

2015-16 Internship Awards Winners

Tatiana Ferreyra, UC Berkeley, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

While studying in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tatiana Ferreyra interned at [Quadrimind](#), a technology start-up specializing in the development of mobile games for iOS and Android. She worked to translate a database from Portuguese to English for a crossword puzzle game and she also had the opportunity to help develop a mobile game called Balloon Breaker. After a concerned parent contacted Quadrimind to ask if the game could be made more accessible for his colorblind son, Tatiana worked on a project to add more colors and variety to the game. Her updates were added to the application, which is downloaded and played by people all over the world.



Tatiana was nervous about communicating technical issues in Portuguese and learning an entirely new programming language but through practice and encouragement from her co-workers, by the end of her internship she felt confident in her programming abilities and confident in herself. *“The gratitude I have for Quadrimind and my coworkers for their patience and kindness is immense. I learned more during my few weeks*

there than I normally do in a semester long course.” She credits her internship in Rio for helping her toward her goal of being a software engineer. In fact, she was pleasantly surprised to find that the programs she learned at Quadrimind are the same ones she currently uses in her internship with a tech company in California.

“I hope to serve as an example to other STEM majors by not only having taken a [Computer Science] course at the university, but also participating in a technical internship at the same time. I want others to know that it is possible to enjoy a semester abroad while still contributing to a professional future.”

Jacqueline Puliatti, UC Santa Cruz, University of Ghana, Ghana

Jacqueline Puliatti, Environmental Studies major and Junior at UC Santa Cruz, decided to extend her time in Ghana to the year program after finding meaningful work in her internship. Before leaving the US, Jacqueline researched and found a non-profit organization dedication to ending criminal deforestation, [Friends of the Earth - Ghana](#). During her internship, Jacqueline traveled to 5 villages in central Ghana to aid this organization’s efforts to educate local communities about their



rights in the forestry sector. When choosing her internship, it was important to Jacqueline to find one that was founded and run by local Ghanaians. Using her Environmental Studies major, Jacqueline was tasked with interviewing local village members and creating a promotional video to increase awareness of the organization and illegal deforestation.

“My work with Friends of the Earth – Ghana reflects the interdisciplinary socioeconomic, political, and environmental components of the Environmental Studies major at UC Santa Cruz. I have gained an understanding of national government policies and processes, participated in projects within a regional environmental NGO and worked directly with local communities. In the Environmental Studies department, emphasis is placed on the importance of involving all stakeholders in decision-making, planning, and executing programs. However, it wasn’t until this internship experience that I saw with my own eyes the true, practical significance of this approach.”

Jacqueline’s video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjoNH1M4e_E&feature=youtu.be

Cian Cardenas, UC Santa Cruz, Fudan University, China



Prior to arriving in China, Cian Cardenas assumed he would pursue an internship within his International Politics major. He did not believe teaching was a strength of his, but after accepting an internship with [Stepping Stones](#), a nonprofit dedicated to improving the education of disadvantaged children in China, he knew he could make a significant difference in his students’ lives.

After some initial communication barriers, Cian decided to enroll in an Intermediate Chinese course so that he could better communicate with his students. He designed vocabulary flashcards, showed Spongebob Squarepants episodes, and played music in English with his

classes and their English began to progress swiftly. Cian describes his experience working with China’s youth as humbling and fulfilling. After returning home, he added an Education minor and began pursuing a career in teaching and education reform.

“By the end of my internship, my public speaking skills improved, my confidence grew, and most endearingly, I harbored a passion for education reform and a deep love for teaching. Interning for Stepping Stones and teaching my students redirected the trajectory of my life.”

Hannah Stroud, UC San Diego, European Transformations, Spain

As an Earth Sciences major, Hannah Stroud’s field work usually involved field excursions to the desert or the beach, but her internship with the [Sociedad Española de Ornitología-BirdLife](#) (SEO), a nature conservation organization focused on saving bird species, required her to adjust to a work environment that she was not accustomed to. Hannah took on the challenge with stride and was soon finding fulfilling work developing research reports on agricultural systems, policy approaches, and projects that supported the mission of the NGO. Through this internship Hannah not only learned about the agricultural policies of the European Union, but also how the Spanish culture views farming, how Spain works within the European Union, and general Spanish attitudes towards government and politics.

Hannah really felt she was an integral part of her team when a project proposal she developed, called Open Farm Sunday, was adopted and selected to be a main project for SEO. This project was started in the United Kingdom and Hannah spent her time at SEO working on making connections with the British organization and developing a plan for coordinating the event for next year.

This internship assisted Hannah in refining her goals for her future career and graduate school.

“Agriculture connects to so many parts of the environment that policy does not address and I learned I want to focus on the nexus of agricultural policy, natural resource use, and human health. But before heading to graduate school, I would love to work for a non-profit addressing one of the aspects of agriculture on the environment... What I am most grateful for from my time in Madrid, is how my internship opened my eyes to all the organizations, project ideas, and research avenues I can take with my career.”



Dahhee Kim, UCLA, Language & Culture, UC Center Florence, Italy



When she first heard about an internship opening at the [Medici Archive Project](#) in Florence, Dahhee found that the position description fit her interests perfectly. As an Art History major, she was intrigued by the possibility of furthering her skills in video editing, but soon she would learn what a positive impact the internship would have on her ambitions for the future. Guided by her mentor, Dr. Sheila Barker, Dahee

researched the life of Teresa Berenice Vitelli, a female artist, by reading 17th- and 18th-century handwritten Italian manuscripts. Since she was only beginning to learn Italian, the process felt like *“learning to read for the first time,”* but when she unexpectedly did find the name she was looking for, it was thrilling and she realized that *“small details that seemed completely unrelated to art could help to put together a missing piece of a puzzle.”*

Dahhee’s close work with extraordinary art historians at the Medici Archive Project was also perfectly complemented by her opportunity to explore Florence as she went to and from the building on the cobblestone streets every week. The internship at the Medici Archive Project exceeded Dahhee’s expectations and became the most memorable and valuable experience she had during her semester abroad. *“I saw all of the time and effort that many scholars were putting into their research, and it gave me a sense of determination to work harder to achieve the goals I set for myself as well... I am so grateful for this opportunity that was given to me and it has helped me to shape the way I have begun to plan my steps into the future.”*