

# BSOS STUDENTS: INTERNSHIP SUCCESS

## Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis



### Jason Sutterley, '18

**Major:** Economics and Finance

**Organization:** Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Internship title:** Financial Management Intern, New Foreign Investment Section

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

My internship consists of different responsibilities that I complete on a weekly basis.

- I ensure many compliance requirements, such as reaching out to financial controllers and chief financial officers to obtain financial data and organizational structure of mergers and acquisitions throughout the US marketplace that involve foreign firms.
- I communicate with reporters about how their company is structured and where the financing for different activities originates from, attempting to fit their transactions into our data inputs.
- I investigate their data for outliers or odd data sets and determine why they do not fit alongside typical financial data figures. This involves a heavy amount of financial analysis and document editing, as each merger or acquisition can have multiple layers of ownership between holding companies and subsidiaries that may finance the acquisition through multiple different entities.
- Often, large foreign conglomerates will make dozens of investments within a short time period, so I work alongside one of their employees for a lengthy period, developing a working relationship where I am able to provide them with consistent information and support.

I have also recently began serving as a job fair recruiter for the Bureau of Economic Analysis, a prospect that I have been molding into an on-campus recruiting position at the University of Maryland. I am working with the outreach team to form a plan for our wave of Spring 2018 hires to hopefully bring in more University of Maryland economics students. Ultimately, I hope to turn this opportunity into an on-campus recruiting position for the whole DC Metropolitan region.

### What do you enjoy most?

I enjoy being personally involved with the financial data from world renowned companies and their relevant mergers and acquisition transactions in the United States. One of my most

enjoyable responsibilities at work is when my direct supervisor, Amanda Budny, asks me to complete side projects that require a different skill set from my typical everyday duties. These side projects range from market research in our corporate analytics databases, to evaluating the data gathered by other governmental organizations such as the Federal Reserve Board or USDA. This provides me with an outlet for research and data analysis tasks that significantly differ from my core responsibilities.

### Has your coursework helped you in your position?

My coursework is most impactful when working on research projects. The mentality and strategies needed to effectively conduct research through both mathematical analysis and applied economic and financial theory are the main tools I use to complete these research projects. While the direct theory that I have learned in class is somewhat detached from the reality of economic work, the underlying implications of the coursework is critical to gaining a deep understanding of the financial data I work with.

### How did you locate your internship?

I found my internship through usajobs.gov, an excellent source for those considering federal government internships or full-time positions.

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### **Internship advice for students:**

Don't be intimidated with the difficulties of juggling an internship and college education. Keeping yourself busy on a weekly basis improves your work ethic and helps you become more confident of your professional abilities. It also demonstrates to future employers that you are ready for a serious position within their firm, which can greatly improve your employment opportunities.

### **Final thoughts:**

Working in an internship can come with other perks as well, such as steady income and paid leave. My internship is very accommodating of my academic responsibilities, allowing me to take paid leave during midterms and finals to ensure that I both do well in my exams and still receive a full paycheck. The financial freedom that comes along with steady work makes the college experience a lot more enjoyable.

Want to learn more about the **Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis** and review current openings?

Please visit our agency website at [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov) and look on [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov) for open postings! If you have further questions, you may contact Jason Sutterley during the Spring 2018 semester at [jason.sutterley@bea.gov](mailto:jason.sutterley@bea.gov).

