Intern Spotlight: Abby Butikofer - Peruvian Embassy

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Abby Butikofer

Class: Junior

Major: Applied Mathematics

Minor: Spanish, Music

Where are you from? I grew up in the Air Force...so I'm not really from anywhere!

What are involved in at USU? Aggie Translators, Connections leader, recitation leader and grader for calculus classes, research assistant.

What are your daily responsibilities as an intern? Do research and write diplomatic cables in Spanish on American current events to be sent down to Lima, represent the embassy at conferences and meetings at other embassies, the World Bank, the House and the Senate, the USDA, Council of the Americas, etc.

What has been your favorite part of the internship so far? I love all the amazing things I've gotten to do so far! I'm just an intern but I feel like everyday I do something important that is helping Peru. I love the feeling that I am changing the world! :) I also love living in DC. It is an AMAZING city.

Who do you look up to and learn from most at your internship? I have three bosses at the embassy, together they make up the economics department. One in particular is named Miguel and he has taught me a lot. He explained to me more about the construction of the Peruvian government and he taught me how to write my very first cable.

What drove you to do an IOGP internship? I had lived in DC before when my dad was stationed at the Pentagon, so I always thought it would be amazing to come back to intern somewhere in DC. I didn’t know that would actually be possible until I learned about IOGP!

What advice do you have to students who want to pursue a political internship? APPLY! There’s no hurt in applying! Also, NETWORK. DC life is all about networking. Learn how to present and introduce yourself in a confident, professional manner.