

# BSOS STUDENTS: INTERNSHIP SUCCESS

## INVESTIGATIVE INTERN, OFFICE OF POLICE COMPLAINTS



**Yana Kramarenko '18**

**Major:** Criminology &  
Criminal Justice

**Class Year:** Senior

**Employer:** Office of Police  
Complaints (OPC)

**Position Title:** Investigative  
Intern

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### What is a typical week like in your internship position?

OPC is an independent agency that is responsible for conducting administrative investigations of alleged police misconduct. For example, OPC investigates harassment, inappropriate language or conduct, retaliation, unnecessary or excessive force, discrimination, and failure to identify.

As an investigative intern, I help the investigators examine complaints. We do so by interviewing the complainant(s), the subject officer(s), witness(es) and reviewing Body Worn Camera, 911 calls, radio runs and etc. My main responsibility is to help investigators with investigative tasks. For instance, summarizing interviewing recordings, writing memos of investigative tasks and case dismissals, preparing interview questions, etc.

I enjoy interning at OPC because every day is unique, and you never know what type of complaint you are going to receive, which keeps the job interesting. Besides administrative duties, I have participated in a ride along with the Metropolitan Police Department. I have also been lucky enough to go on a tour around D.C., where I was familiarized with different areas and neighborhoods. I have also gone through a couple of training lectures. Some of the topics included the Body Worn Camera review, protest monitoring, the mediation process, and complaint examination process. My experience at OPC has been absolutely amazing. I have learned so much about the investigation process, civilian oversight, and D.C. overall, which I would have never learned otherwise.

### What do you enjoy most about the position?

I enjoy that every day I get to work on real cases. This is not a theory/training based internship. I get to sit in on interviews, view Body Worn Camera, look at police reports and etc. Essentially, we search for the truth and determine if police misconduct occurred. Everything that investigations do, I get to be a part of and learn from them.

### How has your coursework helped you in your current internship?

The courses I've taken such as Policing, Constitutional Issues in Law Enforcement, Recruitment and Retention of Police Personnel, Professional Writing and others have prepared me for the type of work I do at the internship. For instance, in school, I have learned about the pros and cons of having a civilian oversight agency. While at OPC, I get to experience for myself what it is like to be a part civilian oversight agency and expand my knowledge about the importance of civilian oversight.

### How did you locate your internship position?

I learned about OPC during a career session which was held during the summer of 2018 for interns at the National Consortium for Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). During the career session, OPC Senior Investigator Anthony Lawrence and Investigator Ethan Trinh talked about OPC's mission, civilian oversight and what it is like to be an investigator.

**Internship advice for students:** If you are having trouble finding an internship, make sure you attend as many career fairs or guest speaker lectures as you possibly can and make new connections. Do not be afraid to ask them if they have an internship program or a volunteer opportunity. In order to make the most out of your internship, take initiative when it comes to helping others and completing tasks. This will make you stand out and you might land a job offer.

**Additional tips:** Whether you are applying for an internship or employment, take advantage of the University Career Center. They are there to help you succeed! They can help you build or check over your resume and cover letter. You can even schedule a mock interview and they will help you practice your interviewing skills.