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- Erica Warfield (International Relations, 2016)
- Transition Center Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
My primary responsibility as an FSI intern was to help run the Young Diplomats Overseas Preparation program, a 2-day course conducted throughout the summer to teach the children of State Department, Defense Department, and USAID workers about life overseas in preparation for their departure. My other major project throughout the summer was to help create an online LGBT-sensitivity course for foreign nationals working at U.S. embassies.

**How did you find your internship?**
The USAJobs e-list

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
As an intern under the State Department, there are many amazing opportunities available to you. There were always interesting speakers and presentations going on at FSI and at State headquarters. I very much enjoyed taking part in these activities - especially attending an interview with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright!

**What do you find challenging?**
It can occasionally be challenging trying to figure out exactly what your supervisor is looking for on a certain assignment, but always ask questions and look for feedback.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
State Department summer internship applications are due on November 1st, so be sure to get your resume and transcript in order early. To make the most of an internship at FSI, my best advice is to network! Be sure to talk to your supervisor and others around the office about your intended area of study, and they will do their best to connect you with the right people. Even if you are unsure about your career path, but hear about a job that interests you, set up an informational interview and take the 20 minutes to get coffee and learn about it!

**About the Organization**
U.S. State Department, Foreign Service Institute
Arlington, VA

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is the Federal Government’s primary training institution for officers and support personnel of the U.S. foreign affairs community, preparing American diplomats and other professionals to advance U.S. foreign affairs interests overseas and in Washington. At the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, the FSI provides more than 600 courses—including some 70 foreign languages—to more than 100,000 enrollees a year from the State Department and more than 40 other government agencies and the military service branches.