

Internship Report

The Tonya Public Affairs Internship Fund made it possible for me to intern at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Every two years the Security Council penholders vote on 10 non-permanent members to serve on the Security Council for a two-year term. This summer I had the opportunity of interning at the United Nations headquarters under the Permanent Mission of Rwanda as a non-permanent member on the Security Council.

The first month at my internship I underwent training to learn about the Security Council functions and all the other branches at the United Nations. During my training, I attended all Security Council meetings including both open and closed consultations, and at the end of the day I was expected to write a report summarizing all the meetings I would have attended, which would then be evaluated and sent to the Foreign Affairs office in Rwanda. During the month of July, Rwanda held its presidency on the Security Council and I was entrusted with numerous responsibilities. I was given the task of handling the Security Councils twitter account, editing and uploading speeches addressed by the President of the Security Council onto the website while also taking notes for my daily reports that I had to submit at the end of each day. My work varied on a daily basis, some occasions I had to help in event planning such as lunch meetings, receptions among others by sending out emails and invitations, or taking phone calls.

Since the majority of the work I had to do on the Security Council was based on current events I found myself constantly reading the news trying to stay informed as much as I could, I eventually came up with an idea to start a weekly newsletter for the office by gathering up all the current events news being discussed within the Security Council and send out emails to all my coworkers at the end of each week.

Benita Uruhisho
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Working at the UN was the most fulfilling experience I have ever had thus far. I was given a lot of responsibilities including handling confidential documents while undertaking many different tasks. I was pushed in so many different directions and my knowledge on security situations globally widened. My experience at the United Nations broadened my knowledge in so many ways, not only did I learn how to work under stress, I learned a lot about time management, diplomacy and acquired so many other skills that I would not have had in the classroom. My internship at the UN gave me the opportunity to so many great connections that will be of great use in my future endeavors.

My experience from the internship this summer gave me a better understanding of security situations on a global level, which will be very useful as I pursue my International Global Studies major. The knowledge and skills I gained from my internship will be of tremendous use as I build my career path. My exposure on international relations affairs helped me gain confidence and confirmation in my choice of major and career path. I enjoyed every moment of it.