

# MERTIE W. BUCKMAN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



## Julia Seeds '23

**Hometown:** Austin, TX  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Rabat, Morocco  
**Employer:** Organisation Democratique des Travailleurs Immigres Au Maroc (ODT)

Over the summer, I completed my Buckman internship in Rabat, Morocco, at the Organisation Democratique des Travailleurs Immigres Au Maroc (ODT). ODT au Maroc is a non-profit African migrant association that provides services and a sense of community to sub-saharan migrants living in Morocco. As an intern at ODT, I spent my summer building their website, conducting interviews with migrants and researching working conditions for migrants living in Morocco. My internship at ODT and my time in Morocco was truly the experience of a lifetime, as it provided me the unique opportunity to study the language, culture and human rights issues that I have a passion for. Along with my internship, I was also given the opportunity to travel across Morocco and experience all the country has to offer. From visiting the bustling tourist cities of Tangier and Marrakech, to the peaceful simplicity of village life in Setti Fatma, I was really able to experience the variety of terrains and cultures of Morocco. However, as much as I appreciated the opportunity to intern and travel, my greatest experience of the summer by far has to have been my homestay in the old medina of Rabat. Although the language and cultural barrier was a pretty big obstacle to overcome, the 2 months I spent with my host family were unforgettable. I am lucky to not only have experienced the culture and the day to day lifestyle of a traditional Moroccan family living in the old medina, I was also lucky enough to experience one of the most sacred holidays across the Muslim world, Eid Al-Adha or the "festival of sacrifice." Overall, my summer internship in Morocco was an experience that I will never forget and if I ever find myself in that part of the world again, I have so many people who will welcome me back with open arms.



## Brooke Taylor '24

**Hometown:** Austin, TX  
**Major:** International and Environmental Studies  
**City/Country:** Barcelona, Spain  
**Employer:** Ideas for Change

This summer I worked at a small consulting firm called Ideas for Change in Barcelona, Spain. The firm works on a wide variety of business projects that are mainly concerned with empowering citizens to be the drivers of social change and sustainability issues. In my role as an intern here, I did a lot of research projects and presentations for a client of theirs, a sustainable fashion brand, as well as wrote articles to be posted on their website for a renewable energy pilot project that they are establishing in 4 different European cities. I found out about the Mertie Buckman internship program before I had even committed to Rhodes, and knew even then and there that I was going to work hard for this and make sure to apply to it. It's an incredibly valuable and challenging experience to work in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment and is an opportunity that most people don't get. This experience has truly influenced a lot of my future career aspirations and goals and I could not be more appreciative to have received this scholarship.



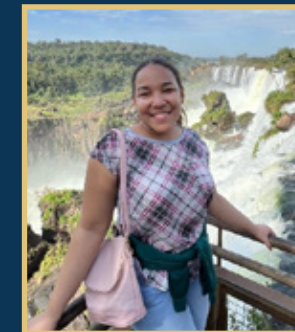
## Van Tran '23

**Hometown:** Vietnam  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Employer:** Transparency International

This summer I had the privilege of interning at Transparency International in Dublin, Ireland. Transparency International (TI) is a global nonprofit anti-corruption movement with influence in over 100 countries and a vision for a just, transparent international society. From the first day at the organization, I have been impressed with the strong sense of mission and passion about justice and anti-corruption of TI employees. During my two-month internship, I had the opportunity to work with more than 20 clients and offered them free advice and referral services to deal with corruption and white-collar crime in the workplace. The experience has greatly strengthened my research skills, professional communication, and knowledge of the legal system.

The spirit of the Mertie W. Buckman scholarship is to not only advance students' professional careers, but also invite students to immerse themselves in an authentic cultural experience. As a first-time traveler in Europe, I have learned so much from participating in Dublin's zestful way of living. Everyone I met has shown me world-class hospitality. Every place I visited and every conversation I had has been a vital part of my colorful Irish memories.

Overall, my summer internship was a heightened, well-rounded experience. I left Ireland with meaningful connections, experiences, and lessons for a lifetime. It is with great gratitude that I think about the International Studies department and the Mertie W. Buckman family, without whom none of this would be possible.



Initiated in 1994 through a generous gift of the Buckman family, the Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program provides the opportunity for outstanding International Studies majors to broaden global understanding through living and working abroad during the summer months. Mertie Buckman students complete an eight-week internship in the country of their choice. Selected students earn one hour of I.S. 470 and F11 credit.

Qualified applicants are rising junior or senior International Studies majors (including International Studies interdisciplinary majors) with a minimum overall/major GPA of 3.3 and relevant foreign language skills. The program is coordinated by the Chair of the Department of International Studies, the Director of Career Services, and faculty members from the Department of International Studies.

Rhodes International Studies students have travelled to all areas of the world with the Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program. Recent destinations have included Argentina, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, and Spain. These students have worked with a variety of employers from businesses to local human rights organizations. Please contact the Department of International Studies or the Career Services office for any question about the program.





## Sophia Adam '23

**Hometown:** Birmingham, AL  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Employer:** New Communities Partnership

Over the summer, I worked at a non-profit that focused on migrant placement and success after immigrating to Ireland. I worked specifically at the Citizenship Application Support Service division. While there, I helped to digitize their files for the last three years, create a database of their client's applications, administrative work, and even was a citizenship application consultant by the end of my internship. One of the best parts of my internship was all my coworkers had immigrated to Ireland as well, so they had diverse perspectives and tips, as well as sympathy, for the clients we were working with. The biggest takeaway from this experience was the importance of delegation in a work environment. While my manager was extremely friendly, there was a lack of delegation when it came to intern's work tasks. This led to miscommunication at times, which at times, led to lack of work or efficiency on projects; this was eye-opening for me as I am about to enter the workforce. But it was not all work while I was overseas, I had ample opportunities for travel thanks to the four-day European work week. Besides exploring Dublin, I also traveled to Galway, Moher, and Belfast. It was a great summer on all fronts thanks to the Mertie Buckman!



## Jayabrato Chatterjee '23

**Hometown:** Kolkata, India  
**Major:** Economics & International Studies  
**City/Country:** Pharping, Nepal  
**Employer:** Manjushri Di-Chen Buddhist Learning Center

I lived and taught at the Manjushree Di-Chen Buddhist Learning Center in Pharping, Nepal, this summer. I taught English, Mathematics, and Occupational Sciences to young monks aged six to twenty in grades kindergarten, one, two, three, and eight. I chose this opportunity for my Mertie Buckman experience because of its uniqueness and my fundamental belief that children's development is vital to international development study. It was a very immersive experience, exposing me to various intimate facets of Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and culture. I took part in the daily religious ceremonies, celebrated the Dalai Lama's birthday with the monks, and observed fierce debates on aspects of Buddhist teachings. On the professional side of things, I wanted to bring a sense of structure to the education of the monks. I endeavored to achieve that by making a "mini-curriculum" wherein I set goals throughout my time as a teacher at the monastery. These included making the students more comfortable with their spoken English skills and working with them to ensure that complex mathematical formulas were easier to understand and apply. Seeing students respond in the affirmative to my teaching was gratifying, but it was even more rewarding to learn from them. Learning about their personal experiences and relationships with their religion and theology was a fascinating exploration. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will cherish for years to come.



## Walker Coleman '23

**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Major:** International Studies, Art History Minor  
**City/Country:** Berlin, Germany  
**Employer:** Climate Analytics

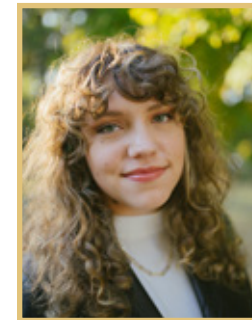
Having never left the United States, getting the opportunity to go anywhere would have been a treat, but my two months in Berlin were a real privilege. In between amazing live music sets and laid-back lounges at Mauerpark, I worked at Climate Analytics, a climate policy institute with offices all over the world. As a member of the policy analysis team, I worked on the 4i-TRACTION project, an EU initiative designed to gather best practices in sustainability from all over the world and judge their applicability in an EU context. I primarily worked on a case study for Ithaca, NY's building retrofit program, an integral part in their attempt to reach carbon neutrality by 2030. In my research I learned a lot about sustainability in the building sector, something we hadn't really covered in my classes at Rhodes. My favorite part of the job was interviewing several important stakeholders, including Ithaca's Directory of Sustainability. This summer really crystalized what "policy analysis" means as a career, helping to inform where I'll go after graduation in the Spring. I also learned just how different other places can be. Berlin was overwhelming at first and wasn't always comfortable, but it taught me a lot about how to live in a place very different than your home and be around people very different than yourself. I had an unforgettable Summer, and I couldn't be more grateful for the Mertie Buckman award.



## Katie Miller '23

**Hometown:** Kingston, Jamaica  
**Major:** International Studies and Political Science  
**City/Country:** Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Employer:** Democracia en Red

I spent my summer in Argentina working for an NGO called Democracia en Red that specializes in digital democracy. It creates software and projects that make the government's work more accessible to ordinary citizens and allows them to participate directly in decision making while also facilitating cooperation between government bodies and civil society organizations. At my internship, I learned how these tools work, did research on legislation, wrote grants for their upcoming projects in English and Spanish, and even got to attend a conference with representatives of NGOs from all over Argentina that promote government transparency and citizen participation. Democracia en Red had one of the best environments I have ever worked in. My supervisor gave me clear instructions and always made me feel like my opinions and input mattered in team meetings. She gave me great insight into the politics of Argentina as well as Chile, Colombia, and other countries in Latin America with which the organization has relationships. She also gave me a few days off so that I could travel around Argentina more. My co-workers were always willing to answer my questions and told me about the best restaurants, bars, and clubs. To this day, we still keep in touch. This was definitely one of the best internship experiences I have ever had!



## Hanna Nordin '22

**Hometown:** Murfreesboro, TN  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Rabat, Morocco  
**Employer:** Democratic Organization of Immigrant Workers (Organisation Démocratique des Travailleurs Immigrés au Maroc)

I had the opportunity to work with an immigration advocacy non-profit during my eight weeks in Rabat, Morocco where I researched their immigration policies and spoke with sub-Saharan immigrants and refugees around the city to better understand the issues and research potential solutions. I learned how similar the immigration system is to the American system where restrictive policies are disguised under a façade of welcoming rhetoric in a multicultural society. Working in a francophone environment in a completely different culture, I also learned a lot about myself professionally and personally. Morocco is such a beautiful and geographically diverse country that I made sure to travel most weekends to new places such as Casablanca, the Sahara Desert in Merzouga, and the Atlas Mountains in Chefchaoen. My host family showed me how to make traditional meals, played card games with me every night, and helped me find my way around Rabat. My typical day consisted of walking to my Darija classes, eating lunch by the ocean, and collaborating with my coworkers at my internship. My experience allowed me to utilize my French skills extensively, learn and practice Darija Arabic, visit the most stunning places I would not have visited otherwise, and connect my academic studies to an experience that showed me my passion for humanitarian policy. I am very thankful to the Buckman family, Sandi George Tracy, and the International Studies department for granting me the opportunity of a lifetime!



## Roma Pirnie '23

**Hometown:** Montgomery, AL  
**Major:** International Studies and Business (International) Spanish minor  
**City/Country:** Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Employer:** Poder Ciudadano

This summer I had the unique opportunity to work for an NGO named Poder Ciudadano, the Argentine chapter of a larger NGO, Transparency International. My role within Poder Ciudadano was to educate myself so I could help others regarding "géneros y corrupción", or corruption and topics surrounding genders, in Argentina. My largest independent project was working with other chapters of Transparency International in Latin American countries to organize and host a series of webinars called "Género, Diversidad y Corrupción: La Pandemia Invisible" which educated viewers on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender minorities and gender-based violence, diversity, and corruption. I also had the opportunity to participate in other projects such as collaborating with the other interns to find examples of precedent in policy and advocacy that other countries around the world have put in place regarding "géneros y corrupción", as well as advocating for transparency from the candidates in Argentina's next election cycle regarding their platforms, specifically through a gendered lens.

Living and working in Buenos Aires, Argentina made this internship opportunity even more tangible and empowering. My internship was in a hybrid format – half of the time I was in the office, and the other half I worked remotely – and when I was not in the office, I had the chance to visit other parts of Argentina while still working. The ability to travel around the country helped to give me a more wholistic view of the work we were doing by showing and reminding me that we are advocating for all Argentinians, not just those in the City of Buenos Aires where I was spending most of my time. Argentina is a beautiful, complex, and very personal country. I feel that I grew immensely from this opportunity and will cherish the experience I had forever.