

# THEODORE WILLIAM ECKELS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM FOR ART & ART HISTORY

COORDINATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY  
AND THE CENTER FOR CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER 2025



**Rhodes College**  
ART & ART HISTORY



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ART & ART HISTORY

# Theodore William Eckels International Practicum for Art & Art History

This newly established internship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomore or junior students with a 3.0+ GPA (overall and major) and a declared major or minor in either Art or Art History. This award allows students to work abroad for eight weeks during the summer. The internship will cover the cost of airfare and accommodations while living abroad. This is a merit-based scholarship named in honor of business leader Theodore William Eckels to advance the Rhodes Vision to graduate students with a passion for lifelong learning, compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities around the world.

The program is coordinated by the Department of Art and Art History and the Center for Career and Professional Development. Please contact these departments with questions about the program or application materials.



## Wyatt Bigner '27

**Hometown:** New Orleans, LA

**Major:** Art History

**Internship:** Rethymno, Greece

**Employer:** Rhodes College

In the Summer of 2025, I had the incredible opportunity to excavate an archaeological site near Rethymno, a city on the Western side of Crete, Greece. At this site, located in a large cave with scenic views of the sea, I worked with a team of people from around the world searching for evidence

of paleolithic human habitation alongside now-extinct species of deer and elephants. This proof, which we were hoping to find, would push back habitation of Crete from the Mesolithic to the Paleolithic, an incredible discovery.

Through this experience, I gained confidence in my decision to discover, study and preserve historical artifacts, remnants of our collective history. In addition, my hands-on experience convinced me to change my minor to archaeology, a decision I am now much happier with.

When not working, I was able to explore the culture of Rethymno through food, drink and interactions with locals, as well as the archaeological sites and museums of Crete as a whole. This thereby allowed me to better contextualize the information I learned back in classes at Rhodes. In addition, I was able to ferry across the Aegean to Athens to experience the iconic capital of the country. This was an experience that I could not recommend more!



## Erin Moore '26

**Hometown:** Cleveland, OH

**Major:** Art

**Internship:** Dublin, Ireland

**Employer:** DesignWorks Ireland

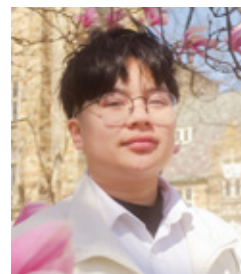
Over the summer, I interned with DesignWorks Ireland, a graphic design agency that helps companies grow and improve their businesses. I received hours of one-on-one mentoring, worked with businesses that strive to make a positive impact, and

experienced many different areas of graphic design firsthand. This helped me gain a better understanding of the area of design I want to pursue.

Interning abroad quickly taught me how to embrace a good work-life balance. I learned how to make the most of every moment while still working a 9-5 and allowing time for rest. This is definitely something I will take home with me.

Finding that work-life balance gave me plenty of time to explore Ireland. I spent my free time wandering the city, trying new foods, visiting markets, and watching rugby games. I also went on trips where I was able to see the beautiful nature around Ireland, along with plenty of sheep, cows, seals, and puffins.

This experience taught me more about who I am, what I want to do in the future, and gave me a sense of independence much stronger than I had while studying abroad. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.



## Mika Colina '26

**Hometown:** Atoka, TN

**Major:** Art

**Internship:** Tokyo, Japan

**Employer:** Mobal Communications

My two month graphic design and marketing internship at Mobal Communications Ltd. in Tokyo, Japan was an unforgettable experience. On weekdays, I'd spend my time creating promotional graphics and informative presentations.

I had the pleasure of working with other interns and the Mobal team, and I quickly learned and adapted to Japanese work culture. I was also able to pick up on common workplace phrases. Throughout my time at Mobal, I had the pleasure of speaking with clients in my native languages, Tagalog and Bisaya. Which led me to provide Mobal feedback on their largest consumer base.

After work and on weekends, I made it my goal to explore one or two parts of Tokyo. In my solo excursions, I learned the language, the people, the city, and tried new things. I quickly familiarized myself with the overly complicated Tokyo Metro system. The city inspired me creatively, filling my mind with ideas regarding future projects. Its infrastructure gave me the artistic push I needed.

This internship helped me become more independent. It also allowed me to explore other possibilities in and outside of my desired career. I gained confidence in my work, and I would not trade this experience for anything else.