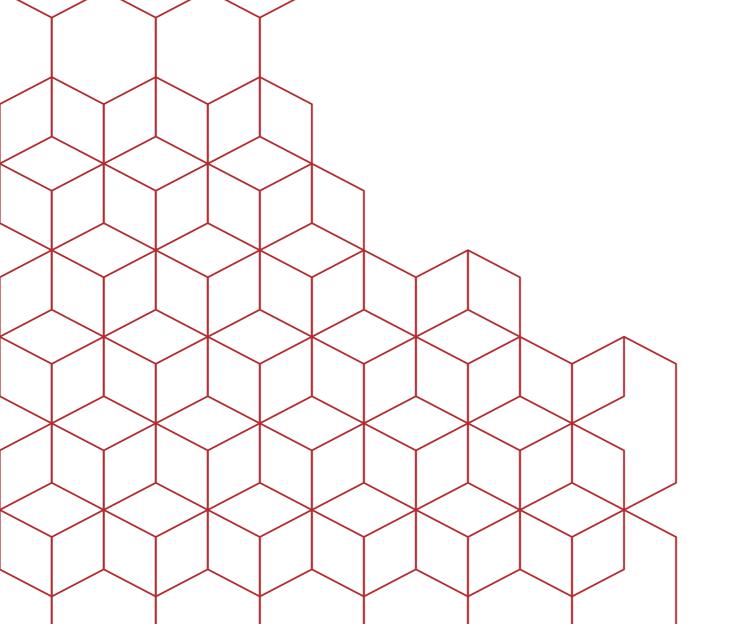
GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

IN STUDENT AFFAIRS/ STUDENT SERVICES



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS (2009-2018)





GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN STUDENT AFFAIRS / STUDENT SERVICES

Information is current as of July 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR & CO-FOUNDER

What began as a conversation between two colleagues in spring 2008 grew into a graduate student internship in student affair/student services in summer 2009. The program has evolved and has seen a diverse group of more than twenty new professionals participate over the last decade.

The program goal is simple: to provide graduate students a unique, life-changing learning opportunity to apply skills attained in graduate coursework to an American educational system in an international setting. We achieve this via a multiple placement, relationship-based, structured experience that fully engages our interns through cultural immersion, intentional reflection, and other growth based components. Participants engage in work related to programming, assessment, training, on-campus marketing, operations, program and policy development, and outreach initiatives among others. The program provided a path for two former interns post-graduation to return to the Middle-East to work professionally in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and has received several accolades.

For the past ten years I have had the privilege of working closely with dedicated professionals to engage interns, watching each become a more skilled, confident, and compassionate professional. I thank all of my colleagues over the years who have supported the program in both large and small ways.

AUK provides a diverse atmosphere to engage, collaborate, and grow professionally. We are proud of our institution, program, interns, and the opportunity to learn from one other. Look closely through this booklet, check out our accomplishments, tour our webpages, and explore this unique internship program. I look forward to the future success of the program and our interns in the next decade to come.

Tadd Kruse, M.Ed.

Assistant to the President for Institutional Planning & Effectiveness

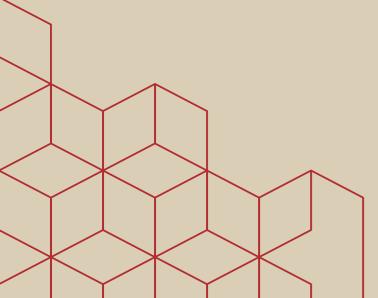
ABOUT AUK

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural, and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.

Established by Amiri Decree 139 in 2003, AUK received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC) – Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, as of February 1, 2006.

AUK offers students a quality education based on an American college model. The faculty, administration, and staff work hard to create a caring environment where every aspect of the student's development gets attention and support. The course of study is designed to prepare students for the contemporary world where critical thinking, communication skills, and life-long learning have become imperative. The Liberal Arts education system aims not only to guide the students to fulfill their educational goals, but to also instill effective critical thinking skills that they can apply in their future careers in the fields of their choice.

www.auk.edu.kw



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

AUK's Graduate Student Internship Program in Student Affairs/Student Services was established in 2009 by Dr. Carol Ross, former Dean of Student Affairs, and Tadd Kruse, former Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, to provide graduate students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain essential experiences within professional areas of Student Affairs/Student Services. Specifically the internship program was developed to provide a deeper understanding of higher education administration, to explore higher education administration issues outside of a US context, to provide the acquisition of specific skill sets which will help prepare professionals, and to break down misconceptions amongst rapidly shifting educational, economic and political issues in the Middle East and the United States. As the Student Affairs/Student Services profession continues to grow in the Middle East and around the globe, AUK is proud to offer this unique opportunity for young professionals to broaden their horizons on a personal, academic, and professional level.

The selective eight-week internship program has a highly competitive candidate pool. The program provides various placement opportunities and the ability to gain experience in two different functional areas. Placement possibilities have existed in various administrative areas from Academic Advising and the Counseling Center, to Admissions, the Registrar and others typically covering six different professional areas within Student Affairs/Student Services as possible placements in any given year.

http://www.auk.edu.kw/academics/international-programs/graduate-student-internships

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

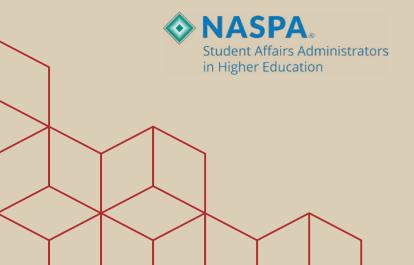
- Graduate students currently enrolled in a graduate program with a specialization in college student personnel, higher education, or related fields preferred through the semester prior to the internship opportunity.
- Interns must be in good academic standing and have completed at least one year of their graduate program at the start of the internship.
- Strong interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills required.
- · Possess administrative, organizational, multi-tasking skills, and can work in a fast paced environment.
- Interest in Middle Eastern culture or Arabic language, international travel or experience is preferred but not required.
- Ability to work well independently and as part of a team.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2011 BEST PRACTICE AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

NASPA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Since 2009, the NASPA International Education Knowledge Community has recognized exceptional work through involvement and collaboration in international education programs. Institutions and programs are recognized in an effort to encourage innovative ideas that will help student affairs professionals create and sustain new opportunities for international and domestic students; to generate conversations among student affairs professionals about internationalization, and to inspire awareness of the benefits of international education in higher education. Award-winning programs are featured and celebrated annually at NASPA's annual International Symposium in several categories.



2017 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE GRANT RECIPIENT

FUNDED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY KUWAIT

The U.S. Department of State (funded by the U.S. Embassy Kuwait) grant was awarded to AUK to support one additional internship opportunity for American students involved in Higher Education Administration and/or Student Affairs during 2017-18. The additional intern joined the regular two graduate interns for an 8 week summer placement at AUK. The US Embassy and AUK collaborated to provide the interns cultural and educational experiences during the program.





KEVIN D'ARCO

Graduate University:

Texas A&M University

Placement Offices:

Primary:

Office of the Dean of Student Affairs Secondary: Office of Student Life

Current Position Title:

Director, Student Activities & First Year Programs

Current Employer:

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

City, State/Province, Country:

Doha, Qatar

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Engaging
- 2. Challenging
- 3. Life-changing

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

Considering I have been working abroad professionally since this internship, I would say it opened me up to all sorts of exciting opportunities in Student Affairs. I was very appreciative of the opportunity to work at AUK and wanted to make the most of my summer in Kuwait. The staff and students on campus were very welcoming and were quick to help me understand the needs of students at the university. It was challenging to understand the campus context and I enjoyed applying the student development curriculum I was studying to a different campus environment like AUK. This experience was helpful in the classroom for my second year of graduate school and directly impacted my job search as prioritized opportunities to work abroad and/or with international student populations. Since the internship, I have remained in contact with Tadd and connected with later intern groups to hear about their experience and it is exciting to see the program grow the past ten years. I am proud to be a part of this program and look forward to its continued growth.



ALLISON FOX

Graduate University: Michigan State University

Placement Offices: Primary: Office of the Dean of Student Affairs Secondary: Student Success Center

Current Position Title: Career Development Manager, International Studies and Programs Current Employer:
Michigan State University

City, State/Province, Country: East Lansing, MI, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Full

2. Transformational

3. Inshallah/Habibi/Yanni

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

It's where I fell in love with halloumi and lemon with mint, rationalized traveling across full continents for a 2-day weekend trip, and deepened my appreciation for the Gulf and its incredibly generosity. My two months at AUK led to lifelong friendships, an amazing professional support network, and a heightened awareness of my cultural beliefs. The AUK internship was the driving force for me to pursue and obtain a fantastic full-time position in the U.A.E. upon completion of my graduate program; it helped to prepare me for my permanent residency there, the nuances of working culture, and the differences between federal and private universities in the region. I still think back fondly on how welcomed I felt by the staff and students at AUK, and how different my life would be without it - less colorful, less adventurous, less challenging, less aware - truly, less full.



LAMEESGALAL

Graduate University:

Ball State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Admissions

Secondary: Office of the Vice President

for Student Affairs

Current Position Title:

Full-time doctoral student & adjunct instructor

Current Employer: Syracuse University

City, State/Province, Country:

Syracuse, NY, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Life-Changing

2. Integral

3. Amazing

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

This internship was such an important part of my graduate experience and also a great introduction to functions of student affairs offices. I was getting hands on experiences in two different offices while creating an incredible network, bond, and friendship with many staff members.



ZAYNAB BAALBAKI

Graduate University: Marquette University

Placement Offices: Primary: Career Services & Wellness Secondary: Academic Advising Center

Current Position Title: Advisor

Current Employer: Escuela Verde

City, State/Province, Country: Milwaukee, WI, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Awesome

2. Unique

3. Experiential

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

The internship broadened my perspective and worldview by allowing me to be part of higher education in a way that typically is established in the United States. I was able to be part of the development of a university. For instance, I was able to collaborate with staff to cocreate the Career Services and Wellness Center's Mission Statement. Working in the Wellness center I was able to understand more nuanced cultural practices and how they affect student performance and development. The internship prepared my professional work because the experience required a lot of initiative. AUK allowed me to grow and challenge myself in a space where I would be supported.



PAIGE (MORTON) JACKSON

Graduate University:

University of Michigan

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Student Life Secondary: Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Current Position Title:

Peer Advising Coordinator

Current Employer: University of Oregon

City, State/Province, Country:

Eugene, OR, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Educational
- 2. Supportive
- 3. Enjoyable

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

The unique opportunity to work within the field of higher education and student affairs in a context so different from my previous experiences helped broaden my perspective, and ultimately made me more adaptable in both my professional and personal life.



LEO MELENA

Graduate University:San Diego State University

Placement Offices: Primary: Office of the Registrar Secondary: Academic Advising Center

Current Position Title: Director of Student Success, College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences Current Employer: California State University, San Marcos

City, State/Province, Country: San Marcos, CA, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Enlightening
- 2. Developmental
- 3. Challenging

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

The AUK Graduate Internship Program has made a significant impact on my ability to not only meet the needs of my graduate program, but has broadened my perspective and worldview preparing me for my professional career in post-secondary educational leadership. As a result, I am able to compare and contrast various methods and strategies for meeting the needs of my campus and students. In particular, my campus has a gulf-states student community with which I am better able to connect and serve. I now have an appreciation for international student experiences and I can better advise and support students as they consider and take advantage of study-abroad opportunities (a high-impact practice). Moreover, I cultivated a better grasp of and experienced a different way of life (on and off the AUK campus) with a very dissimilar sense of social justice, identity intersectionality, and cultural-wealth model which challenged me and has afforded me additional insights to share with my colleagues and students.



JANE DEVENPORT

Graduate University:

University of Southern California

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Alumni Affairs Secondary: Office of Student Life

Current Position Title:

Training Officer

Current Employer:

Department of State

City, State/Province, Country:

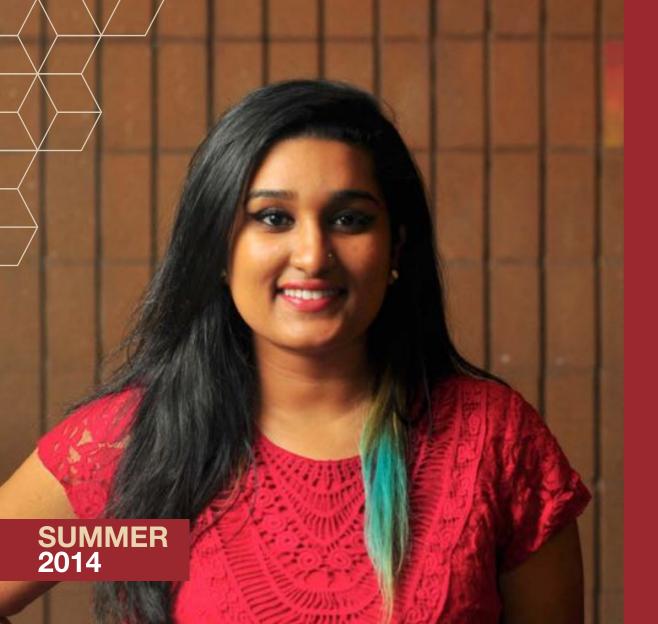
Washington D.C., USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Intercultural
- 2. Experiential
- 3. Illuminating

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

AUK's Graduate Internship program was an invaluable opportunity for me to experience the rich culture of the Gulf region. The students, staff, and my co-intern really made the experience unforgettable. As a former member of the military and non-traditional student I had worked overseas, but under very different circumstances. The main difference was that I normally had little to no interaction with the local population in my previous experiences. Being able to interact with so many amazing students and people in Kuwait is really what made the experience impactful. Additionally, the chance to reflect upon my own values as I traversed my new environment led me to improved personal understanding and growth. I believe that my experience with AUK contributed to my overseas opportunities and also to a better understanding of the commonality of mankind. I look forward to returning to the Gulf one day as it holds a very special place in my heart.



JESSICA JOSEPH

Graduate University: Stony Brook University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Career Services & Wellness Secondary: Office of Student Life

Current Position Title: 5th Grade Lead Teacher

Current Employer: Success Academy Charter Schools

City, State/Province, Country: Harlem, NY, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Enriching

2. Cross-cultural

3. Novel

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

Interning at the American University of Kuwait gave me international experience in a field I loved, and allowed me to further develop professionally. I was always interested in Career Services and worked at Stony Brook University's Career Center throughout all of my undergraduate and my graduate program. I applied for Career Services & wellness at AUK because I wanted to gain varied, international experience working with students abroad. Working in that office taught me how mental health and Career Services can intersect. I learned how one's mental health can inform one's career choice, and vice versa. I am now applying to PhD programs that study this intersection. After the internship, I was also able to present at the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Conference two years in a row about topics I had explored while interning at AUK. This experience developed my public speaking, presentation, and research skills. My experience at AUK helped me develop professionally, taught me about experiences of students abroad. and still impacts my professional interests.



TABETHA MALY

Graduate University:

Kent State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Academic Advising & Learning

Support Services

Secondary: Career Services & Wellness

Current Position Title:

International Student Advisor

Current Employer:

Miami University

City, State/Province, Country:

Oxford, OH, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Unique

2. Fabulous

3. Fascinating

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

This internship gave me professional experience in a cultural context completely different from experiences in my own country. Because of living and working in Kuwait, even for a short two months, I am much more prepared to work with international students around the world. I'm fortunate to have a better understanding of cultural dimensions and utilize that knowledge to assist students.



BENOIT SABOURIN

Graduate University:North Carolina State University

Placement Offices: Primary: Office of the Registrar Secondary: Office of Student Life

Current Position Title: Assistant Director of Development, University Library Current Employer: Georgia State University

City, State/Province, Country: Atlanta, GA, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Life-changing
- 2. Captivating
- 3. Interactive

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

Throughout my career in student affairs at that point, I had not had much experience with international students, and this internship was my first experience working with Middle Eastern students on a large scale. I learned so much about the culture and how things work in their education system, and it inspired me to keep researching and discovering. I learned what motivates and what challenges Such students, and it gave me the inspiration to seek new experiences helping students from this region who come to the States for their college education. This internship was the first time I used Banner software, and I have used it a lot since, so that was a huge help. I talk and think about this internship all the time, and it was one of the best things I have ever done. I still can't believe it happened, but I am so glad it did!



NICK MARTIN

Graduate University:

Virginia Tech University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Student Life Secondary: Office of Admissions

Current Position Title:

Residence Life Coordinator

Current Employer:

California Sate University, East Bay

City, State/Province, Country:

Hayward, CA, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Adventure
- 2. Powerful
- 3. Educational

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

This internship challenged me to confront my own inherent bias, prejudice, and privilege in a very new and unknown environment. Every day, I felt like I learned more and more about the culture and people of Kuwait, continually learning how to better understand and serve a student population with which I had little prior experience. My experience at AUK drove me to seek out more professional opportunities that would allow me to step firmly outside of my own experience and engage with a more diverse population of students. Upon returning from Kuwait, I regularly reflected on my experience and used my second year of graduate school to develop career goals for my future professional pursuits. I feel that my internship experience at AUK gave me the foundational skills to consider my impact on a campus and taught me how to ask the questions that matter in the effort to best advocate for the students I serve.



JEFFRY NEUHOUSER

Graduate University:
Ball State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Academic Advising & Learning

Support Services

Secondary: Office of the President

Current Position Title:

Assistant Director of Career Education

Current Employer: Earlham College

City, State/Province, Country: Richmond, IN, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Immersive

2. Intentional

3. Reflective

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

My internship experience gave me the space to put into practice the skills that I had learned in my graduate program. The experience allowed me to more smoothly transition into a full-time experience upon arrival back in the United States. I describe my internship experience as a professional sandbox, I was able to take ownership of specific projects and work through both the successes and failures in an immersive and intentional environment. Being intentional about reflection and growth has directly translated into my professional work.



ADRIENNEBOCCI

Graduate University:

Portland State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Counseling Center

Secondary: Academic Advising & Learning Support Services

Current Position Title:

Admissions Recruiter

Current Employer: Clark College

City, State/Province, Country:

Vancouver, WA, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Eye-opening
- 2. Rewarding
- 3. Confidence-building

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

As someone who aims to facilitate international experiences for adult learners, this internship provided an invaluable opportunity to practice cross-cultural communication skills, patience, flexibility, and self-reliance in an international setting. Participating in the internship provided me with a personal experience that I can use to help better understand the challenges and successes of students completing similar programs as part of their educational journey. Spending each day at AUK helped me to see how models of higher education vary depending on their geographical and cultural context. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, this experience allowed me to deepen my understanding of the Middle East, including the diversity of its people and its complex history, through engagement with colleagues and students who were generous enough to share their perspectives, values, and beliefs with me. I truly feel that this internship program was a once-in-a-lifetime, transformative experience, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of it.



ARYKA RICE

Graduate University: Eastern Michigan University

Placement Offices: Primary: Office of the Registrar Secondary: Office of Student Life

Current Position Title: Success Coach, Office of Student Success Current Employer: University of Michigan - Dearborn

City, State/Province, Country: Dearborn, MI, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Engaging
- 3. Developmental

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

My experience at the American University of Kuwait was like no other. This internship enhanced my working knowledge in Student Affairs by allowing me to gain exposure to different functional areas, as well as, granting me the opportunity to work in a setting different than my own - culturally and politically. As a result, I have a deeper understanding and appreciation for diverse work styles and how goals/tasks can be accomplished many different ways. It awarded me the opportunity to broaden my scope of thinking and approaching tasks by working with a diverse and highly intelligent group of people to achieve a common goal. As a professional, I am now more confident in my ability to work on projects with different people and can now leverage my strengths with those of others. I feel more confident in handling complex situations/tasks.



TESSA CONSTANT

Graduate University:

University of Arkansas

Placement Offices:

Primary: Counseling Center Secondary: Office of the Dean of Academic Support Services

Current Position Title:

Housing Graduate Assistant

Current Employer:

University of Arkansas

City, State/Province, Country:

Fayetteville, AR, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Organized3. Developed

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

This internship allowed me to work with individuals from other cultures each, bringing their unique gifts and lived experiences. It allowed me to see that while the reasons why students behave one way or another may differ from culture to culture, the student affairs profession does not. It's a profession dedicated to serving students well by building personal relationships and helping them develop as both professionals and young adults. I learned how important a student's history is to how they both learn and interpret the world.



QUINCY KISSACK

Graduate University:University of Maryland - College Park

Placement Offices: Primary: Office of Student Life Secondary: Office of the President

Current Position Title: Assistant Director, Student Association Professional Staff Current Employer: University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

City, State/Province, Country: Milwaukee, WI, USA

Describe your internship experience:

- 1. Hospitality
- 2. Eye-opening
- 3. Reflective

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

Working at AUK the summer after I graduated with my Master's degree gave me the opportunity to reflect on my own professional philosophy and practice before stepping into a full-time role. Seeing the ways my AUK colleagues interacted with and supported students helped me think about the ways to enact my own student-centered focus, and connecting with colleagues, my co-interns, and students challenged me to recognize my own biases and assumptions about the Middle East and to reconceptualize my understanding of social justice in international contexts. This internship was a great way to step out of my comfort zone while still having an intentional, focused learning experience.



WYATT WATERBURY

Graduate University:

Iowa State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Learning Support Services Secondary: Office of Admissions

Current Position Title:

Graduate Assistant, Student Activities Center **Current Employer:**

Iowa State University

City, State/Province, Country:

Ames, IA, USA

Describe your internship experience:

1. Networking

2. Opportunity

3. Growth-through-challenge

In what way did this internship broaden your perspective, your worldview, and prepare you for professional work?

Having already spent time in the Middle East, I wasn't expecting to grow as much as I did. I discovered a different culture and made many connections that will last beyond my time at AUK. The AUK graduate internship program was what solidified my interest to work abroad and provided me with a variety of professional references who pushed me to gain as much working experience as I could from the internship opportunity.



ASHLEY EDWARDS

Graduate University: Illinois State University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Student Success Center Secondary: Office of Student Life



GENEVIEVESULLIVAN

Graduate University:
Denver University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of the Registrar Secondary: Office of Student Life



KATHERINEMITCHELL

Graduate University:

The University of Northern Colorado

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Student Life Secondary: Office of Admissions



ZONGGUANG

(WILL) LI

Graduate University: Indiana University

Placement Offices:

Primary: Office of Admissions

Secondary: Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past ten years the program and our individual past interns have contributed to the AUK community, international education, and the student affairs/student services profession as a whole. This diverse group of individuals highlighted on the previous pages speak to the program's success and serve as a reminder of the present and future of educational leadership. Provided below are simple highlights of the collective accomplishments of the program and our participants.

| Total internship hours worked | over 4000 |
|--|-----------|
| Participating interns: | 21 |
| Graduate schools represented | 20 |
| US states represented (by graduate program institution) | 15 |
| Individual interns who presented at conferences (linked to internship program) | 11 |
| Peer-reviewed conference presentations (linked to internship program) | 8 |
| Campus departments hosting interns | 9 |
| Interns who worked in international education | 8 |
| Interns who worked professionally post-internship in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) | 2 |

GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PAST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Below is a list of all past graduate students who participated in the summer graduate internship program at AUK over the past decade. Participants are listed by their period of participation and with the graduate university in attendance at the time of the internship.

SUMMER 2009:

Kevin D'Arco Texas A&M University
Ashley Edward Illinois State University

SUMMER 2010:

Allison Fox Michigan State University

Katherine Mitchell The University of Northern Colorado

SUMMER 2011:

Lamees GalalBall State UniversityGenevieve SullivanDenver University

SUMMER 2012:

Zaynab BaalbakiMarquette UniversityPaige MortonUniversity of Michigan

SUMMER 2013:

Leo Melena San Diego State University

Zongguang (Will) Li Indiana University

SUMMER 2014:

Jane Devenport Jessica Joseph

SUMMER 2015:

Tabetha Maly Benoit Sabourin

SUMMER 2016:

Nick Martin Jeffry Neuhouser

SUMMER 2017:

Adrienne Bocci Aryka Rice

SUMMER 2018:

Tessa Constant Quincy Kissack Wyatt Waterbury University of Southern California Stony Brook University

Kent State University
North Carolina State University

Virginia Tech University Ball State University

Portland State University Eastern Michigan University

University of Arkansas

University of Maryland – College Park

Iowa State University



Graduate Student Internship Program American University of Kuwait

P.O. Box 3323, Safat 13034, Kuwait

Phone: (+965) 2224-8399

Email: stagradintern@auk.edu.kw

www.auk.edu.kw