

INTERN WALL of FAME



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Economic Empowerment Intern
International Rescue Committee
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This summer, I had the opportunity to intern for the Refugee Social Services Department at the International Rescue Committee in Silver Springs Maryland. As an economic empowerment intern, I was tasked with assisting refugees and asylees in securing employment within the Washington DC area. Some of my daily responsibilities included writing and editing resumes, conducting early employment and job interview trainings, leading job searches, assisting clients in filling out government assistance and employment applications, as well as scheduling appointments with the social security offices and MVA.

The internship was very hands-on, and I had the privilege to work directly with clients and learn in-depth how the refugee integration process works within the United States on a civil service level. This internship taught me successful cross-cultural and bilingual communication as well as improved my administrative skills. Furthermore, I learned what roles employment specialists and caseworkers perform within humanitarian organizations. The internship helped me reach my career goals by providing me with real world experience, professional connections, and the necessary skills to work in international fields.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this internship was done remotely, and a challenge I faced was learning how to adapt to working entirely with online platforms and databases. However, with assistance from my supervisor I was able to overcome the initial technological barrier and learn new flexible methods of working. I would recommend internships to any student as they provide valuable skills and experiences not available in a classroom setting. My advice to students interested in an internship experience is to be patient when applying to internships and don't be afraid to apply to ones that seem out of reach. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions and take advantage of every learning opportunity. Additionally, I highly recommend utilizing the services provided by the Career and Development Office. They were tremendously helpful in editing my resume and preparing me for my interview. They can assist you in all aspects of finding and applying to internships in addition to seeking employment post-graduation.