



# E. John Rosenwald, Jr. 1952 Public Affairs Internship Fund INTERN PROFILE



## Selina Noor '22 JAAGO Foundation

Selina Noor '22 grew up in Olathe, Kansas and graduated as the Valedictorian of Olathe Northwest High School. At Dartmouth, Selina is pursuing a double major in cognitive science with a focus area in the neuroscience and philosophy of decision-making and music with a concentration in piano performance. On campus, she works as the Public Relations Director for the Dartmouth Political Union. Selina also enjoys planning and leading events to encourage camaraderie and connections as the Social Chair of North Park Executive Council. After graduation, she intends to take a gap year in Bangladesh to work for JAAGO Foundation and develop a better learning curriculum for impoverished elementary school students. After her time abroad, Selina plans to attend law school to study legal ethics.

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*“[This internship taught me things including] patience, perseverance, and humility, and I’m proud of myself for handling difficult situations gracefully.”*

### **Executive Summary from Selina’s final report:**

JAAGO Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Bangladesh with aims to educate the impoverished children of the country. I’ve been working at JAAGO as an online English and Conversation teacher since 2015 and have helped with 4 different branches of schools and 4 distinct grade levels. There are several other important sectors that make up the organization, and I had the opportunity to work as a Content and Curriculum Coordinator during the summer. My team’s collaborative goal is to create a preschool for Dhaka’s underprivileged kids where they will be able to learn manners, morals, and fundamental learning concepts like shapes and numbers so that they are prepared for primary school and feel more comfortable in social or familial settings. Key components of my work included intensive brainstorming meetings, research and readings, as well as ongoing

classes with 1st graders in the Rajshahi branch to see what kinds of skill sets the children still needed to develop, and what types of programs could have been beneficial for them had they been able to attend a preschool. Since there is not a concept of a preschool already in place in Bangladesh, this is a project we started from scratch when I began the internship, and it will take my team at least another year to accomplish our goal as we work alongside the Bangladeshi government to make sure we comply with the country's rules and regulations. Moreover, given that the children of JAAGO come from low to no-income families, a large array of unique factors come into play, such as making online learning accessible, providing students with proper clothing and sufficient food, and having plenty of resources to aid in their health and wellbeing since so many of them come from dysfunctional homes. Additionally, we are working to create "crash courses" for these students since, due to the pandemic, all schools have been closed and only the 2% of students who have smartphones or laptop access have been able to do any sort of coursework (which has also mainly been informal for the past year and a half). I am incredibly excited to continue working at JAAGO part-time while I wrap up my academics at Dartmouth and intend to work full-time after college to see our vision come together.

The three most positive parts of my internship were the friendships I made, the reassurance I received that my educational pursuits at Dartmouth matched my career aspirations, and the ability to interact with students once again after so many months of cancelled schooling. First, I was lucky to establish incredible friendships with my teammates, Ayon Kibria and Muna Shabnom, who are older than me but still treat me as an equal. Even though we were thousands of miles apart and logging in at very different time zones, we maintained constant communication to ensure that the project was running smoothly and were always respectful and kind. Moreover, the Bengali culture is such that everyone is especially warm and welcoming, and experiencing that level of camaraderie in a non-familial setting was surprising and a wonderful experience. Second, I realized that the concepts I'm covering in my Cognitive Science and Education classes at Dartmouth are extremely relevant to the work I've been doing at JAAGO; for instance, classes in language acquisition and development were especially important in helping me understand what kinds of programs would benefit preschool-aged children as they navigated learning a second language. Knowing that my education can truly benefit my career and lifetime goals is a very reassuring and positive takeaway.