



Yale College
Center for International & Professional Experience

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Class of 1960 John Heinz Government Service Fellowship
Qatar

U.S. Department of State Summer Internship in Doha, Qatar

This summer, I spent two months interning at the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar. In this position, I hoped to gain experience working in a professional setting and learn about the political and economic diplomatic efforts of the United States of America. In addition, I hoped to better understand the foreign policy of the United States government as a federal entity and world power. Lastly, I wanted to work in the Middle East in order to gain exposure to the politics of the region from a first-hand account. Initially, I hoped to attend meetings between United States representatives and Qatari officials as well as conduct research using open source databases to inform United States foreign policy. In addition, I looked forward to learning about the U.S.-Qatari relationship, especially as the Emir of Qatar was planning his visit to the United States in early July.

Ultimately, I was able to attend high level meetings and serve as a notetaker. I followed up each meeting with written reports summarizing the events and the importance of these interactions to the U.S. government and foreign policy. In addition, I used open source energy data to research Qatar's liquified natural gas resources and conducted quantitative analysis to study the economic impacts of Qatar's energy wealth. In addition, I used my Arabic language skills to create a summary of Al Jazeera's Arabic articles relating to the United States. I also did qualitative social media research in Arabic to analyze foreign sentiment regarding the U.S.-Qatar relationship.

Lastly, I assisted a number of congressional delegation and other high level visits over the summer. In addition to logistical planning, I served as a site coordinator for a delegation of more than twenty U.S. officials. Throughout the summer, I worked closely with a number of diplomats, ranging from second-tour officers to the Chargé d'Affaires and the Deputy Chief of Mission. In addition, I shadowed two consular officers for a day and gained experience with non-immigrant visas as well as immigrant visas

Overall, this internship, made possible by the Heinz fellowship, has had a tremendous impact on my future career plans. I enjoyed working with the U.S. Department of State in a foreign embassy and I now plan to take the Foreign Service Officer Test this upcoming year. This fellowship provided me the opportunity to understand what life as a Foreign Service Officer is like and I found that living abroad as a servant for the U.S. Government is extremely rewarding. Specifically in Doha, Qatar, I found local residents and citizens to be extremely welcoming and warm. Though the hot climate limited the number of activities available for me to explore the country, I was able to interact with the country and its people in order to immerse myself in Qatari culture.

My project working as a political/economic intern at the United States Embassy in Doha, Qatar directly relates to the goals of the Heinz fellowship. As an unpaid intern, I committed myself to public service and government work abroad. I worked full time, over forty hours a week, with other political and economic officers at the U.S. Embassy Doha. In this position, I learned from a number of experienced diplomats and benefited from various intelligent mentors. This internship solidified my dream to work abroad as a Foreign

Service Officer and I plan to continue serving the United States government in a foreign capacity for my future career.

I would like to thank the sponsors of the Class of 1960 John Heinz Government Service Fellowship. Without these resources, this opportunity would not have been possible. The Heinz fellowship enabled me to experience and develop a true passion for life as a diplomat and servant of the United States Government. In addition, this fellowship allowed me to experience life in the Arabian Gulf and conduct research on the ground in Doha, Qatar. I appreciate the time and effort that the sponsors and donors of the Heinz Fellowship have contributed to making this opportunity a reality for me and would love to thank all who made my summer internship possible.