

EQV Internship

Benjamin Goldberg '17
Hometown: Amherst, New York

What is your major?

I am a film studies and sociology double major. I chose film studies because I am very interested in film and television and I have been ever since I was a child. I love seeing how films are constructed in order to produce an effect. Sociology was a perfect pair for the major as well, since I am very interested in society and social justice. I am interested in media studies and how film and television relate to the world around them, so these two majors made perfect sense for my interests.

What was your job title and what type of work did you do through your summer experience?

My internship was at REACT to FILM (RtF) in New York, New York. My job title was educational programs intern. During my internship, I did a variety of work since RtF is a small, non-profit organization. Due to the small nature of the organization, I got to jump around in my tasks. I reported directly to Katerina Downward, the educational programs associate, but I also worked extensively with Dahlia Graham, director of educational programs, and Jackie Northacker, events and operations manager. I did a lot of curriculum creation for RtF. This involved viewing documentaries currently in the RtF program and editing existing curriculum to include newer activities and resources. I got to give my thoughts on their curricula and make changes where I thought necessary. Additionally, I was able to view films and create curriculum notes from scratch for films that I thought would be good additions to the program. I also screened other films to review them for many of our programs. In addition to this curriculum work, I also worked in outreach, emailing and calling middle and high schools and representing RtF to them. I was also able to visit high schools and view the class in action and provide in-class support at times. I attended the College Action Network conference in early June, helped create a video about the conference, and wrote blog posts for RtF. Throughout the nine weeks, I did a lot of other jobs and tasks depending on what needed to be done in the organization since there are only three full-time employees there.

How will your work this summer relate to your major or area of study at Wesleyan?

This internship fit perfectly with my major at Wesleyan since RtF's work is a mix of film and social action. I was able to view films, analyze them, and even get a chance to interact with filmmakers and make connections with people in the film industry. At the same time, the internship focused on education and social advocacy through film and media literacy, which very much relate to my sociology major.

How will your work this summer relate to your post-Wesleyan career?

My work this summer will relate to my post-Wesleyan career by giving me more experience in nontraditional fields and the opportunity to explore my passions. Last summer, I worked with a non-profit and loved that experience, and I was excited to have that opportunity to branch out to more non-profit work this summer. That work has been rewarding and I am thinking about pursuing a career in the non-profit sector, so this experience has been invaluable in that decision. Additionally, this internship opened up many opportunities and connections for the future. I was able to explore film and work with film in ways that I never imagined and helped me realize the possible jobs and ways I can combine my interests in film and sociology together.

What did this summer experience mean to you?

This summer experience was incredible! This was the first time that I lived completely alone and independently for an extended period of time, and I was able to navigate that lifestyle in New York City for over two months. I loved this experience to try something completely different and out of my comfort zone. I was treated with respect and trust at my internship, and I felt like I was truly another member of the small team there in NYC. To me, the experience was a vital way of discovering what I enjoy out of both a personal and professional life. I learned a lot about myself, my interests, and goals in nine weeks that I will take with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you!**Dear Donors,**

Thank you so much for your generous support of my summer experience! This internship has been invaluable for me in understanding my goals for the future. Before this summer, I grappled with how I could combine my love of media and film with my passion for social justice and activism. This opportunity helped me understand that these missions are not mutually exclusive, and that there are jobs that can mix the two that I didn't even know existed before now.

This summer was amazing and one that I will never forget. Again, I am eternally grateful for your generosity and support, and I hope that many students in the future will be able to take advantage of the EQV Internship. Without this grant, I would never have been able to have this great opportunity this summer. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Ben Goldberg