WORLD OF WORK
INTERNSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM
Sponsored by the Hiatt Career Center at Brandeis University
DEAN’S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

There are few better ways for a Brandeis supporter to make a direct impact on a student’s educational experience than making a gift in support of the Hiatt Career Center’s World of Work (WOW) program.

WOW provides generous stipends for undergraduate students pursuing unpaid summer internships. Not only do the students gain valuable real-world work experience, they return to campus with a sharper career focus and a better appreciation for the types of skills and knowledge they will need after graduation.

By eliminating financial barriers, the WOW program enables students to explore career fields, gain new insights, and learn about the world of work. Students may work in any career field, domestic or abroad, for public, private, or non-profit organizations.

There are three types of WOW awards:

- **Universal WOW**—Awarded to students pursuing unpaid summer internships in any career field.

- **The Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice WOW**—Awarded to students pursuing unpaid summer internships at mission-driven organizations addressing issues of social justice.

- **Judith Cossin Berkman ’59 Endowed Internship Fund in Social Work**—Awarded to students pursuing unpaid summer internships in social work.

I invite you to look through this brochure to learn more about the program and discover the impact that our students’ internship experiences have had on them. If you would like more information about Hiatt’s World of Work program, please contact me at (781) 736-3613 or dupont@brandeis.edu.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH DU PONT
Dean, Hiatt Career Center
FAST FACTS

Since 2008, $880,500 in internship funding has enabled 241 undergraduate students to pursue internships at 219 different organizations in 30 countries.

In 2011 alone, $201,500 in internship funding enabled 57 undergraduate students to pursue internships at 57 different organizations in 12 states and 17 countries.

LESSONS LEARNED

“The most important skill I learned was to find my voice.”

Jeffrey Herman ’14
Universal WOW Recipient
Costs of Care | Pittsburgh, PA

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Ability to work with people different from self and in a group
- Extent of a professional network
- Presence of mentor in chosen field
- Capacity to relate classroom knowledge, solve problems presented in work environment
- Problem-solving, effective reasoning, decision-making skills
- Skills and knowledge needed for success in chosen field
- Ability to synthesize and integrate ideas and information
- Sense of career skills, interest and values

BEFORE WOW

AFTER WOW
ADVICE FOR FUTURE INTERNS

“Don’t discriminate against any work assigned to you, whether it is as simple as data input or as difficult as completing a complex financial model. Do everything with willingness and enthusiasm. A positive personality speaks.”

YUJIE CHENG ’12 | Universal WOW Recipient
Sichuan JinTong Consulting & Evaluating Co. Ltd. | Chengdu, China

“My advice would be to limit expectations, be open to reassess preconceived notions about the working world, and be ready for something new each day.”

ANNA HOMITSKY ’13 | Universal WOW Recipient
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization | Pittsburgh, PA
JUDITH COSSIN BERKMAN ’59 ENDOWED INTERNSHIP IN SOCIAL WORK RECIPIENT

MARGO BERNSTEIN ’13
Brooklyn REAL Personalized Recovery Oriented Services, The Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services | New York, NY

“Over the summer, I ran a weekly group designed to help clients learn how to make and maintain friendships. I learned how to communicate more effectively so that I could provide real advice and support to the clients and help to brighten people’s lives...

...I know now for certain that I want to incorporate therapy, counseling and social work into my future career.”
I finally arrived at a point where I realized that what mattered most were the small changes I was making in the lives of individuals. Helping a child to envision their goals and instilling in them hope for their future is just as important as launching a national movement against stigma and discrimination. Sharing stories and laughs with a group of HIV+ women is just as important as passing a bill to protect the rights of HIV+ people. These small experiences made my entire internship worthwhile, and I am so glad to have spent it with the women of MILANA.

MELISSA DONZE ’12 | Social Justice WOW Recipient
MILANA | Bangalore, India
The Boston Center for International Justice (BCIJ) is a nonprofit affiliated with the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina that leads projects to support the work of the court and create learning tools for other international courts.

During my time at the BCIJ, I worked directly with the Prosecutor’s Office on evidence research and analysis for the final brief and closing statements of a complex Srebrenica genocide case.

My learning goals seem so minimal compared to how much I have grown into this field.

To help create learning tools for other international courts, I contributed case summaries and rules analysis of war crimes and crimes against humanity cases to a legal digest that will be published by the BCIJ. Additionally, I conducted original research on sentencing policy of the Court in cases of war crimes against civilians and prisoners of war, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Not only have I developed an understanding of the application of international human rights and humanitarian law, been introduced to the process of prosecuting crimes and exposed to the work and skill requirements of active international lawyers, I have contributed to the application of international human rights and humanitarian law and found ways to improve its application.

Through my work in the Prosecutor’s Office, I developed real-world skills that are necessary in this field and will help me in any pursuit. The thoughtfulness needed to develop clear arguments that speak to universal truths and specific circumstances, and how thoroughly the arguments must be executed, was the most unforgettable learning experience.

I succeeded in work that at times felt far beyond me.

Living up to those responsibilities and high expectations has made me more confident in applying to law school, pursuing international law, and as a human being. The feeling that comes with that kind of success is one that I will carry with me through any challenge.

Returning to Brandeis will mean a renewed commitment to my passions.

My class schedule will be more reflective of my areas of interest: international law, human rights, women’s health rights and post-conflict societies. I will continue my work with Positive Foundations to create powerful advocates for international human rights. Finally, I will undertake independent research, possibly an honors thesis, on the prosecution of rape as a war crime and the rehabilitation of its victims in post-conflict societies, topics that are in critical need of improved practices.
Gatehouse Media, Inc. owns and operates local newspapers in the Greater Boston area. If you live in a town in Greater Boston, you probably receive a weekly newspaper from Gatehouse Media, formerly Community Newspaper Company (CNC).

Unlike larger print or online news outlets, interns at Gatehouse Media contribute to a large portion of each newspaper’s content. This means writing up to three or four stories per week on a wide range of topics for different editors.

The main goals I set forth for my internship were to gain experience writing, researching and reporting, and to...

...understand what makes the journalism industry tick.

The internship coordinator was extremely responsive, and both he and my direct supervisor helped ensure that these goals were met. I wrote many stories and was able to speak with real reporters and editors who have been with the industry long enough to see its rise and fall – not to mention the CEO of Gatehouse Media, who was previously an owner of the Boston Globe. Hearing him speak about the newspaper’s changing business model and rapidly shrinking advertising revenues was hearing journalism’s biggest problems straight from the source.

One of my stories made the front page of the Weekend Arts section...

...which appears in not one, but 17 different newspapers.

The story previewed an upcoming jazz concert at Sculler’s Jazz Club. I spoke with the artist on the phone and reviewed her latest album, which her publicist sent to me. The artist, Rondi Charleston, had a vivid story of switching careers from investigative journalism to jazz. “Diane Sawyer heard her sing” was the subtitle of the article.

My editor told me why he put the article on the front page and pointed out his favorite sentences and why they were good. Editing is frequently a process of analyzing weaknesses, but by telling me what he liked about my writing, my editor helped me focus on my strengths and practice leveraging them as much as possible.

This summer was a turning point for my career. I am not that clear what kind of company I want to work for, but...

...I am very excited that my generation will determine what journalism is going to be like in the future.
MELISSA DONZE '12
MILANA | Bangalore, India
Social Justice WOW Recipient

MILANA is a family support network for people living with HIV and AIDS located in Bangalore, India. MILANA’s main objective is to provide individual, family, and group counseling for people who are infected/affected by HIV.

More than that, MILANA provides multifaceted support to its members so that they can lead positive and meaningful lives, whatever their HIV status may be.

Its programs include community and home visits, nutritional support, income-generating projects, educational support, promotion of women’s and children’s rights, medical support, capacity-building and advocacy work, and various support group meetings.

I came to India wanting to make big changes...

...to the way that HIV/AIDS is understood and perceived there. Unfortunately, I took my arrogant American mentality with me.

The goals I had envisioned for myself were achieved beyond my original expectations.

I learned so much about HIV in India: who it affects, how people react to it, and how MILANA is confronting it. I was also able to experience the inner workings of an NGO in India. I observed everything from financial struggles to organizational hierarchy to daily life.

I was able to observe and participate in forums in which I learned about the political status of HIV in India; that is, how the government is reacting to HIV. This was one of my favorite aspects of my internship. As a Politics Major, I found MILANA’s emphasis on legal advocacy work and government policy quite striking and unique.

Over the course of my internship with MILANA, I acquired and enhanced many important skills. Communication was absolutely key to the success of my internship; I learned how to approach my supervisors to communicate my concerns, needs, and questions regarding my work.

Having such a comprehensive experience helped me consider my future career with great care, and I am so glad to have had this experience. Most of all...

...I learned so much about myself, my goals for the future, and my outlook on life.
When new housing laws and an unexpected tornado reduced Springfield’s already scarce affordable housing options, we were forced to change many of our long-term plans.

While this experience was challenging and frustrating at times, it also greatly strengthened my problem-solving skills.

Interning at a social justice non-profit taught me that while all attempts to combat class inequality are well intentioned, certain social justice efforts can do more harm than good. This can make affected populations wary or untrusting of assistance and further complicate the process of reaching out to communities. I learned the importance of making decisions as a group to build solidarity and sustainability.

Community organizing exposed me to the various challenges posed by racial, class, and other tensions.

This helped me learn different strategies for effectively eliminating these barriers. These newly acquired skills also helped build my self-confidence.

I now know that I possess the ability and potential to be an agent of positive change.

Long Island Cardiovascular Imaging Consultants, P.C. | Manhasset, NY

MAXINE HIRSCHLER ’12

Universal WOW Recipient

I began each morning by reminding myself why I was there: to understand myself better and determine whether a medical career could be in my future.

With a clear and optimistic mindset, I stepped into the office with a smile and an eagerness to learn.

By interning alongside my supervisor, I observed a doctor who possesses an indescribable level of passion for his chosen career. His success is not measured by the number of patients he treats in a day, but by how he is able to connect with them and make them feel as though someone is listening. His compassion and understanding forced me to look within myself and evaluate whether I could provide that same level of care.

Prior to my internship, my focus was on the work that went into becoming a doctor – the long hours of studying, the extra years of school. Now I know that studying is only a small part of what it takes to become a good doctor; one must also be able to connect with her patients to provide them with the best possible care.

I am confident that medical school will provide me with the skills to become a proficient doctor, but this summer...

...I learned what it takes to become a great doctor.
ALEXANDER HULSE ’12
Mopan Valley Archaeological Project | Cayo, Belize
Universal WOW Recipient

Over the summer I worked with the Mopan Valley Archaeological Project (MVAP) stationed in the district of Cayo, Belize, headed by a professor from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The goal of the project was to understand the political relationships between the major Maya ceremonial and political centers of Buenavista del Cayo, Xunantunich, and the hinterland areas in between.

I worked alongside a doctoral student from the University of Pennsylvania on excavating at a minor ceremonial center site. My responsibilities at the site were to supervise two pairs of local workers by instructing them on where and how to excavate, writing up information about the excavations, and drawing plans and profiles of excavation units.

Almost every day I was faced with new challenges. I was able to apply skills I had learned from my field school, lab internship, class and independent research, and what I learned daily in the field to adapt and further understand the archaeology.

During my final year at Brandeis, I will be using the skills I have developed to research and write an honors thesis in the department of Anthropology, likely an analysis of a Mesoamerican artifact collection.

I plan to use my experience in Belize to help in the application process for graduate programs in archaeology.

The work I did over the summer gives me a second season of excavation experience, as well as more insight on what I would like to research in a graduate program. Experience and a research focus are integral when looking for graduate programs, and making contacts through UTSA and other institutions provides even more assistance. I hope to use the experience I have, and the experience I will attain, to be accepted and start in one year.
I worked in the New Delhi headquarters of Operation ASHA, an organization that has taken TB treatment to the doorsteps of 4.5 million disadvantaged people, living in over 1,500 slums spread across India and Cambodia. This summer strongly affirmed what I believe social justice to be – no matter our background, everyone is entitled to four basic rights: food, home, healthcare, and education. I also learned that the key to ending health disparities lies in working together as a group, being cooperative and willing to work with one another regardless of economic or educational background.

NUSRATH YUSUF '13 | Social Justice WOW Recipient
Operation ASHA | New Delhi, India
Las Americas provides crucial legal services to indigent clients from more than 70 countries around the globe. Many of the clients that Las Americas represents are applying for asylum, visas for victims of crime, family-based cases, and even naturalization. In addition to these direct services, Las Americas also works to promote and advocate for human rights on a local and global scale.

Because Las Americas relies heavily on the work of volunteers, this summer I participated in a wide variety of projects and tasks. I continued to work on my Spanish skills by translating documents ranging from news articles and legal declarations to birth certificates and divorce decrees daily, and speaking with clients in Spanish. Additionally, when I attended court hearings with the attorneys, I followed the testimony in Spanish with the court interpreter.

I also interviewed current and potential clients to learn the facts of their cases and consider whether any legal relief might be available to them. I learned a great deal about immigration law by preparing immigration applications for clients; conducting legal and human rights research for cases; and serving as an interpreter for a non-Spanish-speaking attorney.

I can happily state I not only met my learning goals, but surpassed them.

I never could have anticipated the amount I would learn on the job and I constantly felt challenged. The managing attorney and other staff members made a concerted effort to actively encourage my learning by explaining cases and paradigms, but they also presented me with projects that forced me to learn on my own. Although at times this great responsibility was stressful, I appreciated the trust that they placed in my work and learned more than I believe I would have been able to elsewhere.

As a legal office, Las Americas is required to maintain case records from the past five years. Over the years, the filing room had been neglected and it was very difficult to locate records. To ease the strain on staff, the other interns and I created a filing system. Although at times it was tedious, it was incredibly interesting to see the kinds of cases Las Americas has worked on over the years.

As I read and sorted, I came across the case of a Jewish family from Odessa, Ukraine, the same city my grandmother’s family had fled a century earlier due to the pogroms. Las Americas had won their asylum case.

It made me feel very proud to be working for this organization.
The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is an organization at the forefront of the fight against anti-Semitism, racism, and bigotry through its 26 regional offices in the United States and one in Jerusalem.

This summer I conducted research on a wide range of topics, providing detailed reports on issues like voter ID legislation, and proposed op-eds of interest to the ADL. I also provided policy recommendations to the ADL on topics that I researched.

As a victim of anti-Semitism and bigotry, my personal goal was to learn how to fight these forms of hatred. I learned that hatred stems from ignorance, and that the best way to fight hatred is with education.

From an academic standpoint, I was able to apply my classroom knowledge to my work environment. My legal knowledge from legal studies classes, as well as my research capabilities from various assignments at Brandeis really helped me flourish in my work place, and the resulting work product impressed my superiors.

Working in the Legal Affairs Department of the Civil Rights Division, I was able to immerse myself in legal affairs and see that it is really something that interests me. Whether I go to law school immediately, or take a break after college, I definitely see myself heading along that path.

Having never worked in a professional setting before, I was fortunate that I had an excellent set of mentors at the office who helped me adjust and learn how to be a professional. I went from being nervous and uptight, to relaxed and in control of my work.

I was most proud of an in-depth legal and policy analysis and case study of academic freedom, which I may use as a writing sample for graduate school applications. I spent more than two weeks researching the topic, reading court cases and articles on academic freedom. I took a tremendous amount of material and synthesized it into a policy that the organization can use in its future work.

The ADL is a great place to begin your search for a career in fields varying from law to education to social justice.

One thing that surprised me was how many different functions the organization serves. The ADL is not only at the forefront of the fight against anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry, but is also a leading civil rights organization and research institution on extremism, cyber bullying and cyber hate. It caters to so many different interests that someone interested in social justice is bound to find something for them.
Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) engages the community at the intersection of interfaith dialogue, economic justice and the labor movement. IWJ’s mission is to educate, mobilize and organize religious communities around issues and campaigns that will improve wages, benefits and working conditions for workers. IWJ works closely with many unions, worker’s centers, houses of worship, and interfaith organizations to achieve their mission.

My specific responsibilities focused on building relationships with various Muslim organizations, leaders, and mosques in Massachusetts. I also participated in general IWJ activities such as attending campaign meeting, writing theological literature on worker justice, and picketing.

Community organizing is all about building relationships, truly and actively listening to the people with whom you are trying to connect.

The end goal is not always to secure an event, meeting or sponsorship. Rather, it is far more efficient to have a true and genuine relationship, even if it means building such a relationship over the course of a long period of time.

This holistic approach greatly decreases the politics of hierarchy that too often crop up between directors, staff and organizers of many social causes, hindering their movement altogether. It also calls for a radical empathy and hospitality towards the people with whom you are working, as well as the people you are challenging. At the end of the day, the CEO against whom you are organizing a sit-in is still a human being.

I deeply respect IWJ for their commitment to these values. Unlike some NGOs in the labor movement, they make it a point not to demonize the people they challenge. While some organizations attack and slander their opponents, IWJ aggressively challenges them and asks them to hold their company to a higher standard. Seeing this made me realize that the same model can be applied to almost any field or career for efficient and morally mobilized change.

We’re forced to ask ourselves, “Is what I am doing truly changing the world for the better?”

To a student coming into this work, I have two pieces of advice. First, you must be self-driven and motivated, as the internship is not strictly structured. You are given free rein and a lot of room to figure out what you want to do, so you have to know your strengths, be willing to take some risks, and set goals for your own time.

Second, you must learn how and when to give yourself a break. Community organizing can often leave you feeling weary and bitter because of the thankless and grueling nature of the work. At other times, you are so emotionally invested in the movement that every setback leaves you feeling drained.

After meeting a worker from a meat-packing factory and learning of the appalling conditions and their effects on his health and family, I found it frustrating to see that the work I was doing was not changing his life instantly. Keep in mind the lives you do affect, and don’t bear the entire burden of the labor movement upon your shoulders (as it is often easy to do). This mental, spiritual and emotional balance is incredibly important; make sure you take care of yourself! Live for those few moments that make it all worthwhile.
Share Our Strength (SOS) is a non-profit devoted to ending childhood hunger through public and private partnerships, grants, and education.

As part of the expansion division within the Community Investments team, I conducted research on members of Congress and legislation related to child nutrition, hunger, and domestic poverty; updated fact sheets describing the state of hunger across the country; wrote about our work on the No Kid Hungry Blog; attended Congressional hearings and events at nonprofits; provided logistics support for state campaign launch events, receptions, lobby days, and presentations; and assisted with grants by preparing correspondence, and pulling information from grants databases.

Working on Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign gave me great insight into the non-profit world and strategies to achieve long-term goals in the work place.

For my long-term future, I have solidified many great relationships in the office and with partnering organizations. The men and women with whom I have connected have taught me a great deal about hunger in politics but also about my own capabilities in the workplace.

My work at SOS beautifully supplements my food activism at Brandeis.

We have already begun planning our campaign for more sustainable food in the dining halls. I have tried to mirror Share Our Strength’s successful tactics and apply them to our work at Brandeis. When SOS targets legislators, we would look to administrators for support. I attended team meetings and helped plan our launch events, and...

...I learned how to garner support, build excitement and strategize around one key issue.

My notions and ethics around capitalism and food justice were challenged when I found out that the large corporations I had been lobbying against at Brandeis were our biggest donors at Share Our Strength.

After many discussions with co-workers, I was forced to take a step back and understand why the support of big organizations is crucial in the fight against hunger; in order to fight hunger in America, we need to work with the corporations who have the most power and are willing to donate funds, even if that means challenging my notions of food justice and ethical purchasing.
The Brandeis Health Psychology Lab conducts research on the pathways between certain psychosocial states and health outcomes.

This summer, I worked on a large study to determine how individual stress responses can predict health throughout the aging process. I recruited, screened, and ran participants for this study; I processed blood, saliva samples, and heart rate data collected from the subjects; I assisted in performing assays to measure markers of stress and inflammation; I assisted in isolating RNA from blood for analysis; and I worked on a manuscript with a post-doctoral student and other lab members.

At the beginning of the summer, I shadowed a graduate student while she extracted RNA from blood to analyze gene expression of inflammatory markers. It was a daunting task. There was a lot of room for mistakes that have serious consequences, and the process was more complex than anything I had done in the lab before. I assisted her each time we had new samples, at first just watching as she explained the steps, helping with small side tasks, and eventually, with the main steps.

By the end of the summer I was able to work on my own samples alongside her!

Through this experience, I learned that with enough practice, mastery of even the toughest techniques is achievable.

I have also developed a deeper understanding of how important teamwork is to working on a large-scale project.

I also took on more of a leadership role this summer. There were some tasks with which I had a year’s worth of experience, so I was able to impart some tips and tricks to fellow interns and was relied upon for trouble-shooting by labmates.

I also learned to write concisely and accurately in helping with the manuscript, and this skill will carry over to all my classes. Finally, I’ve honed my skills in pipetting and working in sterile environments, making me a much more efficient worker.

For those who are interested in this field, I would advise them to identify and articulate their interests and goals so that others can help them achieve them.

For someone just starting out at a research lab, it is common to be assigned work that is not so “glamorous,” but it is important to realize that dedication and hard work do pay off.

In the Brandeis Health Psychology lab specifically, there is a lot of room for student input and ideas, so it is beneficial to everyone for interns to be assertive and creative. Because the lab is very team-oriented, taking initiative and volunteering to help is very much appreciated and rewarded.

Most importantly, ask questions! On a smaller scale, if there is even the slightest bit of misunderstanding or uncertainty in an assignment, it is better to have clarity earlier than later. On a larger scale, the scientific method is rooted in questioning. If a question has already been researched, one can further one’s own knowledge.
I’m leaving my internship at Human Rights in China with more questions than I started out with, but perhaps that’s indicative of just how valuable the experience was.

CHRIS LAU ’12 | Social Justice WOW Recipient
Human Rights in China | Hong Kong, China
MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the WOW internship funding program, please visit: GO.BRANDEIS.EDU/WOW

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

ALEXANDRA ANWEILER
Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications, Hiatt Career Center

JACKIE BLESSO
Assistant Director of Career Development, Hiatt Career Center
WOW Program Manager

JOSEPH DU PONT
Dean, Hiatt Career Center

WAJIDA SYED
2011-12 Marketing Intern, Hiatt Career Center

“My experience taught me that any member of an institution can have a profound impact on its goals.”

DIANA FLATTO '12 | Universal WOW Recipient
The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston | Boston, MA