

SMALL WORLD NEWSLETTER

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John Glenn Academic Internship Program Fellow

by Noor Alshafie



Noor Alshafie is a junior pursuing a BS degree in International Relations & Diplomacy and a BA in Public Management, Leadership and Policy. She spent the Summer of 2019 in Washington D.C. as an intern through the John Glenn Fellows program.

“During the summer of 2019, I had the honor and privilege of serving as a John Glenn Fellow while interning, learning,

and growing in our nation’s capital through the John Glenn College of Public Affairs’ Washington Academic Internship Program (WAIP). Specifically, I interned full-time at the Peace Corps Headquarters as a Public Affairs intern in their Office of Communications. There I experienced hands-on work such as writing press releases, crafting pitches for journalists, writing one-pagers for Director Jody Olsen, and spearheading

one of the Peace Corps’ Sector Campaigns. I gained insight into the inner-workings of a government agency and knowledge about the sphere of international development as a whole, which I hope to enter following graduation from Ohio State.

Additionally, I received twelve hours of Ohio State credit for academic work. I



Noor (seated 1st row, sixth from left) with other WAIP fellows. "I feel that I've gained an incredible amount from this experience and one that I would not trade for the world."

attended a weekly seminar led by a wonderful Ohio State faculty member in which we discussed issues in governance such as civic engagement, government contracting, bureaucracy, and more as related to our respective internships and current events. The professor challenged us to practice civil and open dialogue, rather than simply debate with one another over political stances. The atmosphere created is vital, especially in Washington, but also for personal growth and relationship building. This seminar culminated in the submission of a capstone policy or research paper about an area of our interest. I specifically designed an empirical study that studied illegal immigrants and their success after migration, a topic close to my heart and one I find great passion in learning about.

Over the course of the summer semester I also had policy salons and study tours (i.e. visitation of workplaces and sites around D.C. while being hosted by an Ohio State alum or friend). These policy salons developed my networking skills, allowed me to learn about salary negotiation, participate in a 'diplomacy in action' simulation, and, overall, prepared me for life following graduation. Another amazing feature of WAIP in ensuring post-graduation success is setting you up with a mentor in a similar field. My mentor worked for the State Department which provided me with insight into U.S. foreign policy and advice on a future career in government.

Lastly, I feel that I've gained an incredible amount from this experience and one that I would not trade for the world.

As a result of completing WAIP, I know that I have the ability to empower others and mindfully engage with civic engagement through work in international policy. I've become an advocate for myself and sincerely enjoyed being able to connect the material I had been learning throughout my previous two years at Ohio State with the work I conducted on a daily basis. More than anything, participating in WAIP allowed me to turn my passion into action and represent a new wave of young people interested in public service and who are ready to work in D.C. in order to bridge the polarized partisan climate. I cannot wait to return to DC one day and it's thanks to Ohio State and WAIP that I know I can."