Career Services Internship Testimonial

Name: Emily Salm
Degree Seeking Student
Major/Minor: International Affairs & Italian Studies
Year: Class of 2010
Organization: U.S. Embassy – Rome
Preparation: Junior standing

In collaboration with the Career Services Center of JCU I was fortunate to land an interview at the U.S. Embassy in Rome. I was an intern in the Housing Office and Protocol/Front Office between October 2008 and July 2009 during which time I worked underneath the Special Assistant to the Ambassador and the General Services Officer. Throughout my internship I had the opportunity to learn about the State Department, apply my classroom skills within a professional work environment, and collaborate with U.S. diplomats on projects ranging from computer-based ventures, translations, research, presentations, and even assisting with the organization of the G8 summit held in L'Aquila this past summer.

In the time leading up to the G8 I worked alongside U.S. diplomats in Rome, White House staff, and the Secret Service on logistical issues and coordination of the First Family visit to Rome. I was fortunate to be selected to be interpreter/liaison for the Secret Service agents assigned to the Obama daughters throughout the duration of the event. I had a great time working with the agents and learned so many things about their job. They are a lot nicer than Hollywood makes them seem!

The internship experience at the Embassy was important for developing key speaking, writing, and organizational skills, all elements which have greatly improved my future career prospects. Moreover, I gained important insight into the organization of the U.S. State Department and into fundamental political issues at stake in the world today. Such an experience is beneficial when one seeks to apply classroom knowledge to his/her field of interest. As a result, I would highly recommend this internship to any motivated and goal-orientated JCU student.

Sincerely,   Emily Salm