



Interning at MESIS in Amman, Jordan

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Class of 2018





My Work Responsibilities

As a MESIS intern I was responsible for writing news blurbs on CBRN topics for the website, giving input on Arabic slide translations, helping out with conference logistics, working on improving MESIS's databases, and conducting independent research on Syrian refugee health care and regional CBRN issues for MESIS's own analytical purposes.



Me at the MESIS office!





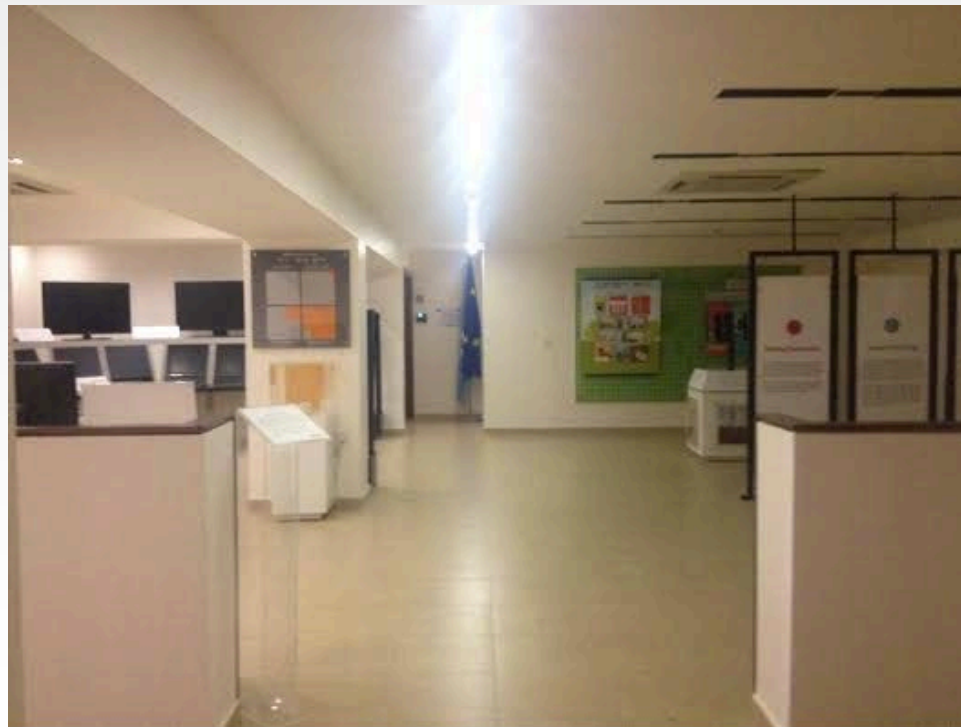
Rewarding Work Experiences

I especially enjoyed sitting in on MESIS conferences and hearing the participants work on table top exercises work out hypothetical security problems. I found the problem solving really exciting, and the experience made me interested in continuing work that challenged me to think critically

In terms of building skills, writing the news blurbs made me a stronger, more concise writer and was an excellent opportunity to analyze current events with my supervisor.



The MESIS Office!





My Internship's Impact on MESIS

My work on improving MESIS's database and researching CBRN issues in the Middle East helps make MESIS expand its role as an organization and improve its ability to advise governmental and nongovernmental organizations on security issues and improve its conferences in the future.



My Future Academic and Career Goals

MESIS's ability to localize CBRN issues and use its knowledge of the language and Arab culture definitely motivated me to continue studying the Middle East and Arabic and Persian

I am still considering working in security, and now I know that I want to pursue a career that involves analytical writing and problem solving.



The MESIS Interns See Petra!





Rewarding Cultural Experiences

My internship and my time travelling in Jordan really made me reevaluate my own cultural perspective. When Jack Jankowski and I visited Petra during a major holiday, many of the small shops were closed, but the owners had left their merchandise unattended since the local community trusted each other. A few weeks later MESIS hosted a conference on nuclear trustworthiness programs. The conference particularly focused on the challenges Arab communities face when creating security clearance programs since the culture heavily emphasizes trust. I found these cultural values of trust and loyalty really admirable and fascinating, and it really brought into question my own more individualistic perspective.



A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

I became a lot more independent and aware of how my cultural background affected my worldview. I definitely emerged from this experience as a much more humble, aware person.

While I am still not entirely certain about the career track I want to follow I have learned a lot about what kind of work I enjoy doing and I really appreciated the opportunity to gain actual work experience

All of my research and the different conferences contributed immensely to my academic studies