



INTERNSHIP AT THE IIR: EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING

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Originally from the Republic of Georgia, Salome was finishing her Masters Degree in International Relations and Affairs at Sakarya University in Turkey when she applied for an internship at the Institute of International Relations in Prague

SALOME TSIKARISHVILI

"I liked the status of the institute, its mission and targets."

Salome is no stranger to international politics or working at non-profits. She volunteered at an NGO and worked as a consultant at the Public Service Hall in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital city. During Georgia's presidential and parliamentary elections, she acted as a supervisor for Transparency International, a think tank that fights government corruption and promotes transparency and accountability. Salome was able to bring her expertise to IIR, where she worked as a public relations assistant and was instrumental in many academic conferences, including the Prague European Summit.

"My first day was very calm. The working atmosphere was very pleasant," she remembers. "I mostly participated in public relations and tasks related to the conferences, which I have enjoyed the most."

During Salome's tenure at IIR, she helped manage several academic conferences dealing with topics like Ukraine's political climate between its presidential and parliamentary elections and Russian foreign policy. These conferences provided the ideal environment for Salome to meet some of the region's leading political minds.

In addition to the academic conferences, Salome's supervisors at IIR organized several get togethers with interns and researchers, so that she could get a practical insight into professional research. Her favourite of these introductions was meeting with Jakub Eberle, an expert on German and Czech foreign policy.



All this experience culminated in the Prague European Summit, a three-day conference focused on the future of the European Union. Held at the beautiful Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Salome was able to rub elbows with high-level government officials from all over Europe as they discussed the most important issues facing the EU.

BEST LESSONS



After her three months, Salome says she would happy to join a professional team like the one at IIR. *"I would love to work in an environment that is similar,"* she says. Her work at IIR not only gave Salome important theoretical insights to international relations and foreign policy, but also taught her many practical lessons.

"I learned how to manage my time and balance myself," she says. "I also figured out that I am good at organizational tasks."



She encourages applying to IIR for an internship in order to get a good mix of practical experience and academic expertise and contacts. "I would recommend to go for it!" she says.



[Photos by Adam Costey]