Summer after senior year I was fortunate enough to land an internship with Johnson Development Associates – a dynamic and well known development firm located in Spartanburg, SC. Within their Self Storage division, I assumed an analyst type role gaining exposure to the development side of real estate as well as the experience to a true private-equity fueled portfolio of oncoming projects.

With little previous exposure to commercial real-estate, specifically the Self-Storage asset class, it was a fast paced environment that both complimented my economics degree as well as provided me with me a strong foundation of what a career in commercial real-estate looks like. The role will provide exposure to site selection and acquisition of land, real estate based financial experience, and largely to the overall fundamentals of buy-side real estate.

My internship consisted of four presentations that were specific to an assigned market. The interns were tasked with becoming market experts, knowing everything from the economic outlook of the area to the traffic counts at specific intersections. Each presentation fine-tuned a different skill set ultimately building to the final presentation of specific site.

I would highly recommend this internship for those with interest in commercial real-estate as well as anyone with a background in economics, finance, business, and engineering. It is an incredible place to start a career with a great team and great leadership. There is plenty of wok to go around so be ready to hit the ground running. I could not speak more highly of my experience!