



Yale College
Center for International & Professional Experience

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Class of 1960 John Heinz Government Service Fellowship
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Fellowship Final Report

This past summer, I worked for the Department of State as an intern in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of Economic Policy over the summer of 2016. The Office of the Economic Policy serves as the U.S. Government's coordinating body for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and leads efforts to advance U.S. economic objectives throughout the Asia Pacific region, working closely with the White House and other U.S. government agencies.

Over the summer, I took on a wide range of responsibilities and tasks. As part of a presidential mandate to send high-level officials and ambassadors across the country to engage in domestic TPP outreach, I single handedly planned two trips for Matt Matthews, the Ambassador to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, to Tacoma and Bremerton, Washington and Colorado Springs, Colorado. This included coordinating meetings for Ambassador Matthews with the mayors in these cities; setting up site visits with local companies; and working with local business alliances to set up speaking engagements. For these trips, I wrote the briefing book, a set of papers for the Ambassador to take with him including speaking points and background information. To prepare for this, I wrote multiple briefing check lists and created region specific arguments for the ratification of TPP based on export and import facts. This required extensive research and writing.

The summer was also a time of turnover in the office, leaving many APEC portfolio issues uncovered. I was able to step in to help fill this void. I took on an APEC portfolio, which included transportation, business mobility, tourism, counter-terrorism, and customs. In this role, I wrote a paper for the APEC Transportation Facilitation Initiative (TFI) on private sector engagement, assisted in editing TFI recommendations and coordinated endorsements from various committees, and reviewed concept notes for funding.

I also did a wide range of other work over the summer including drafting a document on Vietnam 2017 priorities and Vietnam 2035 Objectives, writing papers for Ambassador Matthews' meetings with Vietnam's foreign minister and APEC senior official, and worked on developing an outreach strategy for the office.

I was recently invited to be part of office as virtual intern this semester. I will continue working on TPP outreach events throughout the fall. I also recently helped in researching statistics and writing building blocks for President Obama's upcoming speech to APEC. This summer enabled me to build these connections that led to this opportunity.

This summer was a time of incredible growth. Not only was I able to learn about and contribute to the inner workings of the State Department, but also I was able to explore and learn about many career paths within the foreign and civil service. I took advantage of this opportunity to have informational interviews with people in my office and in offices that interested me.

This internship confirmed my interest and passion for public service and foreign policy. I now know that I would like to go into government in the future. I would therefore like to thank the fellowship donors for enabling me to have this experience. It was fundamental to both my personal and professional growth.