

28 May 2020

Breaking Ground



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts Program

International Studies and Public Policy Internship Newsletter

Looking for jobs? Internships? Panicked about the state of the world and how you can even get close to getting those things in this environment? Try the Virtual Student Federal Service.

All about VSFS

Are you a student looking for a way to make a real difference in the work of your government, while also gaining job experience and connections?

Through the Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) program, students can work on projects that advance the work of government on multiple fronts. Projects include helping counter violent extremism, strengthening human rights monitoring, developing virtual programs, engaging in digital communications, mapping, economic and political reporting, data analysis, graphic design, and app building.

No more nine to five

VSFS is accommodating and flexible. Through VSFS, students can intern from wherever they are – from dorm rooms to libraries to coffee shops, or anywhere in the world with a broadband or Internet connection. Students set their own schedules too – working on projects on a timetable that fits their life. Through VSFS, students can also choose projects from a wide variety of agencies – more than 40 [federal agencies](#). Through VSFS, federal employees connect with students from diverse backgrounds and skills, as well as with their colleagues across government.

How it works

Each year, federal employees submit project requests between **May 1 and June 10**. U.S. students apply to their top three VSFS projects from **July 1-31** on [USAJOBS.gov](#). VSFS supervisors review applications between **August 1-31** and may contact VSFS candidates for a virtual interview. As part of the interview, candidates may be asked to show examples of their expertise and work. All candidates will hear by **early September** if they have been offered a position.

Selected Interns work on their projects for ten hours a week from September through May.

Some eInterns work their academic institutions to receive course credit for their VSFS participation. For more details, please visit the [Student](#) FAQ section.

Upcoming Events

Peace Corps - Virtual Information Session

Thursday, May 28, 2020

12:00pm - 1:00pm MDT



Peace Corps Application Workshop - Make your application stand out from the rest! Attend this workshop to learn more about Peace Corps, find the right program for you, and strengthen your application. Featuring special insight from a guest recruiter and placement officer, you will have an opportunity to ask questions about service, learn more about the interview process and placement, and gain valuable tips to guide you through the application process. Want to learn more about the Peace Corps? Read about their [Volunteer programs](#). Register for the Zoom webinar [here](#)

The Importance of Data Visualization

Thursday, May 28, 2020

11:30pm - 12:00pm MDT

Why is data visualization important? We will explore this vital skill, share some resources, and discuss how the COVID crisis has provided us with some relevant and impactful examples of data visualization. Business Analytics Teaching Professor Amy Phillips will be facilitating this 30-minute session. You can register [here](#).



Inspiring Alumni Series: Tommy Crosby, "Impacting Food Security"

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

2:00pm - 2:45pm MDT

Tommy Crosby (BA '14) started his path working in food security while a first year student at DU. He has since worked with Café 180, Denver Food Rescue, DaVita, The Spoken Tour podcast (documenting a 16-month break from the working world to ride his bicycle from Denver to Patagonia) and now Metro Caring. All of these organizations and experiences have contributed to his focus on food security in the Denver metro area.

During this live webinar, Tommy will discuss:

- The power of food
- How food security impacts all of us
- Different ways food security is being addressed in Denver and across the US
- The role we all play as individuals and consumers to influence the way communities come together around food.

Please find the registration and Zoom Meeting link [here](#).

Featured Internships

Education Intern

Denver Audubon

Deadline: December 11, 2020

The Denver Audubon is currently seeking creative, highly motivated and energetic individuals to work collaboratively on our education programs as part of a team of talented and experienced staff and volunteers. This is an opportunity to learn and gain experience in teaching informal science education programs. Interns will learn Denver Audubon curricula (Migration Madness, Migration Mapping, Bird Banding, Beaver Habitat Investigation, Birds & Conservation, Night Ninjas); Instruct hands-on, creative, natural science classes for groups at the Audubon Center at Chatfield; Assist with hands-on, creative, natural science classes for schools in the Denver metro area; and Assist in set-up and cleanup of classrooms/center and other areas for programs. For more information and to apply, visit their [website](#).

Communications Intern

aWhere, Inc.

Deadline: Rolling

aWhere, Inc. is seeking an attentive, organized, and motivated Communications and Marketing Intern to work 10-12 hours per week. This intern will gain experience in design, marketing, and communicating our products to a global audience in the agriculture, climate change, environment, and related sectors. The intern will support the development of communications materials and multimedia products that are attractive, consistent, well written, and propel interest and action. This includes increasing the presence on social media platforms and leveraging analytics for data-driven marketing campaigns. The ideal candidate is a media and digital enthusiast, with exceptional writing and design skills, a strong interest and background in impact communications, and demonstrated curiosity and/or experience in agriculture or international affairs. For the job listing, email baints@du.edu.

Internship for Rep. Katie Porter

US House of Representatives - Remote

Deadline: Rolling

U.S. Congresswoman Katie Porter's Office is seeking highly motivated undergraduates for her DC office internship program for the months of June and July. Intern responsibilities will include both policy and administrative support. Interns may sort and draft constituent correspondence, research legislation, assist legislative staff, or perform other responsibilities based on the office's needs and student's interests. Interns are expected to work from 9 am to 6 pm. Currently this is a remote internship opportunity, but it may transition to an in-person internship. A monthly stipend will be provided. To apply for an internship, please: Email a cover letter, resume, and two references to CAFreshman.Internship@Mail.house.gov with "Summer Internship" in the subject line. Qualified candidates should be organized, detail-oriented, able to multitask, and possess strong writing skills. Representative Porter's office is an equal opportunity employer and minorities, women, and LGBTQ persons are encouraged to apply.

Advice for New Grads

Looking for jobs? Internships? Panicked about the state of the world and how you can even get close to getting those things? NPR has some tips for you.

Be flexible.

"In your mind, when you major in something, you feel like this major specifically fits just that area," says Kamla Charles, coordinator of employer relations at Valencia College in Florida. But she says the skills you're learning within your major are giving you a foundation. The experiences and opportunities you take advantage of will ultimately shape your career pathway, more than what you majored in. "Be flexible in exploring other industries that are thriving right now, like technology and online platforms," she says. Think: "How can you pivot in this time and use the skills that they've learned, but just applying them in a new way?"

Lean on your school's supports.

"The current pandemic has created a lot of confusion and fear, and for students that can be really paralyzing and especially for those that are entering the job market," says Mark Peltz, dean of careers, life and service at Grinnell College in Iowa. He says students in this situation should reach out to their school's career centers on campus. "They can get connected to a career adviser, counselor who has access to all kinds of tools that they might draw from to help these students begin the process of beginning to sort out some of their thoughts, reactions and feelings and develop a game plan so they can get moving forward."

Focus on gaining new skills.

"The job search is likely going to be extended and how people choose to use that time is important. Take this time to think about what will you do instead. Use this time to maybe shore up a gap in your skill set or take an existing skill to another level," Peltz says.

Give yourself time to adjust.

"People think gap year before college. How about a gap year after college?" says Dave Evans, co-author of the book *Designing Your Life*. Maybe now is a time to push the long-term plan off a bit and regroup, by focusing on what's in front of you right now.