

OECD, PARIS

*The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Editorial and Corporate Content Intern*

Anna Leader, Class of 2018





THE OECD

The OECD is an international organisation that produces extensive research on social and economic issues. This research aims to help policy makers make “better policies for better lives” (the OECD slogan!).

OECD *Publishing*



- The OECD publishes hundreds of papers, books, and datasets every year.
- Because the OECD publishes *so much*, there is a whole directorate of the organisation dedicated to publishing and communications.
- PAC is actually a self-funding publishing house under the auspices of the OECD.
- We use a digital publishing platform called iLibrary, which has a unique publishing model. The OECD sells this technology to other international organisations.
- Directorates (thematic divisions of the OECD, e.g. the Education Directorate) send their manuscripts at any stage of the drafting process to PAC, where editors read and give editorial feedback. Rinse and repeat.
- The editors need to make sure that the manuscripts will work with iLibrary's unique model, which is tricky.



LIFE AS AN EDITORIAL INTERN

- As part of the editorial team, I handled manuscripts from a dozen directorates on topics like indigenous students' education, the bioeconomy, Latin America's economic outlook, education in Lithuania, refugee programming, the digital economy, and more.
- The manuscripts were in various states – sometimes all that was needed was a look-through and minor edits, and sometimes I was advising authors about major structural and content revisions.
- I attended meetings between my supervisor, Managing Editor Janine Treves, and authors from directorates. This gave me insight into the amount of negotiation that goes on between PAC and the directorate authors...it's a lot.
- At weekly team meetings, I got a sense of the other things going on in PAC: organising social media, translations, video content, and keeping iLibrary running smoothly.
- In addition to manuscript review, I also performed audit research projects on the OECD "At a Glance" series, as well as a general audit of the OECD's various publication platforms.

The 2017 OECD Forum



- Every year, the OECD hosts a two-day forum at its headquarters. Over 3000 people attend the forum, which has panels on fascinating topics ranging from climate change to Fintech to inclusive entrepreneurship.
- This happens at the beginning of June – I was lucky enough to have already started my internship, and I highly recommend that you plan to ***be there for the OECD Forum!***
- This year’s theme was “Bridging Divides”.
- As part of the PAC team, my job was to sit in on the panels and furiously type up anything that seemed particularly ‘quote-worthy’, to be published in the “Quote Book” that was distributed to the guests and the visiting ministers on the second day.
- I got to sit in on a ton of panels, and see a handful of my quotes included in the Quote Book!



THE 2017 OECD FORUM

The OECD Summer Party

- My internship happened to coincide with the annual OECD Summer Party, open to OECD staff and their families!
- There was an amazing buffet, great music, lots of dancing, and tons of new faces (and I got to meet the families of my coworkers).
- The Secretary-General of the OECD (pictured below left) gave a speech, as did my boss' boss (also pictured).



OECD, PARIS

I couldn't have asked for a better internship this summer – I loved Paris, and I loved the OECD: my coworkers and fellow interns, the office environment, the editing work, the events.

I came away with sharpened editing and writing skills, a deeper understanding of what an international organisation does and how, experience in an enormous publishing house, and a ton of knowledge gleaned from my manuscripts on a wide array of topics too numerous and varied to list.

My advice to future OECD interns is to make sure that you're there for the Forum, and to talk to and learn from the Managing Editors and other PAC staff as much as possible – they're incredibly friendly and very knowledgeable. Also save room for the cafeteria desserts: they're incredible.

If you have more specific questions about this internship, or about living in Paris, please don't hesitate to get in touch: ajleader@princeton.edu.