

2016-17 Fall Internship Award Winners

Justin Leung, UCSB, University of Hong Kong

Prior to his arrival in Hong Kong, Justin Leung received an email from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) offering him the opportunity to enroll in a Social Enterprise Management Internship course for academic credit. Since independent internships are not available to international students in Hong Kong, Justin jumped at this unique opportunity to gain professional experience while abroad. Through his internship, Justin worked with a group of his peers to create a startup called [One Degree Tours](#), an online peer-to-peer platform that connects travelers with local individuals offering tours and activities. The goal is to utilize tourism to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living of people in developing nations.

As a Financial Mathematics and Statistics major at UC Santa Barbara, Justin had no prior experience with computer coding, but took advantage of this opportunity to learn and joined the website development team and helped create the front-end design of the website using Adobe Muse. Based on his work ethic and abilities, Justin was asked to take on a leadership role and serve as the team liaison between the supervisor and his colleagues. While managing a team and delegating tasks was challenging at first, Justin addressed problems from multiple perspectives and came up with creative solutions, gaining new technical and leadership skills along the way.

“I am thankful that I committed to this internship rather than taking another business course because it allowed me to explore what creating a startup is like without any serious repercussions. I will take the knowledge learned from One Degree Tours with me into my future career and apply them by becoming a better manager or creating my own company.”

One Degree Tours Introduction

Isabel Soloaga, UC Berkeley, Arts, Politics, Society & Space, UC Center London, United Kingdom

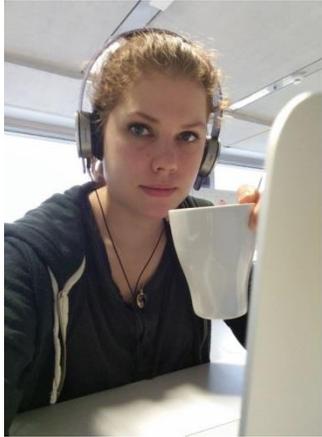
As a participant in the Arts, Politics, Society & Space Program in London, Isabel Soloaga was thrilled when she found out that she was offered the opportunity to be a reporting intern with [Migrant Voice](#), an organization that seeks to give migrants a voice in the heated political debate over immigration. During her time with Migrant Voice, she was guided by dedicated on-site staff and enjoyed the freedom to choose stories and topics she was interested in. As someone who enjoys writing and reporting, she reported on the settlement camp in Calais; produced a news package including an article, photo, and video interview footage; helped run conferences; participated in events; and made invaluable connections with professionals in her field. While taking notes and photographs alongside reporters from the BBC increased her interest in professional journalism, her internship experience also reinforced her desire to pursue a Political Science degree, accompanied by a minor in Journalism.

After graduation, Isabel is considering a career as reporter on immigration and the human rights violations associated with immigration. *“I think that telling these stories--the stories of individuals who lack the platform from which to speak--remains critical in our world today, especially in a political environment which, sadly, often attempts to shut down dissenting stories.”*



Erin Mozdy, UC Davis, Technical University, Berlin, Germany

Erin Mozdy interned for [Rocket Internet](#), a company that builds and invests in startup internet companies, on her year-long program at Technical University of Berlin. As a Computer Science major, her goals were to learn about computer science in the workplace and have the opportunity to apply her learning in the real world. She hoped for the opportunity to explore programming language as well, and she got more than she expected. Her programming skills were vastly improved as a direct result of her internship experience, *"There were entire workdays that I spent simply investigating one error. I have written code that seemed to make sense, and had it immediately fail."* She even learned



from a mistake she made, and this will sound familiar to anyone reading this: *"I wrote over old code, updating it and adding to it until it was unrecognizable. The dust settled, and I needed to test if my new program was working correctly. Its output did not match the old code, and with the information I had saved, I could not tell why. This was a hard lesson in reproducibility."* Erin persevered however, and in the end: *"while I learned a lot about programming, I learned more about myself during this internship. Those lessons in confidence and resilience will aid in the imminent search for my first job."*

One of the best things that came out of her internship was that Erin gained a healthy amount of confidence in her work where she once felt self-doubt. Additionally, working in such an individualistic setting made her feel like she really belongs in her major and she has proved to herself that she can work very successfully in a professional environment as a programmer.

Gi Liu, UC Santa Cruz, University of Granada, Spain

As a Human Biology major with the goal of becoming a physical therapist, Gi Liu was determined to do a healthcare internship during her semester at the University of Granada. She was able to secure an internship at [Federación de Personas con Discapacidad Física y Orgánica](#) (FEGRADI) which is an organization that cares for, educates, and assists persons with disabilities with the physical, mental, and social aspects of their daily lives. Gi hoped to learn more about occupational therapy and physical therapy—two overlapping professions within the healthcare field. Additionally, she looked forward to the opportunity to work with an underrepresented population of patients. Indeed, much of her internship was spent in the clinic center shadowing physical and occupational therapists and helping them with their patients.

One of her biggest takeaways was empathy for the patients. *"In order to be successful healthcare professional, it is essential to understand one's patients. Therefore, I tried to think and see things from [their] point of view. For example, when the occupational therapist was teaching a patient with hypertonia how to wear a jacket using his only working arm, I followed and practiced doing the same thing. I never knew an easy daily task could become such an inconvenient and challenging thing to do."*



Not only did she get hands-on experience in the field where she hopes to one day work, but she also gained a much deeper understanding of the challenges that persons with disabilities face every day from basic communication and physical tasks to the amount of isolation these individuals experience in society. As a result of her internship, she realizes how easy it is for person with disabilities to become discouraged. Therefore, when she becomes a physical therapist, she is determined to always bring a positive energy to the job and to always be encouraging to patients.

Priscilla Tenggara, UC Irvine, European Studies, Free University Berlin (FU-BEST), Germany

Priscilla Tenggara selected Berlin as her study abroad destination due to the city's rich history and culture but also because it afforded her the opportunity to be immersed in one of Europe's fastest growing startup and tech scenes. At the encouragement of her host mother, she attended a networking event at a local coffee shop for local entrepreneurs, investors, and tech enthusiasts called Silicon Allee. After some initial intimidation, Priscilla found herself easily integrating into the



community of techies who were open to people with a wide range of backgrounds, and shortly thereafter she interviewed and secured her spot as the Global Marketing Intern for [Factory](#), a startup that builds tech campuses for entrepreneurs. As the Global Marketing Intern, Priscilla's goal was to help the company grow through marketing practices while seeking opportunities of expansion in various European cities. She was able to build social value by fostering relationships with Factory's global network and local partners through the company's social media. Through her hard work she was able to increase the Twitter Impressions for her company by 255%.

However, managing the social media accounts wasn't enough for Priscilla. She wanted to make sure that the groundwork she laid for the company was carried through to future interns. As a result, she created a 25-page Twitter Marketing Manual that details the strategies that future interns can use and also provides helpful ways they can grow Factory's online brand without making the same mistakes she did. She is especially proud of the project because it signifies her imprint in the company, not just as an intern but as someone who pushed herself outside her comfort zone to enter the male-dominated tech startup scene of Germany.

"Throughout my experience interning abroad, one word to describe the most valuable skill I've learned is adaptability. Moving into a new country is not easy, let alone working in a new culture where business norms differ. There were times in my internship where cultural clashes and misunderstandings occurred but I learned to view these nuances as chances for me to adapt out of my comfort zone. Working abroad has not only given me multicultural knowledge about marketing but has also reshaped my communication skills and views on work culture. Willingly adapting to new surroundings opened my mind and enabled me to fully immerse myself in the Berlin tech scene without preconceived judgements."