I had the opportunity to go abroad last summer, with GAV ( Global Academic Adventures). I started my journey by utilizing the resources that Virginia Tech, more specifically those that Pamplin Business School offers. I chose to do an internship in Dublin, Ireland. The program offered me a highly selective internship, while earning three credits towards my major. I can honestly say I had the time of my life, while having a meaningful and fruitful internship. I was placed with Hewlett Packard, and I began my internship working in the finance department, and ended my internship integrating a new EPS system into the company. I sat in on conference calls with managers all over the world, and learned how to apply my knowledge of the U.S market into a global field. It was also not all sunshine and rainbows. There were times where I was over my head, and felt the international barrier. I think this was the most advantageous part of my learning. Being put in a world where everything is abnormal, and learning how to cope, work, and thrive with these challenges was life changing.

Speaking specifically about GAV, I believe they do their best to place you into an internship that best fits your major. I would also like to note that I had a two-hour commute each way to work, so be prepared for some long days. On these long days, you can either embrace the culture and take in your surroundings, or you can let it get the best of you. It is on you as a person to make the best out of the situation. I thought this was very interesting because this can be applied to anything you do in life.

I was offered an amazing internship this year, and I believe that my experience overseas sets me apart from other candidates. This opportunity will open doors for you with your future career goals.

Lastly, I was placed with 18 Ohio State students, and I was the only person in my group not from their college. It was difficult to fit in for the first ten minutes of meeting everyone, after that you realize you are all college students living in a foreign country, and everyone is nervous. I made some friends that I now talk to weekly. I made memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. If you are on the fence, my best advice is to jump into the water and get wet. Regardless of your internship or where you choose to go, you will come out seasoned by the experience and ready for the unexpected.