



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



Gayeong Song '22 American Enterprise Institute

Gayeong Song '22 grew up in Seoul, South Korea and graduated from Ridgewood High School in Ridgewood, NJ. At Dartmouth, Gayeong studies economics, comparative literature, and statistics. She is currently an undergraduate advisor for first-year students, a teaching assistant, and a research assistant for professors in Economics and Government departments. Previously, Gayeong worked as a US Strategy intern for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. After graduation, Gayeong hopes to pursue a graduate degree that combines her interests in international development, armed conflict, and global health.

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Executive Summary from Gayeong’s final report:

During the Summer term of 2021 I had the opportunity to intern at American Enterprise Institute. American Enterprise Institute (AEI) is an independent and nonprofit public policy think tank based in Washington, DC. Since its inception in 1938, AEI scholars have contributed to discussions around government, politics, social welfare, and foreign and defense policy in the United States. I interned under Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, the Wendt Chair of Political Economy in AEI’s Foreign and Defense Policy department.

Through this role I acquired data and quantitative research skills. I became more fluent in sourcing raw data and assessing its reliability. Due to the remote work environment, I was exposed to version control and cloud collaboration methods in GitHub. I gained confidence in independently resolving various coding issues as well.

Furthermore, the professional programs that AEI offered trained me in networking and recruiting in the policy space of Washington, DC. I was coached on a variety of things such as dinner party etiquette, wine tasting techniques, and elevator pitches. In my day-to-day work, I resolved ad hoc research questions and tasks from Dr. Eberstadt and his research assistant. A long-term project I contributed to was based on determining the predictive power of international academic achievement exams on economic development and examining its implications for US defense policy. I used Stata and Python to clean, merge, and analyze an exhaustive panel dataset of over 100 countries across 20 years. I also worked on editing reports and creating visualizations about the study.

Over the course of my internship I enjoyed working in such a positive and flexible work environment that fostered my personal growth. Since the internship was located in Boston, I was able to take advantage of being in a new city as much as possible. The remote work environment and my demonstrated work reliability opened doors to museums, tours, and concerts Boston offered. Moreover, I was able to directly contribute to the projects and see my data analyses represented in my supervisors' presentations. Additionally, my supervisors always encouraged me to explore new Stata techniques and review statistical knowledge at my own pace.

My summer at AEI was critical to determining my future career plans. It solidified my interests at the intersection of quantitative research and public policy and inspired me to search full-time research roles at think tanks after graduation. In fact, this fall, I have decided to continue my engagement in the think tank space through a part-time research intern position at Council on Foreign Relations. I would like to thank the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the E. John Rosenwald, Jr. Fund for their generous support for students.