



# Class of 1971 Internship Fund INTERN PROFILE



## Kathryn Putz '22 U.S. Department of State

Kathryn Putz '22 is a senior at Dartmouth College majoring in government and Asian societies, cultures and languages. On campus, she serves as the co-president of Dartmouth Women in Law and Politics, works as an Admissions Ambassador, and is involved with the Dickey Center through the War and Peace Fellows and Great Issues Scholars programs. She studied advanced Chinese in Beijing, China, and will venture abroad again next winter to study Anthropology in New Zealand. This past winter, Kathryn interned at the Carter Center, a nongovernmental organization in Atlanta. There, she contributed articles on topics related to U.S.-China relations and provided logistical support for virtual international meetings.

*Kathryn was funded by the Rockefeller Center for a Spring 2021 internship, with generous support from the Class of 1971 Internship Fund.*

*“On a professional level, I had the opportunity to meet individually with everyone in my office about their career trajectory and experience working at the State Department.”*

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

During the winter term of 2021, I had the opportunity to intern remotely for the US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). DRL develops and implements U.S. policy on democracy, human rights, international labor, and religious freedom. DRL helps build global consensus in support of democratic rule and universal human rights principles and carries out project proposal evaluation, grant administration, budget negotiations, technical coordination, and project performance review and compliance for democracy promotion and human rights grants. While interning in DRL, I witnessed the rollout of their annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which provide a comprehensive assessment of human rights around the world. Within DRL, I supported the Office for East Asia and Pacific, which is responsible for democracy and human rights issues facing

the East Asia-Pacific region. In this role, I collaborated with multiple supervisors, all of whom are Foreign Affairs Officers with different country portfolios. I primarily worked on human rights issues relating to Burma, Vietnam, and China. I took on a variety of research, writing, and administrative projects during my time as an intern—from participating in meetings with senior-level US and foreign government officials, drafting cables and reports used by policymakers in DRL, and supporting multilateral meetings between stakeholders across government and nonprofits. My internship with the State Department has inspired me to work towards someday living and working abroad, potentially through the U.S. State Department, a non-governmental organization, or an international law firm.

My experience interning in the Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs was overwhelmingly positive. One of the highlights of the internship was the opportunity to take the lead on organizing two virtual roundtables between human rights advocates and civil society representatives and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. One roundtable discussed policy actions the US government could take to end the ongoing human rights abuses against the Uyghur ethnic group in Xinjiang, China, and the other promoted accountability for those responsible for overturning the democratic transition in Burma. In preparation for the roundtables, I was tasked with sending invitations to the attendees, preparing background documents to brief the Secretary of State, and coordinating the technology logistics for holding the roundtables on Zoom. Throughout the process, I gained a deep understanding of how State Department documents move up the chain-of-command.

In addition, engaging professionally with Chinese economic, political, and social dynamics has solidified my desire to pursue US-China relations in my career. My internship at the State Department gave me a better personal understanding of the global influences of the rising Asia-Pacific region and encouraged me to think holistically about our approach to international diplomacy. Although I am still unsure of my future professional path, my internship encouraged me to be a listener, a mediator, an ally. I, for one, do not have any simple solutions to the myriad disputes that divide people, societies, nations. However, I now have a starting point from which to approach them: a willingness to adapt, to grow; a commitment to understand and articulate a variety of viewpoints; an inclination to reconcile—or at least live peacefully—with opposing stances.

I want to thank the Rockefeller Center for supporting me throughout my internship at the US Department of State. I am grateful for the training and support I received throughout my entire internship. In addition to the internship grant, I have taken advantage of pre-professional and leadership courses through the Rockefeller Center. Notably, the Rockefeller Global Leadership Program I previously completed bolstered my cross-cultural communication and cultural self-awareness—skills that I undoubtedly utilized during my internship at the State Department.

