooling devices, and their successes and difficulties with applying the technology. Having analyzed the relevant energy equations and designed a basic model sketch, we mathematically simulated intensity and power components using MATLAB.
Value Derived from the Experience:
This internship has shown me how adaptable I am, and that I am much more capable of readily utilizing new information than I thought. Much of the physics that went into our work, I had never even heard of before initializing our research. I have been able to develop my skills as a team member and gained valuable experience for realistic time management and setting practical goals.

Even though I struggled with my self-expectations at times, especially like knowing when to turn the computer off given the virtual nature of the work, I was able to take a step back and talk with my research partners, both as colleagues and as friends. Knowing how to set boundaries for oneself is just as important as being respectful of other people’s limitations, and that is valuable lesson.
Company and Position Description:

Research Intern at University of Sacred Heart, Milan. Worked under Professor Michela Balconi, a world-renowned scientist in the neuroscience/psychology field. Worked on researching non-invasive techniques to help treat addiction. Researched biofeedback and neurofeedback training on how it could help patients who suffered from one of three addictions or a combination of cocaine, alcohol, and gambling.

Final project included starting a research protocol on how these techniques can help patients who suffer from gambling addiction. I laid the foundation for the professor and her team was going to build off of that to actually run those experiments on real people. It is amazing to see that the work that I did during these 10 weeks could have some positive real-life implications. Even if my protocol is not the best, if it can help one person overcome their addiction, then it was a success in my books.
Value Derived from the Experience:
The value that I gained goes further than something that can be quantified on paper. I really learned how to carry myself around a team to get the best possible outcome. I have always been the type of person to stay away from asking help because I thought it would go against me, but during this internship I asked so many questions. I had to make sure I did a good job representing myself, but also the university. I tried my best to learn a little bit of Italian, at least the most basic phrases to try and speak to them in their own language. That also pushed me out of my comfort zone as I completely botched some words but I know the fact that I was trying really impressed them. In terms of professional growth, I learned how to really perform a great literature review as that is most of the work that I did for 8 weeks.

Finally, being able to work on my own protocol with their guidance and their tips was super beneficial when I decide to do my own research down the line. It would have been amazing to be in the lab with them in person and work on actual experiments, but this experience was beneficial in its own way.
Company and Position Description:
Throughout this internship, I worked with two other Lehigh students to do some research and provide a simulation of daytime radiation cooling. The first two weeks we had to get familiar with our topic so we read various articles so that we can get a better understanding. We presented our findings to faculty from Slovenia who provided us with a lot feedback. With the help from our advisors and the readings, we had a fairly good foundation to create a free body diagram and energy balance equation that we used to create a MATLAB simulation. Throughout the summer, we were able to meet weekly with our advisors and receive the help we needed to have a finished simulation.
Value Derived from the Experience:

I learned so much personally and professionally through my internship experience. I learned how to summarize, analyze, incorporate, and present findings from my readings appropriately. I have also learned how to communicate effectively about my research and using the feedback I received to improve my performance. Personally, I am a very timid person so in meetings I tend to be quiet, but because of how frequent we had meetings I was forced to get out of my comfort zone and was able to successfully find my voice.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I interned in the molecular microbiology and research food lab at the University San Sebastian. More specifically, I worked on a research project with professor Waldo Diaz, Jazmin Castro, and Claudia Zapata using the university’s COVID-19 PCR test result database. I used programming software, such as R and R Studio, to run statistical tests and analyze the database to ultimately identify the indeterminate/inconclusive test result bias of methods and other metadata. In other words, my research focused on the role identified variables of RT-PCR testing like RNA extraction method, PCR kit used, cycle threshold value, sample type, sample container content, patient age, and patient gender have on the results of an indeterminate test result.
Currently, I am working with professor Waldo, Jazmin, and Claudia to publish my research manuscript. I am hoping a mathematical model can be made from my research that characterizes an indeterminate test result.
Value Derived from the Experience:
I think this experience helped develop me both professionally and personally. For instance, I was able to improve some of my professional workplace skills through networking and formal presentations. Throughout the summer, I was able to connect with multiple professors and researchers that work in the field I am interested in having a future in. Also, I am naturally a pretty shy and reserved person, so I was very nervous when I had to present all of my research to a group of about forty professionals. However, I now feel much more confident speaking about myself to professionals and other people because of these sorts of activities. I think I will probably have to present different research or projects for a large group of people multiple times in the future.

Therefore, having the opportunity to better my public speaking abilities this summer was very beneficial. I think I developed personally because I learned so much about the culture of another country. I participated in meetings where I made bracelets native to Chilean practices, watched Spanish movies, and was informed about Chilean economics and politics. From this, I expanded my own intercultural competence and strengthened my relationship with some of my peers.
Company and Position Description:
Throughout the course of the internship, I created and modified pages in an existing web app constructed using Vue.js framework to visualize the results of impact assessments of client companies. I first learned the ins and outs of Vue via a Udemy course, and as I became more comfortable working with the framework, I was given more responsibilities and even given freedom to determine the structure and content of new web pages. I usually met with one or more supervisors for the first hour or so of my work day to clarify expectations of the day and work out any difficulties encountered during my previous workday.

Due to the time difference between myself and my coworkers (6 hours), I often worked with no guidance for most of each work day. Other notable work I did for Impact Nexus included revising written explanations of their services for clarity (as the only native English speaker on the team), taking notes on competitor landing pages for inspiration, and attending weekly planning and retrospective meetings. I initially was told I would be able to experiment with implementations of machine learning and natural language processing, but the opportunity never arose.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship allowed me to see what it was like to work a proper web development job, after having worked a more introductory web development position in high school. I was able to see how some of the classes I have taken at Lehigh expand upon my prior experience in this field. That said, I now have a greater motivation to explore other fields within my major in order to determine my specialty, now knowing how I perform as a front-end web developer for comparison. Working virtually in Germany, there was not much cultural difference as all employees spoke English very well. I realized that in order to experience true cultural immersion, I will have to visit Germany in person through the travel grant opportunity.

Through this virtual experience, I also realized how much I would prefer to work in person if possible. I enjoyed meeting with my assigned career partners and regional team, as both were able to contribute their perspectives on similar experiences encountered during the internship.
Company and Position Description:

I worked as a sports logistics intern for TU Dortmund, a logistics university in Germany, helping my supervisor with publishing an academic paper. My work consisted of reading other academically published papers on sports logistics and providing feedback on what topics my supervisor should include. In addition, I reached out to sports companies in the U.S. to interview them about their infrastructure and how they handled sports logistics.
Value Derived from the Experience:
My internship helped me improve some of my professional skills and helped me pinpoint what areas I need to improve in. Time management has always been an important skill to have and my internship has definitely helped me improve this skill due to the significant time difference. Also, I got to learn a lot about the German work culture from my supervisor. It was overall a great experience being able to see the work culture of another country and being able to experience that work culture for myself.
Company and Position Description:
I worked for Sinluz, an engineering and architecture consulting firm. Sinluz works with various projects within Barcelona, mainly being residential buildings. Their work involves all types of engineering and architecture processes in the construction of a building, such as developing budgets, analyzing structural members, and performing building inspections. My position within the company involved two main projects. The first project I worked on involved creating a budget for all materials and labor included in the construction of a multi-story 11 family building. I worked on the project budget in phases, ranging from the initial site preparation and excavations, to the final facade and installations. I was given the overall scope of the project at the beginning of the internship, and worked on the project phases sequentially.

The second project I worked on involved the inspection of a cluster of large residential buildings. I worked with the Sinluz database to compile and organize photos and specific information for each building in order to submit a final inspection report. I also worked on identifying and indicating any deficiencies with each building, which were mainly facade wear due to the old age of the buildings. Throughout my internship I kept in close contact with my supervisor Raul.
Value Derived from the Experience:

My virtual internship has positively affected me professionally and personally. This internship gave me valuable experience which allowed me to learn as much as I could about the construction process of a building. This experience also aligned really well with my professional goals for the future in civil engineering. By working very closely with my supervisor Raul, I was able to ask him many questions, which furthered my knowledge of civil engineering. I was also able to grow personally throughout the internship.

Since it was a virtual internship I faced many challenges such as conflicting time zones and technical difficulties with remote programs as well as other difficulties with language barriers and different regional engineering terminology. Because I was able to face these challenges head on and ultimately have a very positive and impactful internship experience, I was able to gain confidence on my abilities to adapt to any situation I might face in the workplace.
Company and Position Description:

Over the summer, I worked for TU Dortmund, which is a technical university based in Dortmund, Germany. The work that they do at TU Dortmund is primarily based around mechanical engineering and material science. During my internship, I worked with void analysis in the micro-structure of dual-phase steels. I started by reviewing tradition metal forming methods such as rolling, and die forging. Once I was familiar with these processes, I was able to start learning about the damage that occurs within the metal during these processes and what occurs when these formed parts are subjected to different loads.

While working with the team at TU Dortmund, I was tasked with analyzing electron microscope images of a dual-phase steel in tension. The goal was to set a standard where all microscope images were processed and grayscale in order to show the significant voids in the micro-structure. Multiple different software was used, but we finally wrote a LabVIEW code that was able to grayscale all the images, detect voids, and eliminate noise that could be perceived as small voids. I also worked on using FORGE NxT to more accurately model dual-base steels in tension by integrating a flow curve based on the data we received from the photos.
Value Derived from the Experience:
The Iacocca International Internship Experience was one like no other. Doing real engineering work for a university in Germany was exciting and provided a lot of insight. Being virtual was definitely a challenge and presented some difficulties along the way. However, I think that being virtual provided a lot of educational value considering the ever-changing work environment. It allowed for work flexibility and autonomy. The experience helped me grow personally by holding me accountable and making sure I met deadlines and managed my time wisely since the work days were asynchronous. I learned a lot about myself and my work ethic. I had to keep a schedule otherwise I would feel disconnected and fall behind on work.

The experience also helped me grow professionally, because it exposed me to an international work environment and blended the German culture with my own. Some holidays took place during my internship and it was interesting to see how my German colleagues balanced work and their time off. Being able to do real engineering work/research enabled me to gain an insight into the corporate side of engineering and provided clarity on what type of job field I am interested in and some of the things I would be expected to do in the future.
Company and Position Description:

I worked as a research intern for Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences under Dr. Rachel Parsons. I worked individually on my own project and frequently met with our lab group Team Microbe. My project was investigating the environmental factors that drive the formation and overturn of the oxygen minimum zone in Devil's Hole, Bermuda. I did a lot of the data analytics for their cruise sampling and researched weather patterns that supported my hypothesis. I learned how to make contour plots in Ocean Data View, a lot of new features in excel, and some elementary basics in R for statistics.

Throughout the course of my internship I gave an introduction talk and a final talk to the members of BIOS and finished a final paper. I was also able to meet with a Bermuda Weather Service meteorologist who published papers similar to my project findings. My aspirations for post internship are to continue to help my mentor with some of the data sorting during winter break to add to my projects timeline and to learn how the data is sampled on the cruise.
Value Derived from the Experience:

I found this internship to be a lot of fun and very interesting. I gained more of an idea of what type of research I would like to do in the future and how the process for it goes. I also gained confidence in my abilities to learn new software as well as chemistry I wasn't familiar with. With a remote internship, time management and communication were the most important aspects I found making it successful. My mentor and I kept in touch every day and met over zoom at least twice a week to go over project findings. Being completely honest about skill levels and knowledge allowed me to learn faster and develop a balance between receiving help with independently working.

Overall, I believe that this internship gave me more certainty and confidence in a new work environment as well as lots of new skills to add to my experience. Being able to work with BIOS was an opportunity I am very fortunate to have. I'm hoping to continue to intern with them in the future and advance my project findings.
Company and Position Description:
I had the pleasure of working at Sage Advocacy for my Iacocca International Internship. Sage was founded in 2014 in response to abuses towards the elderly in the Irish healthcare system and has been committed to providing care and a voice for Ireland’s aging population ever since. My role at Sage was to monitor the media and political attention given to the company’s key campaigns for the summer. I would search through news databases and records of meetings in the Oireachtas, Ireland’s legislature, to find examples of issues Sage had brought up being discussed. After finding these examples, it was then my job to log them and present them to my supervisor every week. Additionally, I undertook another project with Sage to monitor the lobbying efforts of nursing homes in Ireland. I even had the opportunity to present this second research project to the executive director of Sage Advocacy and offer my insight on where the group should focus its own lobbying attention.
Overall, I was very interested in my work as it had real world repercussions, and thanks to IIIP, I have opened up a new potential career path I normally wouldn't have explored.
Value Derived from the Experience:
The Iacocca International Internship helped me develop professionally by giving me exposure to research beyond what I was used to in the classroom. All the research I had done at Lehigh to date has been relatively limited, but here with Sage Advocacy I knew that my work was seriously being considered and could impact policy decisions in Ireland.

To be honest, recognizing that fact was a very scary feeling at first. But I feel like IIIP has given me the chance to really grow into that sort of role. Their professional coaching and advising have made me more confident than ever before in terms of career-readiness. I’ve never been the type of person to really think about my strengths or where I want my career to go, so getting to sit down with the IIIP staff and talk through these decisions was extremely helpful.
Company and Position Description:
I interned at AIMS - African Institute for Mathematical Sciences. I mainly worked with Full-Stack Development and supported the primary software developer in the development of a web-based platform for partially automating data collection and report generation for a variety of performance variables relevant to the AIMS Global Network. I also, undertook endeavors in CRUD (Create, Review, Update, Delete) operations using the Django Python framework, user management, API (Application Program Interface) management and UI (User-Interface) design.
Value Derived from the Experience:

Partaking in the Iacocca internship was quite a difficult endeavor for me. This was due to multiple reasons; my internship was quite difficult as I was learning and working on a lot of new projects and technologies that I had never done before. I also had to learn quite a lot on my own. However, this taught me that I can overcome anything that is placed in front of me.

Professionally, at my internship I learned a lot about communication, especially cross-cultural communication. All in all, the Iacocca internship taught me a lot about my interests, my skills, and setting boundaries.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I interned as a curriculum developer for PAR University College in Croatia. This school is a business school that offers classes for both undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in working in business. As a curriculum developer, my job was to work towards bettering the business classes and figuring out ways in which students can have a more advanced, well-taught business classes. PAR University College takes their curriculum, classes and the experiences of their students very seriously. Therefore, during my internship, I made sure to research and develop a presentation on US summer schools that are similar to PAR's Sail and Learn summer program.

PARs Sail and Learn program is a one-week program in which students sail through Croatia’s beautiful coastline while at the same time take business classes. I put together a presentation with five different US schools that offer similar summer programs to Sail and Learn, from which my supervisor was able to take valuable facts and information from and build a better summer program for PARs summer school.
Value Derived from the Experience:

This internship helped me gain a better understanding of what it is like to work with others professionally and it really helped me gain stronger communication, time-management, confidence and knowledge of how to work with others in a well and professional manner. Before participating in this internship, I really did not have much confidence or skills to work in the workforce, because I only really knew how to work with others in classrooms or through clubs and after school activities.

I was definitely very nervous to go into this internship and I absolutely did not know what to expect, because not only was it my first internship, but it also happened to be international, and I have never worked with anyone internationally, so I definitely was in for a surprise and for a journey. This internship amazed me and changed me. It helped me. I realized that for me to work well, those with whom I work with in a professional environment does matter. I am willing to communicate and confidently ask questions without having to feel like I am a burden, so to have a supervisor who was understanding, professional and articulate was a huge bonus for me. That was important to me because my supervisor’s professionalism and actions served as an example of how I will be when I transition into the work force.
Company and Position Description:

For the Summer of 2021, I had the pleasure of virtually interning for Healthwatch Greenwich, a nonprofit organization located in London, England. Healthwatch’s focus and priority is to listen to community members and voice their concerns to those in power to create effective and meaningful change. One task I was assigned revolved around constructing feedback reports, which contained all the reviews for the month of June and July that locals had left for a range of health services in the Greenwich area: General Practices, Dentists, Care-homes, and Hospitals. These feedback reports are important, as they will become the basis for future community decisions around health care and services.

For my final assignment, I had to work and collaborate as a team to compile and analyze reports delivered by southeast London Healthwatch (SELHW), six local Healthwatch. We wanted to identify themes and recommendations SELHW has made to NHS providers between April 2018 and March 2021. This is the first mega-analysis that looked at these health issues over the course of years to see if they were reoccurring. This is extremely important as it will be used as proof and pressure to get the six Healthwatch to prioritize working on these issues, benefiting the quality of public and social services of others.
Value Derived from the Experience:

On a personal, academic and even professional level I was able to develop my cultural competency, an ability needed within the field I want to pursue. Through the seminar offered by IES, I learned about differences between cultures, which helped a lot in navigating and understanding my internship. I learned about differences in communication style, trust, leadership, and disagreement. I have realized that I want to work in the health industry, but on a global scale. This requires interacting with a multitude of people with drastically different backgrounds. Therefore, I would like to further my cultural competency to become a better ally to all people.

The first step in accomplishing this for my internship was to attend and represent Healthwatch at external organizations. Examples of this include the event by Kingston University London that discussed the Representativeness and diversity in patient and public involvement and engagement, as well as the event held by Eventbrite where they discussed how the pandemic has disproportionately impacted certain groups of people, indicating that there may be different and distinct health service support needed for them. Overall, this internship has opened my eyes to the various possibilities or paths that can exist.
Company and Position Description:

Morrinson Wealth Management is a principal partner practice of one of UK's leading wealth management firms - St. James's Place. At Morrinson, they invest money, provide financial guidance, and assist with long-term plans for individual clients. This work provides valuable tools for people to build wealth over the course of their lives and make smart financial decisions.

My role in this company was primarily internal. My responsibilities included conducting market research on competitor firms, creating a new content library, and I was also given the opportunity to network with other professionals in the office and attend client meetings.
Value Derived from the Experience:
For me, having the opportunity to intern for a foreign company meant a lot more than getting just work experience. I personally enjoyed getting to better understand the UK culture and traditions especially from a work perspective. One thing I found interesting and potentially something that I would want to implement in my life is having a strong separation between work and outside life. For example, if I sent an email on Friday at 6:00 PM, I would not get a response until Monday morning, because time off in the UK is taken more seriously. At the same time, I get the impression that in the US you're always expected to check mail and answer calls over the weekends and on vacation.
Company and Position Description:
This summer, I worked in a research group for the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. Under supervision of a professor from the university, my group worked on a project involving radiation cooling to decrease atmospheric emissions and increase cooling technology efficiency.

Due to the time zone difference and asynchronous work environment, my group worked and met on our own time, researching creating material to present to our supervisor each week. This proved to be an efficient work style, as we received constructive criticism from our supervisor, while also taking the responsibility to do work asynchronously. At the end of our experience, we constructed and presented a radiative cooling schematic with code and diagrams to back up our statement.
Value Derived from the Experience:

At the beginning of this experience, I wasn't quite sure how well an remote internship working environment would prepare me for my career. I am glad to say now that I took away more from this internship than I'd expected. Working with colleagues internationally introduced me to different working styles and imposed me to accommodate for a large time difference. I was fortunate enough to work in a small group, which allowed us to learn work division, troubleshooting, and a whole lot of collaboration.

Thanks to the help of the IIIP Staff, I was also able to immerse myself in the Slovenian culture as best as I could virtually, following icons from the area, making Slovenian food at home, and listening to their style of music. The goal of this program is to prepare its interns for their career, while also introducing them to other cultures across the world. The staff definitely matched their ideals with the goals of the program, making the interns a priority at all times. Looking forward, I plan on applying for a travel grant to travel to Slovenia when it is safe to travel.
Company and Position Description:
This summer I interned at Vensy, a software engineering company in London. It’s a small startup with about 12 employees, only 6 of whom are full time. The company started off as a marketing company that uses Artificial Intelligence to implement social media marketing solutions. They partnered with a lot of big names such as Arsenal and, currently, NBA Europe. After that, the founders saw an opportunity in the sports betting industry and founded MVGamer, a subsidiary for Vensy. I was under the impression that I would work with Vensy, but I ended up working exclusively with MVGamer. This did cause a conflict in me, given I do not conform with the ethics of gambling and betting.

I worked on three projects. Firstly, I performed extensive testing on the new features on the website and created a report summarizing the issues. Secondly, I developed a Machine Learning model (using AI and statistical models) that predicts the performance of a player in their next Call of Duty match. Finally, I used Zappier to automate discord messages, congratulating individuals when they complete milestones, using our platform. I also performed market research and competitor analysis on the Asian and North American markets.
Value Derived from the Experience:

During the internship I used many skills that I already had and learned new skills. The hard skills I utilized included Python, GitHub, and JSON. I learned how to use APIs with JSON and became fluent in the process. I also had to actively make sure I was writing legible code that someone else could use afterwards. Working in a team and in a company has put me under the mindset that I’m not writing code for it to just accomplish a goal, rather I have to make sure that it implements effectively with the whole program, it’s reusable, and accounts for all possible situations (handles all possible errors).

Soft skills I utilized and grew include, networking, adaptability, flexibility, and communication. I had to adapt quickly when the API we use does not work and switch to another API quickly. A big part of my time was spent building a community on Discord, I would text people individually explaining the betting system and help them navigate the website, ultimately reaching out to them after a while asking if they want to play. I would also text in the public channel advertising new daily bets. I also was able to create great connections with my supervisor and colleagues where I feel very comfortable reaching out to them to catch up or ask for a favor.
Company and Position Description:

CSA Attorneys deals primarily with immigration law for people trying to leave Buenos Aires and go to the United States. This migration can occur for various reasons, such as business expansion opportunities, investment opportunities, and much more. CSA Attorneys aides in creating the visas for these people and ensuring that the visas are approved within the US Embassy.

This summer, I was given various opportunities to assist in the marketing of the company as well as visa creation for prominent immigrants. I created a brochure that the company will now use to reach out to potential clients that summarizes their services. I also constructed legal briefs for prominent Argentinian figures, even Leo Messi! This allowed them to be able to begin a path to either new business opportunities or citizenship, depending on their goals. I assisted in the creation of visa packages that assisted businesses in creating new branches within the US or expanding on current US market opportunities. Finally, I assisted the company in their quest to branch out with a pro bono political asylum case, by researching the process of political asylum and what was necessary of the applicant to be granted asylum.
Jamie Zamrin
Argentina

The Tango, A Popular Dance

Asado, or Barbeque!

Value Derived from the Experience:
Being an international relations major & prelaw student at Lehigh, I came to this program looking to learn more about legal writing while also hoping to gain international perspective. Iacocca was able to easily provide me with both opportunities! My boss always gave me prominent projects and never gave me "busy work". I was able to experience the field of immigration law first hand, through research, visa construction, legal writing, and so much more. Working at the firm gave me confidence that I will be able to become a successful lawyer in the future and that I have potential in immigration law.

Even though the internship was virtual, I learned a lot about the cultural tradition of Asado through a live video presentation and I felt like I was actually understanding the significance of this tradition, beyond just the concept of a barbeque, it’s so much more! This internship taught me a lot about my own time management skills and what I am capable of. It has instilled confidence in my work because I now know that even beyond the academic realm, I am able to produce work that will have a significant impact in the real world. Through my work this summer, I have learned that I am capable of achieving the goals that I have made for myself, because I have the confidence that I will be able to do it!
Company and Position Description:
I’m currently interning in Feniska, a startup that aims to offer digital healthcare for cats and dogs. Feniska is relatively a small company located in Berlin, Germany, it has a total of seven members in the workplace, and four of them are actually interns. Because of the time zone difference, there was a daily meeting on the workday for me and my team to catch up with each other. As of my responsibility as a frontend developer intern, I learned and used React Native to work alongside my supervisor in order to implement the company’s web application interface. For instance, I reformatted the help center page using the fresh design provided by my supervisor. In addition, there was also part of my work dedicated to researching instead of doing "actual coding". One of the examples of my research assignment is to compile different ways of social media authorization/authorization along with their benefits and drawbacks.
Value Derived from the Experience:
For me, a long term aim for my career, or even for my life in general, is to learn about the
differences and coexist with them. This might sound vague as a goal, but it is also a challenge to
summarize it in a short context. For instance, coexist with differences can either mean that I learn
new knowledge from others and adapt it to my own, or it can be endured with the conflicting
view, and avoid it to impact my feelings. In addition, it does not mean that I simply take whatever
is thrown at me, but instead filter the information that is being passed to me, and learn about
how to handle them. This can be extremely beneficial if I will be working in someplace that is
politically divided. People are often aggressive towards others with different political stands, and
understand how to deal with these conflicts will help me to build a friendly relationship with my
coworkers. Through this internship, really helps me to understand more about the beauty of
different views and appreciate them. At the same time, I was able to learn more about the
different cultures as well as how to work remotely in a different time zone. These soft skills might
not be as concrete as “learning a new language”, they are definitely something that is beneficial.
Acknowledgement of IES Abroad

Over the ten-years history of the Iacocca International Internship Program we have worked with various partner organizations. Through strong relationships and good planning, many meaningful student experiences have been made possible. The most valuable partner throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been IES Abroad. The IES Abroad staff supported us as we quickly pivoted to provide virtual internships and, due to positive relations with their in-country host organizations, we were able to facilitate more virtual internships than would have been possible otherwise. Many of the internships represented within this year’s Student Report were facilitated by IES Abroad. Thank you to the staff in Chicago, IL and in the Country Centers around the world. We are very grateful. As a program provider in the field of International Education, IES Abroad sets the bar high.
Thank you to the donors who make this program possible!

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