



# Henry Leach 1928 Memorial Fund INTERN PROFILE

BROOKINGS



## Mia Seymour '23 Brookings Institution

Mia Seymour '23 is from West Hartford, CT. Intending to double major in economics and computer science and minor in public policy, she seeks to apply economic principles to social and political issues. On campus, Mia can be found working for The Dartmouth, both as a writer for The Mirror and staff member for Multimedia. She is also a class representative for North Park House Council, a member of Women in Business and club field hockey, and engages with her religious community, the Aquinas House.

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

This past winter, I was a research intern in the Economic Studies Department in the Center on Regulation and Markets at the Brookings Institution. I worked under the supervision of Aaron Klein, a Dartmouth graduate, and Senior Fellow. In my role, I was able to work closely with Aaron and his research assistants (RAs), collaborating both on research and the writing process. I assisted on a report on Covid-19’s impact on the Hispanic workforce, an op-ed on overdraft fees in small banks, and updated a book chapter on the Chinese digital payments system. Further, I was responsible for attending and covering events to provide succinct summaries and notes for Aaron and/or his

colleagues. Finally, I helped with day-to-day tasks, such as organizing conferences, updating contact lists, and maintaining certain files and records.

Throughout the internship, I learned an incredible amount about our financial system, such as the racial and climate implications of certain policies and programs and the institutional financial barriers that minority populations face. Starting out, I hoped to gain research skills and experience in this role. My research was dimensional--examining the banking system both at a macro and micro level, the effectiveness of a real-time payments system, and the future of digital currencies. I enjoyed all of our projects; in particular, I found the data on bank overdrafts to be interesting to analyze. We then used this data in the op-ed. Feeling like I was actually contributing to meaningful work through my research was a very motivating experience.

The connections I made with fellow interns, RAs, and even personnel at meetings and events – whether it be business CEOs or top researchers – were impactful. I learned something from everyone I met; for example, the RAs were helpful in talking about navigating post-college life, sharing how they made their way to Brookings and what applying to grad schools is like. Connecting with Brookings members showed me how to develop professional relationships in which I was comfortable asking questions to see how different departments work. Another valuable part of my internship was the professional relationship I developed with my supervisor. Aaron was incredibly helpful in providing feedback on my written work, answering questions about Brookings, and sharing his own career advice. He was keen to include me on phone interviews with reporters and made me feel like I was in D.C. despite everything being remote.

Seeing the collaborative writing process between fellows, sitting in on internal meetings, hearing policy debated at conferences, and ultimately having an inside look at Aaron's job was priceless. My experiences at Brookings reinforced my interest in economics but with a new lens to approach coursework. I do not know what my future holds, but I really enjoyed the research aspect of this internship and want to try to pursue economic research at Dartmouth. I am very grateful for my term at Brookings and am eager to apply what I learned to my academic and professional future. I would like to thank the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center and the Henry Leach 1928 Memorial fund for supporting my endeavors.