

TESTIMONIAL



Fall 2017

JCU Center for Career Services



My name is **Serena Montefusco**, I am 25 years old, and I graduated in **International Affairs** from **John Cabot University** in December 2015. During my time as a student at John Cabot University, I discovered my passion for the prevention of **human rights** violations by participating in the **Community Service Program** and being part of the **STAND** (Students Taking Action Now – Darfur). As treasurer of **STAND** club, I volunteered consistently at **Joel Nafuma Refugee Center** for one year.

Once I graduated, I interned at a non-profit organization in Rome, the **Leonarda Vaccari Institute**, through the **JCU Service Learning Project**. I worked in the evaluation department for the identification of computerized and electronic aids for individuals with learning disabilities. My main responsibility was to research the current status of computerized technology evaluation and training processes. I have also been volunteering at a non-governmental organization, the **International Scalabrinian Association Humilitas**, as a project manager assistant. My main responsibility here was to help **migrants**, mostly from Peru, to find a job in the field of tailoring. This is part of the Dressmaker Project: they studied economy, business management, and dressmaking with the scope to build a company, *Latinos en Obra*, or to find employment independently. The experience at Humilitas gave me the possibility to meet the Project Coordinators. Engineer Kevin Ramirez and Professor Alberto Garcia, the Director of **UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights**. In late July 2017, I obtained a contract and started working as **Project Coordinator Assistant** for the UNESCO Chair. The UNESCO Chair is established within the European University of Rome and the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum and seeks to create a forum for diverse bioethics experts and leaders in the light of the UNESCO Declaration. I am currently working on two European projects: European Citizens for Solidarity (EUROSOL), co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Union, and i-Consent, a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. I also oversee the Communications Department. Soon after I graduated, it was challenging to choose and find my path. However, thanks to the JCU Service Learning Team and the **Career Services Center** that guided and helped me through the application process, I have accomplished my objectives and I have a better idea of who I want to be.

Serena Montefusco