My Work

- International IDEA maintains various global databases on different facets of democracy. I was responsible for updating databases on the use of information and communications technologies in elections, as well as electoral system designs.
  - My supervisor asked me to focus on Latin America because of my Spanish fluency.
  - I reviewed laws and web resources to complete questionnaires. The content was then added to the databases manually.
- Occasionally, I was asked to help with smaller projects, like translating documents or compiling edits to a report regarding the impact of conflict on elections.
IDEA's office is located on a small island between the modern business district and the historic old town. An amazing location and a very scenic commute!
Once I completed my research, I added my findings to the global databases, citing specific legal text or online resources. This information can be exported by professionals to compare practices around the world.
Rewarding Aspects of My Internship

- By capitalizing on a comparative strength, my fluency in another language, I was able to offer the Institute the help it needed to refine its data on Latin America, a key region for its efforts.

- As a Politics concentrator, my research allowed me to better understand the mechanics of elections.

- I gained an appreciation for the strengths and weaknesses of different technologies and electoral systems. There were plenty of lessons to learn regarding how the United States differs from its southerly neighbors, and ways we might improve our own practices.
My Impact on IDEA; IDEA’s Impact on Me

- My supervisor emphasized that this should be an experience in which they learn as much from me as I might from them. He was open to ideas I may have for improving the department.
  - I decided to offer recommendations for edits to the research questionnaires, in order to simplify data collection and database entry.
- While my focus at school is more domestic, I’ve acquired a better comparative perspective on elections that may help if I work in policy-making after college. I also gained substantive exposure to a research-based intergovernmental organization.
Cultural Experience

- Stockholm is an amazing city for anyone who likes museums and sightseeing. While food can be expensive, cultural attractions are relatively affordable, especially with student discounts.

- I never felt out of place, as Stockholm is very English-friendly and like an American big city in many ways.

- Try to explore the surrounding region by train, and to visit other Swedish cities!
The famous Stortorget at the heart of Gamla Stan (Old Town)

Sweden’s King & Queen in the National Day parade on June 6

Stockholm’s beautiful Royal Palace

Raising of the traditional Midsummer maypole at Skansen park
Personal Growth and Reflections

Everyone should try to spend a few months in another country, on their own if possible. It’s a great way to learn more about yourself and become more independent. Sweden is a good place to go abroad if you haven’t traveled much before.

International IDEA is a very diverse organization, which helped me expand my perspective and learn more not only about the world around me, but also how the world thinks of the United States.