FUNDACIÓN SALUD POR DERECHO
MADRID, SPAIN

Summer 2017
Maria Rojas
Class of 2019
TYPE OF WORK

• Updated the contact information of over 3,000 researchers and doctors in Spain, which is crucial for keeping them up-to-date on the organization’s campaigns.

• Gathered data on access to medicines for the Executive Director.

• Translated key documents for the organization’s various campaigns from Spanish to English

• Participated in a march/protest with my coworkers urging Congress to form a committee to investigate and formulate a new R&D model that doesn’t drive up the prices of drugs
  • [https://youtu.be/9xUGjgRXLOU](https://youtu.be/9xUGjgRXLOU)
  • Check out the video!
MY COWORKERS AND I ON THE DAY OF THE MARCH
OFFICE AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

• The office is in the center of Madrid, in a great area called Callao.

• The office is small but bright and lively; I had 6 coworkers.

• Everyone was super friendly and willing to help me in any way.

• Fluency in both verbal and written Spanish highly recommended, although most of them speak fluent English.
MOST REWARDING ASPECT

• Knowing that the work I was doing was going to make a substantial impact on how many people the organization was going to be able to reach.

• Additionally, the documents they gave me to translate were used immediately and will be used for their future campaigns, which is exciting because they trusted me enough to give me important work right off the bat.

• Outside of work, the independence I had and the ability to travel was incredible.
SPAIN IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE
HOW THE WORK IMPACTED MY CAREER PLANS

• As an economics major, it was fascinating to see how healthcare has become a billion dollar industry and the type of work nonprofits are undertaking to combat its negative effects on the general public.

• Although my experience at Salud por Derecho was extremely positive and rewarding, I don’t think I want to work at nonprofits in the future.
  • They work to create change in the long-term, while I personally like to achieve more short-term goals
  • My coworkers were amazing, but such a small office can feel restricting at times.
  • Fewer opportunities for career advancement.
CULTURAL AWARENESS AND PERSONAL GROWTH

• This was the best experience of my life, it could be yours too!!!

• I became more independent, confident in my own abilities as a worker, and fell in love with Spain and its people

• You get as much out of the experience as you put into it, so if you approach the opportunity with excitement, and put concrete plans into motion as far as exploring Madrid, meeting locals, and traveling to other cities in Spain, you won’t regret anything.