

Human Rights Matter

*"Bard College Berlin gave me the wonderful opportunity to intern with **Human Rights Matter** directly under the co-founder, Farangis Zikriyaeva. She and I worked as a team on a short-term but intensive collaborative project with another human rights organization to produce an online learning course on the application of human rights of forcibly conscripted military personnel, who face violations of these rights from within the military.*

I worked remotely due to the constraints of the pandemic, and only had contact with my mentor, as we were the only two on the project team, but I always felt valued and always had an open line of communication. She took my comments and suggestions seriously, and we worked together to implement many of my ideas, which greatly increased my self-confidence and provided me with invaluable, hands-on cross-disciplinary experience.

I learned international human rights law, the role of the court system in defining the law so as to apply it, what sort of impact this case law has on the further application of the law, and more, all without a legal background of my own. Thanks to BCB and HRM, I not only had the opportunity to learn a wide array of skills, but also helped to build the foundations for further growth of a fledgling human rights cause and thereby make a material impact for the better, and for that I will always be grateful."

—Roman Steindler, Fall 2020

Alfred Landecker Foundation

*"My internship at the **Alfred Landecker Foundation** embraced a wide range of tasks: from designing brochures to helping with event coordination, from researching to organizing a days-long conference. I spent 3 to 8 hours on 2-3 days of the week in the office, a work-setting I greatly enjoyed but also became a bit suspicious of its effectiveness over the course of the semester. Interning at the foundation gave me a chance to look into how complex processes can be broken down to smaller steps and how tasks that seem to be irrelevant gain importance and place at a later stage. My internship taught me to be more patient, to work cleverer and not more, a realization that had a direct impact on my academic work as well.*

"In the first two years of my academic career, I explored the wide field of arts, politics and even a bit of the sciences. But as the 4th year and my thesis started to approach, I felt the need to actively shape and challenge these many interests of mine. I decided to take an internship in the sphere of cultural entrepreneurship as this field seemed to bring together culture and politics in an action-oriented mindset.

My internship also allowed me to realize that when I go to an office both driven by my passion and profession, working can be joyous yet very tiring. After this half-a-year and more than two hundred working hours I feel sad as I loved my internship yet also more aware that this love can easily lead to self-exhaustion, a lesson I learned for a life."

—Miksa Gaspar, Fall 2020