



IAFS Alum Builds a Career from the Ground Up



Erin Neale (IAFS '17)

When it comes to job searching, the process takes persistence as well as skill. Upon graduating in spring 2017, Erin Neale (IAFS) relocated to Washington, D.C., determined to make a career in one of the most competitive cities in the United States. Currently, Neale is a research assistant at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Over the past year, she has been learning what it takes to build the foundation of a career in International Affairs.

How did you transition from being a student to a professional in Washington, D.C.?

While I was a student at CU Boulder, my academic interests focused primarily on terrorism: how we combat terrorism in the Middle East and how it affects the United States in various ways. When I graduated, I had a summer research assistant opportunity planned and that was it. I submitted dozens of applications and asked people for advice and networking opportunities. After accepting an internship with the [American Enterprise Institute \(AEI\)](#) to study terrorism in Libya, I knew I had to work hard if I wanted to stay in Washington, D.C.

During a round table meeting at AEI, I met with Dr. Karim Mezran, a well-known scholar with expertise in Libya and North Africa. Soon after, I scheduled a meeting with him to learn about his work with the [Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East](#). When an opportunity for an internship with the center became available, I applied and got the position.

[Read more about Neale's trajectory from being a student to becoming a professional in international affairs](#)

Thank You for Attending our Spring Reception

On April 12th, we had an exceptional turnout at our fourth annual International Affairs Welcome Reception. Our featured speaker, [Jeffrey Engel](#), gave a special presentation examining George H.W. Bush's foreign policy initiatives at the start of the post-Cold War world. IAFS alumni, friends, and attendees of the [Conference on World Affairs](#) had a chance to connect and talk about their international interests. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Left to Right: Alex Becker (IAFS '06), Amb. Mary Ann Casey (IAFS '70), Director Tom Zeiler, and Jeffrey Engel at the reception

Become Involved

Be a part of our Global Grants endowment! Global Grants support students as they study abroad and experience the world. Help International Affairs continue to grow our endowment by giving today. Please add the following to the Comments box during check-out: *Global Grants Endowment Fund #0151296*

International Affairs Celebrates Class of 2018

On Friday, May 11th at 10am sharp, the International Affairs Program recognized 210 candidates for graduation in the Glenn Miller Ballroom! Director Tom Zeiler shared his advice to the newly minted graduates and urged them to “think big and positively about changing the world.” Student speaker Katiana Hutchinson gave a heartfelt speech reflecting on her personal experiences involving identity, empowerment, and privilege. “We will be challenged to strive and form a collective unity amidst our differences,” said Hutchinson. “But when we unite amidst our differences, the punch is always more powerful.”

Congratulations to the students, and to all their families, friends, and educators. For our new alumni, we hope to see you at an alumni event and hear from you as you achieve milestones in the years to come.



IAFS Student Speaker Katiana Hutchinson with family and friends at the graduation ceremony on May 11th, 2018

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Contributions to our IAFS general gift fund are used for a variety of special projects and student programming, including speaker events, graduation ceremonies, and student awards. To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please click here:

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Learning Spanish Language and History Lessons the Unconventional Way



Rachael Willihnganz (IAFS '20)

When Rachael Willihnganz (IAFS '20) came to CU Boulder, she had one goal above the rest: graduate with Spanish language fluency for a career in Hispanic human rights and environmental policy. After being accepted into the [ISA Spain: Granada Hispanic Studies](#) program and receiving a [Global Grant](#) from IAFS, Willihnganz packed her bags for a semester abroad. Here are a few excerpts written during her time abroad:

On language and learning:

My language skills are sharpening from living with Spanish-speaking people and taking my classes in Spanish. On top of my language and grammar courses, I am enrolled in: Spanish Art History, Islamic Studies, and Politics of Spain and the European Union. My favorite

experiences have been at the Residencia de Mayores San Juan de Dios, where I volunteer weekly. I visit with elderly patrons to talk, listen, and play games with them. Not only does it give me a great chance to practice my Spanish with native speakers, I also get to hear fascinating stories of childhoods during the Spanish Civil War (from 1936 to 1939) and the rule of Francisco Franco (from 1939 to 1975).

[Read more about Willihnganz's study abroad semester in Granada, Spain](#)

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