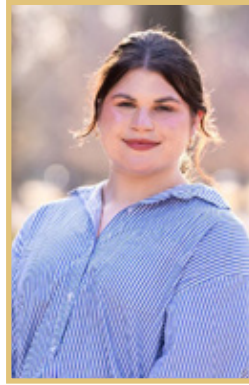


# MERTIE W. BUCKMAN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



## Lily Resha '25

**Hometown:** Murfreesboro, TN  
**Major:** International Studies and Spanish  
**City/Country:** Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Employer:** AMUMRA (a Asociación Civil de Derechos Humanos Mujeres Unidas Migrantes y Refugiadas en Argentina)

Through the Mertie Buckman Internship Program, I had the incredible opportunity to live and work in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

During my time in Buenos Aires, I worked with a non-profit for migrant and refugee women called AMUMRA. At my internship, I got to learn so much about the immigration process and what caused these women to leave their home countries. This aspect of the job getting to know the women and their families that came to our office was the most rewarding part of my experience. I feel honored to have had any small role in their journey. These connections that I made at my job and during my time in Argentina encouraged me to improve my Spanish-speaking ability. As a Spanish major, I have spent years learning the language and I am so grateful to have had the experience of using my Spanish to make meaningful connections during my time in Argentina. Finally, I just want to say that my experience here in Buenos Aires was incredible from start to finish, the people I have met here and the experiences I have had I will carry with me forever. I will always be filled with gratitude for the time I got to spend in Argentina.



## Anna Grace "AG" Travis '25

**Hometown:** Georgetown, TX  
**Major:** Political Science and International Studies  
**City/Country:** Rabat, Morocco  
**Employer:** Rabat Social Studies Institute

This summer, I interned at the Rabat Social Studies Institute in Rabat, Morocco. The RSSI is an independent think tank that provides policy briefs and recommendations to Moroccan lawmakers through

ongoing research into civil rights issues, with the goal of making Morocco a more equitable place. During my internship, I wrote report summaries, assisted in writing a fundraising pitch, and even penned my own opinion piece for the internship's column! By working with RSSI, I not only had the wonderful opportunity to learn more about Moroccan civil rights, but I also learned how a research institute operates, what its needs are, and how they connect with the policy world for progressive change. I hope to go into civil rights law in my future career with the objective of working as an attorney for NGOs, so interning at the RSSI has been an invaluable life experience.

Outside of the office, I had many adventures exploring Morocco. I lost myself in Rabat's medina many times, visited

other cities like Tangier and Casablanca, attended one of the largest music festivals in the world (Mawazine), and even went surfing for the first time in my life!



## Muhammad Ibraheem Waraich '25

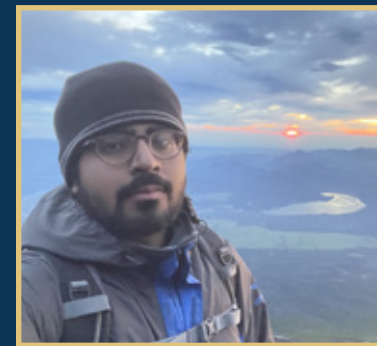
**Hometown:** Collierville, TN  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Tokyo, Japan  
**Employer:** YouMeWe NPO

During my time in Japan I connected with incredible people, gained valuable work experience, and grew personally through my travels around the country. I interned at YouMeWe NPO, a Tokyo based non-profit

which supports orphanages in Japan, the Philippines, Brazil, and Ghana.

My work centered in the communications department, where I focused on improving the organization's social media presence and keeping donors and partners updated on our various projects. The most exciting initiative I worked on was "Designing Artists Academy." This was a summer camp organized for orphans in the greater Tokyo area. Children were able to take lessons in painting, yoga, martial arts, and more. DAA was an incredibly fulfilling project to be a part of. Because the team I worked with in Tokyo was small, I also had the opportunity to work outside of my department and learn about the financial management, networking, and marketing necessary to run an impactful non-profit.

Beyond work, Japan offered ample opportunity for exploration. In my free time I explored neighborhoods like Shimokitazawa, visited historic shrines in Nikko, relaxed on the beach in Chiba, and immersed myself in Kyoto's cultural richness. My favorite memory from the trip was climbing Mt Fuji! I will remember these experiences for years to come.



SUMMER 2024



Rhodes College  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES





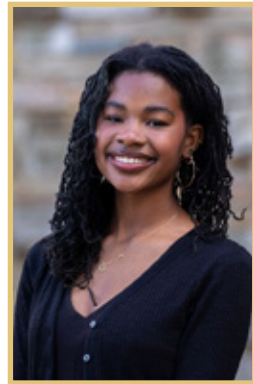
# The Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program



Initiated in 1994 through a generous gift of the Buckman family, The Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program provides the opportunity for rising junior or senior International Studies majors to broaden global understanding through living and working abroad. Selected students complete an eight-week summer internship in the country of their choice. Recent destinations have included Argentina, Columbia, England, France, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa. Mertie Buckman interns can work alongside international leaders in a variety of work environments from businesses to local human rights organizations.

Qualified applicants are rising junior or senior International Studies majors with a minimum overall/major GPA of 3.3 and relevant language skills. Selected students will earn one credit of I.S. 470 and F11 credit.

The program is coordinated by the International Studies Department Chair, the Career Services staff, and the International Studies faculty. Please contact these departments with questions about the program or application materials.



## Ayzia Alexander '25

**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA  
**Major:** International Studies and Political Science; Film and Media Studies  
**City/Country:** Cape Town, South Africa  
**Employer:** The Institute of Justice and Reconciliation

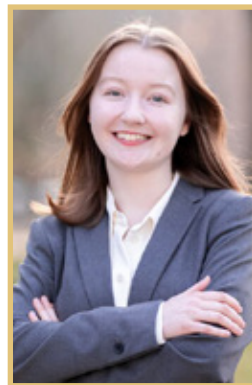
Landing in Cape Town, I felt an immediate connection to the city. My internship at the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) put me headfirst into issues of justice, reconciliation, and social change in South Africa

that garnered diverse responsibilities which has contributed to my growth in understanding transitional justice and policy advocacy globally. From writing policy briefings on democratic challenges in a Post-Apartheid democracy and South Africa's progress with the Sustainable Development Goals to creating graphics under tight deadlines, the support I received, both in the form of constructive criticism and positive reinforcement, was invaluable. My work required me to have conversations about politics, during the historic election period, and to hear and write about hopes and concerns about the coalition government and the ANC losing its outright majority enriched my understanding of democracy. These exchanges taught me the power of progress by means of honest dialogue.

I often went on trips to communities around South Africa, facilitating workshops and conversations. These interactions underscored the shared struggles and hopes across the diaspora. One experience that profoundly impacted me was during a racial dialogue in Montagu. The conversations revealed powerful intergenerational narratives of healing and determination. Engaging with Afrikaans, Xhosa people, and others in their home language, I learned the importance of listening and recognizing my privilege as an American in these spaces.

This experience has enhanced my skills in policy analysis, graphic design, communications, and community engagement, solidifying

my passion for advocacy and policy work. This internship has equipped me with the knowledge to "expand my mind and change the world." I leave with a profound appreciation for South Africa's potential and the shared humanity that connects us all.



## Regan Goodloe '25

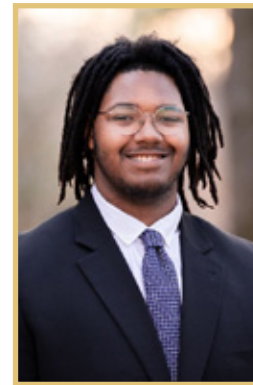
**Hometown:** Columbia, TN  
**Major:** International Studies  
**City/Country:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Employer:** AkiDwA

During my internship, I had the privilege to be a part of the AkiDwA team, which is an NGO focused on supporting migrant women and children living in Ireland, primarily those of African descent. AkiDwA not only offers direct assistance to migrants but also fiercely

champions broader issues that affect them such as gender-based violence, racism, and FGM. Their commitment to advocacy and empowerment inspired me every day.

My internship showed me that professionalism and genuine connection can coexist. The opportunity to build relationships and be part of such a dynamic organization is something I will always cherish. I gained valuable insight into the world of advocacy through hands-on work, where I participated in all aspects of AkiDwA's mission. Engaging with the stories of the women and children we served deepened my understanding of the challenges they face and the incredible resilience they possess.

This experience not only honed my skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving but also deepened my commitment to advocating for those whose voices often go unheard. I leave AkiDwA with a renewed desire to continue working in spaces that prioritize equality and justice.

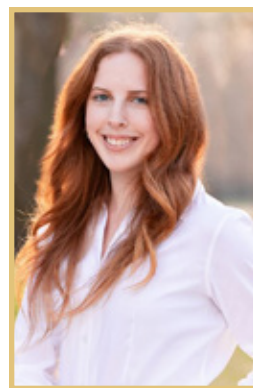


## Marcus Gray '26

**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA  
**Major:** International Studies and Latin American/Latinx Studies  
**City/Country:** Medellin, Colombia  
**Employer:** La Gobernación de Antioquia

I had the opportunity this summer through the Mertie Buckman International Internship Award to intern in Medellín, Colombia, with the La Gobernación de Antioquia. I had the opportunity to work in both the

Despacho del Gobernador and Secretaria de Agricultura. I worked on various projects, including reports and presentations about socially advancing the Department of Antioquia and improving the productivity of the Gobernación as well. Also, I contributed to a briefing for the Governor and wrote a paper about the history, current conditions, and activism of Afro-Campesinos in Antioquia. I had two opportunities to travel through my internship. In July, I spent a weekend in Cauca working and representing the Gobernación at a fair for campesinos. In August, I accompanied the governor to El Peñol where I assisted in preparing the venue for an event where he signed several "ordenanzas" ordering several types of investments in the infrastructure of El Peñol. This experience has taught me so much about the differences and similarities between first level administrative divisions (states, departments, and provinces) in the United States and Colombia. Also, through completing presentations and reports and simply talking to government employees, I have developed a deeper understanding of Colombian politics. Furthermore, through working on issues related to the advancement of rural Colombians, I have become interested in land reform and advancing the conditions for marginalized groups in rural areas.



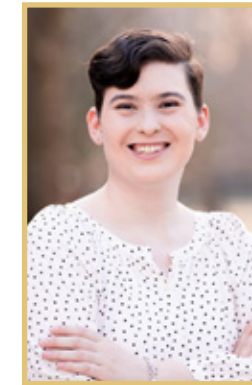
## Allie Jennings '25

**Hometown:** Yukon, OK  
**Major:** International Studies & Russian Studies  
**City/Country:** London, England  
**Employer:** Smart Works

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to intern in London, England for the UK-based charity Smart Works. This organization helps unemployed women back into the workforce through providing interview

coaching and clothing, and as such my tasks involved doing outreach at job fairs, running confidence workshops, dressing clients for their interviews, and being a part of the service delivery team to ensure that clients felt comfortable walking through our doors. One of the most rewarding parts of my time at Smart Works was seeing clients coming back and progressing through their appointments until they finally secured the job. Much of my time outside of doing administrative work was spent contributing to new policies as the charity had

doubled its outreach in the past year alone. It was humbling to learn about the impacts both Brexit and COVID-19 had on the UK job market, and trying to create new policies for the charity that did not create extra barriers for women wanting to see us helped me to grasp just how many obstacles some may have trying to earn a living. But seeing the confidence Smart Works inspired in women and their capabilities showed just how far a little help can go, and I am a better person for it.



## Teresa Lowry '25

**Hometown:** New Braunfels, TX  
**Major:** International Studies and Russian Studies  
**City/Country:** Paris, France  
**Employer:** Prométhée Humanitaire

This summer, I interned with Prométhée Humanitaire, a non-profit humanitarian association that helps street children in Haiti, Madagascar, and Senegal. Prométhée is driven by the belief that the first right of

man is to have a childhood, and the association stays true to this mission by staying in contact with each child that they help until that child attains independence and self-determination. Learning about the different stories of each of these children was incredibly impactful, and I was honored to make a real difference by contributing to their future success. Prométhée relies on fundraising and donations to put their various projects in motion, and I assisted in that by researching different organizations and foundations from whom Prométhée could request funds for their projects in Senegal and Madagascar. Additionally, I composed a dossier for the project in Madagascar and researched the situations in Haiti and Madagascar extensively, putting to use some of the skills I have learned in various IS courses at Rhodes. Prométhée's main source of funding comes from the two sales it hosts annually, and I assisted in preparation for the upcoming sale through advertising and contacting donors. My time at Prométhée was invaluable in both improving my French language skills and in learning about the inner workings of a humanitarian association. Through this internship, I achieved my goal of gaining hands-on experience in the field of international relations, and I was able to witness first-hand the challenges humanitarian associations face. Living and working in Paris was an incredible experience, and I hope to return one day.



*continued on next page*