U.S. Embassy in Portugal | http://portugal.usembassy.gov

- Jake DeSouza (Economics, History, 2015)
- Political/Economic Section Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I write a daily update to be sent to Washington, DC for coverage of news in Portugal. I shadow meetings with Foreign Service Officers and members of the Portuguese government. I draft letters for the ambassador and other officials.

How did you find your internship?
A friend had done an internship at the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, DC and had a really good experience. I looked into the State Department’s program for US embassies abroad.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
It has been a really enjoyable experience overall, and being able to see the Foreign Service from a first-hand perspective has been incredible. It is an unpaid internship, but the connections I have made and the experience gained is invaluable.

What do you find challenging?
The Foreign Service has a very specific set of skills that is tough to grasp when thrown into it quickly, knowing you have a limited time to do your job well. The writing in the FS is very different from writing for my classes.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
App deadline for summer 2015 program: Not yet released, usually late Sept/early Oct 2014. Pick a post or office that you otherwise may never get to. I've been able to spend two months in Portugal practicing my language skills, something I never thought I would do.

About the Organization
U.S. Embassy in Portugal
Lisbon, Portugal

At the U.S. Department of State, we like to say that we represent America to the world. As an intern here or abroad, you will, too. The U.S. Department of State Student Internship Program is an unpaid internship with the opportunity to work in U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world, as well as in various bureaus located in Washington, D.C. and at Department offices around the United States. This program is designed to provide substantive learning experiences in a foreign affairs environment.