



Presidential Internship Program



“At AUI, we value young leadership, cross-cultural exchange, and learning that builds successful careers. These values are the pillars of the Presidential Internship Program”

Amine Bensaid
President of the Al Akhawayn University





Leiny Aguilar
*Psychology and Public
Health*
Earlham College
United States of America

PIP Cohort 9
2024 - 2025



Emily Reyes
International Studies
Baldwin Wallace University
United States of America



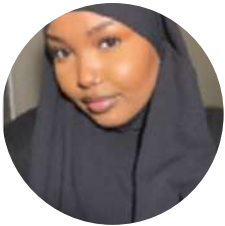
**Youssef Adam
Errihani**
Biomedical Health Sciences
Purdue University
United States of America



Cierra Schreck
Media and Communications
Earlham College
United States of America



PIP Cohort 8
2023 - 2024



Aisha Osman
Political Science
Portland State University
United States of America



Mariam Bourhaleb
*Political Science and
International Relations*
University College
Rotterdam
The Netherlands



Kassandra Anahí Loza
*Gender and Women's
Studies*
Saint Mary's College of
Notre Dame
United States of America



Mona Belakbir
Social Entrepreneurship
Rollins College
United States of America

PIP Cohort 7
2022 - 2023



Yasmine Ndyae
*Political Science and
International Relations*
International University of
Grand-Bassam
Côte d'Ivoire



Alice Auerbacher
International Studies
Kenyon College
United States of America



Sarah Samira Bamba
Business Administration
International University of
Grand-Bassam
Côte d'Ivoire



Nimbe Vermeer Cruz
International Relations
University of Texas at Austin
United States of America



Levi Kouassi
Engineering Management
Greenwich University in
London
Côte d'Ivoire



Hayley Marshall
*Environmental Sciences
and Global
Studies/Sustainability*
University of Virginia
United States of America



Leah Shumaker
*Psychology and
International Affairs*
Rollins College
United States of America

PIP Cohort 6
2021 - 2022



Hauwa Hamidu
Law
American University of
Nigeria
Nigeria



Carisa Villela
Literature
Franklin University of
Switzerland
United States of America



Clara Sanchez Cirvian
English
Saint Louis University
Madrid Campus
Spain



Carmen-Irina Bulac
*International Social
Sciences*
Roskilde University
Romania



**Frida Terrazas
Carrillo**
International Relations
Franklin University of
Switzerland
Mexico



Simon Bruns
History and Economics
University of Virginia
Germany



Mafeni Odhegolo
Computer Science
American University of
Nigeria
Nigeria



Meagan Hutte
Education
Indiana State University
United States of America

PIP Cohort 5
2020- 2021



Madeleine Zahn
Geography
Missouri State University
United States of America



Teresa Derr
Human Rights and Culture
Western Washington
University
United States of America



Ashley Jazayeri
*International Relations and
Political Science*
Carroll College
United States of America



Nathan Lincoln
Environmental Sciences
Bloomsburg University
United States of America



Chloe-Kate Abel
*Arabic and Persian
Language, Literature, and
Culture*
University of St. Andrews
United States of America



Emily Wang
*International Studies,
Arabic, and Chinese*
University of Mississippi
United States of America

PIP Cohort 4
2019- 2020



Melody Anthony
Geography
Missouri State University
United States of America



Kseniya Autukhovich
Linguistics
Minsk State Linguistic
University
Belarus



Sinclair Barbehenn
Psychology and French
Kenyon College
United States of America



Bryan Cleveland
*International Relations and
French*
Tufts University
United States of America



Evelyn Cruz
*International Relations and
Affairs*
Lake Forest College
United States of America



Rhea Iten
*French and Spanish
Linguistics and Literature*
University of Zurich
Switzerland

PIP Cohort 4
2019- 2020



Jasmine Malone
*International Studies and
Diplomacy*
Al-Akhawayn University
Country



Syeda Khaula Saad
*English and Journalism and
Media Studies*
Rutgers University
United States of America



Isabel Bonhomme
*Anthropology and Women's
Gender, and Sex Studies*
College of Wooster
United States of America



Caroline Kimbro
Public Relations
Marshall University
United States of America

PIP Cohort 3
 2018- 2019



Chris Aboukhaled
Political Science
 University of Akron
 United States of America



Gabrielle Leparik
Political Science
 Hofstra University
 United States of America



LaTonya Jones
*Business Administration in
 Economics*
 Mercer University
 United States of America



Kenneth Cruz
French
 DePauw University
 United States of America



Jessica Borgert
*International Relations and
 Communication and Media
 Studies*
 Franklin University in
 Switzerland
 United States of America



Sarina Leon
History
 Franklin University in
 Switzerland
 United States of America



Nabeelah Muhammad
*International Affairs and
 Arab World Studies*
 American University in
 Washington
 United States of America

PIP Cohort 2
2017- 2018



Erin Worden
*English Literature and
International Studies*
Denison University
United States of America



Liam Reilly
Comparative Literature
Kenyon College
United States of America



Nanuka Chachibaia
International Relations
Franklin University in
Switzerland
Georgia



Sara Stokes
*Literary Studies and
Creative Arts*
American University of Paris
United States of America



Carrie Robinson
*Anthropology and Religious
Studies*
DePauw University
United States of America

A circular portrait of Dr. Jennifer L. Smith, a woman with dark hair, smiling, set against a brick wall background.A circular portrait of Dr. Jyoti Chitambar, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a patterned top.

Sarah Taylor
Political Science and French
Davidson College
United States of America

Presidential Interns' Profiles

PIP Cohort 9

2024 - 2025



Farah Tolu-Honary

International Relations and French

Beloit College

United States of America

Farah TOLU-HONARY is the presidential intern for the Vice President's Office of Academic Affairs. Originally from Freeport, Illinois, she graduated from Beloit College in 2024 with a BA in International Relations and French, and a minor in African Studies. She loves to thrift vintage clothes at markets, wear lots of jewelry, engage in language exchange, and listen to Maghrebi funk music. Farah first came to AUI in 2022 as an exchange student and enjoyed it so much that she returned to work for the university.



Luis Felipe Aguilar

Business Administration

Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Ecuador

Luis Felipe Aguilar is the Presidential Intern for the Athletics Department at Al Akhawayn University. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) in Ecuador. Passionate about sports, particularly football, Luis has gained significant experience through a previous internship with a division 1 football club in Ecuador and has over four years of administrative experience across various industries. Luis has a real passion for traveling and getting to know diverse cultures and people.



Eitan Silver

Global Commerce, Journalism, and Arabic

Denison University

United States of America

Eitan Silver is the presidential intern for Employability and Entrepreneurship at AUI. A recent graduate of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, USA, he completed his studies in Global Commerce, Journalism, and Arabic in May 2024. Eager to immerse himself in campus life, Eitan looks forward to participating in clubs and enhancing his Arabic language skills. His arrival at AUI marks his first experience living in an Arabic-speaking country, fulfilling a long-held dream of engaging directly with the culture and language he has studied.

PIP Cohort 9

2024 - 2025



Ridho Maulana Dirgantara

Environmental Policy and Governance
University College Maastricht
Indonesia

Ridho Maulana Dirgantara is the presidential intern for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) and the Office of Accreditation. He earned his bachelor's degree in environmental policy with minors in Urban Sustainable Development and Education Policy from the University College Maastricht, the Netherlands. Originally from Indonesia, Ridho has also lived in Italy, Estonia, and Poland. He is passionate about forestry governance with a particular focus on the intersection of urbanization, deforestation, and indigenous preservation while also keen to learn more about inclusive education policies for minority students. Through his internship, he seeks to gain valuable insights into the operational and strategic processes that underpin university accreditation, hoping to understand the intricacies of institutional effectiveness and quality assurance in higher education.



Henry Jenks

International Studies
Denison University
United States of America

Henry Jenks serves as the Presidential Intern for the Language Center at Al Akhawayn University. He graduated from Denison University with a major in International Studies, concentrating in MENA Studies, and a minor in Economics. Henry's passion for the Arabic language was further fueled by a six-month study abroad experience in Jordan. At Al Akhawayn, he is enthusiastic about continuing his language studies and leveraging his knowledge to drive positive change within the university community.



Leiny Aguilar

Psychology and Public Health
Earlham College
United States of America

Leiny Aguilar is the presidential intern for the Al Akhawayn School of Ifrane, with a bachelor's degree in psychology and public health from Earlham College. Leiny Aguilar brings a rich background in community engagement and public health to Al Akhawayn University (AUI). Passionate about cultural exchange and driven by a deep commitment to education, Leiny was naturally drawn to Morocco—a place where she could immerse herself in new cultural experiences while contributing to academic development. At AUI, she supports program accreditation and leverages her expertise to help develop a pioneering psychology and mental health program.

PIP Cohort 9

2024 - 2025



Emily Reyes

International Studies
Baldwin Wallace University
United States of America

Emily Reyes is the intern for Employability and Entrepreneurship at Al Akhawayn University, working under the mentorship of Deborah Bartlett. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Emily holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from Baldwin Wallace University. Her passion for global culture is reflected in her love for international cuisine, music, and travel. Driven by a desire to immerse herself in Moroccan culture and deepen her understanding of the MENA region.



Youssef Adam Errihani

Biomedical Health Sciences
Purdue University
United States of America

Youssef Adam Errihani is the presidential intern for Employability and Entrepreneurship, where he is eager to connect with and learn from a diverse array of professionals. A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Biomedical Health Sciences, Youssef is half Moroccan and has a rich background that combines his passion for health and fitness with his academic pursuits. His previous roles as a personal trainer, medical assistant, and researcher have equipped him with a unique skill set aimed at understanding and enhancing human health.



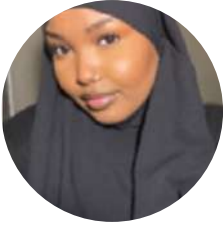
Cierra Schreck

Media and Communications
Earlham College
United States of America

Cierra Schreck is the presidential intern for the Center of Learning Excellence. She graduated from Earlham College with a B.A. in Media & Communications. Cierra is committed to pursuing a global education and is excited to embark on this new adventure with Al Akhawayn University.

PIP Cohort 8

2023 – 2024



Aisha Osman

Political Science
Portland State University
United States of America

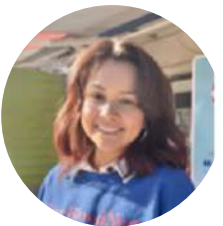
Aisha Osman is the Presidential Intern for the Center for Learning Excellence (CLE), most specifically the Writing Center. She was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, USA, but has roots in Mogadishu, Somalia and Jigjiga, Ethiopia. Aisha attended Portland State University, from which she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She enjoys writing poetry, traveling and having thought-provoking conversations. During this internship, she hopes to learn more about Morocco and to leave a positive impact at AUJ through reviving the Writing Center.



Mariam Bourhaleb

Political Science and International Relations
University College Rotterdam
The Netherlands

Mariam Bourhaleb is a graduate of Erasmus University College in Rotterdam, holding a degree in Political Science and International Relations. With a robust foundation in liberal arts, she has a deep understanding of global issues, shaped significantly by her early life experiences in Rotterdam and family visits to Morocco and the Middle East. Mariam is fluent in English and conversational in French, skills that have supported her in a variety of educational and volunteer endeavors. Passionate about sustainability, Mariam is dedicated to making a positive impact through global community initiatives.



Kassandra Anahí Loza

Gender and Women's Studies
Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame
United States of America

Kassandra Anahí Loza is a Presidential Intern for the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Originally from the city of Lake Station, Indiana, United States, Kassandra's culture is in the town of La Palma de Jesús, Michoacán, México, where their family roots are from. Kassandra attended and graduated from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, where they studied Gender and Women's Studies in addition to Global Studies. Kassandra loves traveling, journaling, dancing and when Bad Bunny comes on, Kassandra is in their element. They also love watching soccer and are a Chivas fan. Their passions lie in assisting those in need and creating equal opportunities for underrepresented groups. During their time here at AUJ, they hope to understand the intricacies of university operations, aspiring to contribute to the enhancement of the institution.



Mona Belakbir

Social Entrepreneurship

Rollins College

United States of America

Mona Belakbir, currently fulfilling the role of a Presidential Intern for Academic Affairs, brings a unique blend of cultural backgrounds to her position. Originally from the Sunshine State in the United States, Mona is of Moroccan origin. She holds a B.A. in Social Entrepreneurship from Rollins College, where her coursework ignited a fervent interest in international affairs. Through her academic journey, Mona has demonstrated a commitment to social impact and a keen understanding of global issues. Looking ahead, she aspires to further her education by attending a graduate program at AUI, building upon her academic foundation, and contributing to her pursuit of excellence in the field.



Trip to Rabat

PIP Cohort 7

2022 – 2023



Yasmine Ndyae

Political Science and International Relations
International University of Grand-Bassam
Côte d'Ivoire

Yasmina NDYAE is the presidential intern for the Hilary Clinton Center for women's empowerment and the housing department. She has graduated from the international university of Grand Bassam with a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations. Yasmina is passionate about the continent of Africa and gender equality, which has led her to apply to the HCC department in AUI in order to learn more about Moroccan culture and work towards women emancipation.



Alice Auerbacher

International Studies
Kenyon College
United States of America

Alice AUERBACHER is the presidential intern for the Office of Development and Communication, then Mohamed VI Library originally from New York. She graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in international studies. Alice has first arrived in Morocco in 2020 for an exchange semester and enjoyed it so much, that she came back to AUI after graduating.



Hayley Marshall

Environmental Sciences and Global Studies/Sustainability
University of Virginia
United States of America

Hayley MARSHALL is the presidential intern for the-AVP-LI & QEC. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of science in Environmental sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Global studies/sustainability with a minor in French. Hayley begins her graduate studies in Coastal science in Fall 2023, she strives to leave a positive impact on the academic and extra-curricular lives of students at AUI.



Levi Kouassi
Engineering Management
Greenwich University in London
Côte d'Ivoire

Levi KOUASSI is the presidential intern for the International Program and Admission and Outreach Offices at AUI. He graduated from the American University of Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration on Petroleum energy and a Master of sciences degree in Engineering Management from Greenwich University in London, United Kingdom. Levi has held various positions before coming to AUI such as Professor of Mechanical Engineering, President of the student office at the University of Grand-Bassam and head of Marketing and Communication for the company CHALIVAN. He is passionate about Travel which led him to AUI.



Nimbe Vermeer Cruz
International Relations
University of Texas at Austin
United States of America

Nimbe VERMEER CRUZ is the presidential intern for the University Honors Program then the Office of International Programs, she graduated from the university of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a minor in Arabic, she came to Morocco to live in an Arabic speaking country and continue her Arabic education.



Sarah Samira Bamba
Business Administration
International University of Grand-Bassam
Côte d'Ivoire

Sarah Samira BAMBA is the presidential intern for the Student Activities Office and the department of Student Affairs, originally from Cote d'Ivoire and recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the International University of Grand-Bassam. Sarah wanted to travel and get inspired which gave her the idea of applying to AUI's Presidential Intern Program.



Leah Shumaker

Psychology and International Affairs
Rollins College
United States of America

Leah SHUMAKER is the presidential intern of the VPAA-Quality Enhancement Cell under Dr Jawad ABRACHE. She graduated from Rollins College in Flo Rida with a bachelor's in psychology and international Affairs. She is also an Arabic language enthusiast where she did her exchange semester in Amman, Jordan and that experience has inspired her to come to Morocco before pursuing her graduate degree.



Dinner with the new AUI president

PIP Cohort 6

2021 - 2022



Hauwa Hamidu

Law

American University of Nigeria
Nigeria

Hauwa Hamidu is the Presidential Intern for the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment (HCC). She is from Adamawa State, Yola, Nigeria, but has also lived in the Netherlands and New York. Hauwa attended the American University of Nigeria, which she graduated from with a Bachelor of Laws (LL. B Hons). She is a film buff who loves adventure, travelling, and great conversations. This is her first time in Morocco, and it has been interesting so far. She hopes to make the most of her time at AUI and leave Morocco with rewarding experiences.



Clara Sanchez Cirvian

English

Saint Louis University Madrid Campus
Spain

Clara Sanchez Cirvian is the Presidential Intern for the Library. She is from Madrid, Spain. She completed her studies at Saint Louis University Madrid Campus. Clara majored in English and minored in Modern Languages and Communications. She enjoys reading, playing sports, and traveling. She loves the Arab culture and wanted to come to Morocco to experience it in person, from the inside, to challenge any ethnocentric notions. She hopes to contribute to the AUI community in a positive way, engaging as much as possible with its community.



Meagan Hutte

Education

Indiana State University
United States of America

Meagan Hutte is the Presidential Intern for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. She graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, for which she focused on teaching Social Sciences, Special Education, and English. She also is a Master's student at Al Akhawayn University in the North African and Middle Eastern Studies (NAMES) program. In her time outside of the internship, she teaches classes at Al Akhawayn's Language Center and is also teaching English Language Arts at the Al Akhawayn K-12 School.



Carisa Villela

Literature

Franklin University of Switzerland
United States of America

Carisa Villela is the Presidential Intern for the Office of Development and Communication. She is from Moreno Valley, California, USA, but has roots in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico. Carisa attended Franklin University Switzerland, where she majored in Literature and minored in Media Production and Publishing and Cross-Literary and Cultural Studies. She enjoys reading, journaling, and doing embroidery in her free time. During this internship, she hopes to learn more and develop the skills necessary for a career in publishing and writing, as well as leave a positive impact on the students and colleagues she engages with at AUI.



Carmen-Irina Bulac

International Social Sciences

Roskilde University
Romania

Carmen-Irina Bulac is the Presidential Intern for the Honors Program. Originally from Bucharest, Romania, she has lived abroad for the past 12 years. After many career changes, from actress to web designer and pastry chef in Barcelona and the French Alps, she moved to Copenhagen to study International Social Sciences with a focus on social research and Gender Studies. She first arrived in Morocco in January 2020 for an exchange semester at Al Akhawayn University, and enjoyed it so much, that she came back to AUI after graduating from Roskilde University. With this internship, she strives to leave a positive impact on the academic and extra-curricular lives of students at AUI.



Mafeni Odhegolo

Computer Science

American University of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mafeni Odhegolo is the Presidential Intern for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE). He is from Delta State, Nigeria, but has also lived in Canada, Ireland, London, Boston, and Thailand. Mafeni attended the American University of Nigeria, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (B.Sc.). He is an active athlete who is well versed in many sports, but his passion lies in basketball. He also loves spontaneous adventures, travelling, and great conversations. This is his first time in the country, and he has been enjoying the experiences so far. He plans to take advantage of this opportunity to the fullest and grow both personally and professionally through his experience with this internship.

**Frida Terrazas Carrillo***International Relations*

Franklin University of Switzerland

Mexico

Frida Terrazas Carrillo is the Presidential Intern for the Office of the Vice-President and Academic Affairs (VPAA). Originally from Durango, Mexico, she has lived abroad in countries like the UK, France, Switzerland, and now Morocco. Frida has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and a minor in French from Franklin University Switzerland. She loves languages, traveling, and reading. With this internship, she hopes to help improve the student and faculty experience with the Office of the VPAA and learn more by working closely with the Academic Council at AUI.

**Simon Bruns***History and Economics*

University of Virginia

Germany

Simon Bruns is the Presidential Intern for the Accreditation Steering Committee. He is originally from Germany, but grew up in Yemen, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Switzerland. He graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano, with a double Major in History and Economics, with an Emphasis in Political Economy and a minor in Political Science. He hopes to travel around Morocco to see as much of the country as possible before the end of the internship. He wants to use the internship as an opportunity to better understand the inner workings of the university system.

PIP Cohort 5

2020 – 2021



Madeleine Zahn

Geography

Missouri State University

United States of America

Madeleine Zahn is serving as the Presidential Intern for the Campus Life Office. She grew up in Missouri where she attended Missouri State University, graduating in 2020 with a degree in Geography and minors in French and Sustainability. She first visited Morocco on a weekend trip, and knew she wanted to return someday. During her time in Morocco, Madeleine hopes to improve her language skills in addition to experiencing the culture, cuisine, and history of Morocco. She looks forward to working with staff and students to build community and friendships at AUJ this year.



Chloe-Kate Abel

Arabic and Persian Language, Literature, and Culture

University of St. Andrews

United States of America

Chloe-Kate Abel is the Presidential Intern in the Center for Learning Excellence and Writing Center. She is originally from Brooklyn, NY but has been living between the US, Morocco, and the UK for the past five years. She recently graduated from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland with a Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Persian Language, Literature, and Culture. Apart from learning languages, she is passionate about photography, music, and cinema.



Ashley Jazayeri

International Relations and Political Science

Carroll College

United States of America

Ashley Jazayeri is the intern for the Chief Operating Officer and the President. A recent graduate with degrees in international relations and political science, she is excited to gain additional professional experience while improving her Arabic skills. Having spent nearly half of her undergraduate studies in Morocco, she is happy to have the opportunity to continue to learn about Moroccan culture, this time as a young professional. Ashley intends to use the opportunity provided by the AUJ Presidential Internship Program to refine her research skills, improve her project management abilities, and further explore her interest in human rights, women's empowerment, and education in the MENA.

**Emily Wang**

International Studies, Arabic, and Chinese
University of Mississippi
United States of America

Emily Wang is the Presidential Intern for the AUI Re-Accreditation Project. She grew up in New Jersey, then attended the University of Mississippi, studying international studies, Arabic, and Chinese. While studying abroad in college, Emily lived in Egypt, Jordan, the U.A.E., China, Singapore and Malaysia, and completed an exchange semester at AUI in Fall 2018. (These experiences inspired her senior graduation thesis on Uyghur Muslims - feel free to ask!) Despite Covid-19, Emily hopes for new adventures and travel soon, and she is super excited to return to and give back to the AUI community.

**Teresa Derr**

Human Rights and Culture
Western Washington University
United States of America

Teresa Derr is the intern for Residential Life, the DSA, and the VPAA. She grew up in the Seattle area and graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in human rights and culture. She loves getting to explore new cultures and perspectives, make new friends, and experience new things. She studied at AUI for a semester during her undergrad and decided it wasn't long enough, so she came back for this program. She is looking forward to learning Darija, getting to meet students, and hopefully take advantage of any opportunities for human rights works that come her way.

**Nathan Lincoln**

Environmental Sciences
Bloomsburg University
United States of America

Nathan Lincoln is an intern in the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness (OIRE). He attended Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, where he earned a degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in geography and planning. His interests include anything outdoors as well as books, movies, and games with friends. During his time as an intern, he hopes to develop his skills in planning, management, and interpersonal communication, while widening his worldview by integrating with the AUI and international community.

PIP Cohort 4

2019 - 2020



Melody Anthony

The AUI Presidential Internship Program seemed to Melody to be a really great way to spend a gap year. New country, new culture, new experiences...plus courses providing the perfect opportunity to engage with Middle Eastern influences and North African Politics. She looks forward to mastering the Moroccan cuisine, exploring its stories, and at some point, overcoming the intricacies of Darija. Thanks to AUI's international outlook, Melody also thinks of these next few months as a window into the rest of the world.



Kseniya Autukhovich

Linguistics
Minsk State Linguistic University
Belarus

Kseniya Autukhovich is the Presidential Intern for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. Born and raised in Minsk, Belarus. Kseniya attended Minsk State Linguistic University where she received her bachelor's degree in Linguistics. She enjoys getting involved with volunteer programs when possible. Her aim is to make AUI better. In free time she enjoys discovering new places and learning Darija.



Evelyn Cruz

International Relations and Affairs
Lake Forest College
United States of America

Evelyn Cruz is the Presidential Intern for the Office of Community Involvement and Student Activities. Evelyn studied abroad at AUI during the Spring of 2018 and fell in love with the country of Morocco. She chose PIP because it provides her with an opportunity to interact with students that are both vibrant and politically active. Evelyn hopes to have an enriching experience personally and intellectually. Her goal is to be a reliable asset to the Student Activities office and also be a person the students of AUI can rely on for any concerns or suggestions.

**Sinclair Barbehenn***Psychology and French*

Kenyon College

United States of America

Sinclair grew up in the Boston area but found her way to Ohio for undergraduate studies at Kenyon College, where she double majored in Psychology and French. When studying abroad in Paris spring of her junior year, she visited her best friend in Rabat. It was her first time in Morocco and she thoroughly enjoyed it, sparking an interest in the country and the people. As she returned to the states for her senior year she took a course on Moroccan history and culture, which lead her to AUI. She hopes to explore more Francophone countries and their cultures, starting with Morocco. She is looking forward to getting to know the AUI community by joining clubs and volunteering. She is also very excited to explore Morocco and hopes to meet many new people and create lasting friendships along the way.

**Isabel Bonhomme***Anthropology and Women's Gender, and Sex Studies*

College of Wooster

United States of America

Isabel Bonhomme is serving as the Presidential Intern for the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment, the No Violence Alliance (NoVA), and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Born in New York City, Isabel attended the College of Wooster where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. While at Wooster, Isabel was Co-President of the Sexual Respect Coalition, which prepared her for the advocacy and policy work she now does with NoVA. In the fall of 2017, Isabel had an impactful semester abroad in Rabat, leading her to shift her research focuses and look into post-graduate opportunities back in Morocco. Isabel is excited to begin her career in International Education at AUI, and is looking forward to working closely with students and faculty, learning more about Moroccan society, and strengthening her Darija.



**Jasmine Malone***International Studies and Diplomacy*

Al-Akhawayn University

Having done a yearlong exchange program at AUI during her undergraduate career, Jasmine discovered that the unique opportunity to return and learn more about Moroccan culture and language presented itself with the PIP. She will pursue her Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy at AUI, while simultaneously interning at the Azrou Center for Community Development. Given her passion for sustainable international development through education, being the intern for the Azrou Center will enable her to learn and partake in Moroccan educational and socio-political strategies - beyond the classroom.

**Bryan Cleveland***International Relations and French*

Tufts University

United States of America

Bryan is currently serving as the Presidential Intern for the Health Center as well as the Interfaith Office. He grew up in Natick, Massachusetts outside of Boston and attended Tufts University, graduating in 2019 with a degree in International Relations and French as well as a music minor. During his stay at AUI, Bryan hopes to learn more about Moroccan culture (and hopefully some Darija). He is also looking forward to becoming involved in and contributing positively to the AUI community in any way he can. In the future, Bryan is interested in working in the field of sustainable development, so he is also hoping to take advantage of any volunteer opportunities at AUI to engage in education and human rights work.



**Syeda Khaula Saad***English and Journalism and Media Studies**Rutgers University*

United States of America

Syeda Khaula Saad is the Presidential Intern for the Office of the President. Syeda was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey and comes from a Pakistani family. She graduated summa cum laude from Rutgers University where she received a dual bachelor's degree in English and Journalism and Media Studies. While studying at Rutgers, she served as the editor-in-chief of The Daily Targum, Rutgers' independent, student-run newspaper. She also worked with AmeriCorps, the Office of Middlesex County, and youth development programs in her hometown of Jersey City. Spending her whole life in New Jersey, Syeda is excited to be part of the AUI community in Morocco to expand her cultural thinking and to bring back a better understanding of others to her hometown.

**Rhea Iten***French and Spanish Linguistics and Literature**University of Zurich*

Switzerland

Rhea Iten is the Presidential Intern for the First-Year Experience Program. She grew up in a small town near Lucerne, Switzerland and attended the University of Zurich where she received a Master's degree in French and Spanish Linguistics and Literature. Rhea has previously been to Al Akhawayn University as part of the Arabic and North African Studies Program, an intensive summer program that allowed her to focus on Arabic and explore Morocco for two months. Since she enjoyed her stay so much, she decided to come back to pursue her passion for language learning and get a deeper understanding of Moroccan culture. Besides learning more about the country, Rhea is looking forward to meeting new people and strengthening the First-Year Experience Program at AUI. She also hopes to improve her Arabic and learn some Darija.





Caroline Kimbro

Public Relations

Marshall University

United States of America

Caroline Kimbro is the Presidential Intern for the Department of Development and Communication. Originally from the Philadelphia area, she majored in Public Relations at Marshall University with minors in Constitutional Democracy and Music. Caroline first experienced the MENA region when teaching English in Tunisia, which encouraged her to concentrate her research on the area's socio-political dynamics while studying at Oxford University. She returned to North Africa in the spring of 2018 to study at Al Akhawayn University, where she quickly fell in love with the AUI community and Morocco as a whole. Caroline is excited to use the skills she gained in journalism, media relations, and graphic design during her undergraduate career to enhance communication and outreach efforts at Al Akhawayn. She looks forward to expanding her Arabic vocabulary this year and working closely with students and staff at AUI.



Cohort 4 Interns

PIP Cohort 3

2018 - 2019



Chris Aboukhaled

Political Science

University of Akron

United States of America

Chris Aboukhaled was the presidential intern for the office of the president, as well as for the department of development and communication. Chris was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and came from a Lebanese family. He attended college at Lorain county community college where he received an associate degree in electrical engineering and technology. After completing his engineering degree, he enrolled at the university of Akron where he received a bachelor's degree in political science with a focus on the MENA region. During his time at university, Chris interned at the summit county executive's office where he was involved in political, economic, social and administrative manners at the county level. During spring of 2018 he interned at the us mission to the un agencies in Rome, where he worked with organizations such as the world food program, the food and agricultural organization and the international development law organization through the us department of state. While at AUI Chris hoped to improve his Arabic language skills in both modern standard Arabic and in the Moroccan Darija dialect and experience the Moroccan culture to its fullest extent.



LaTonya Jones

Business Administration in Economics

Mercer University

United States of America

LaTonya was serving as the Presidential Intern for the Office of Internal Audit. She grew up in Hinesville, Georgia, but spent her early years in Panama. LaTonya graduated from Mercer University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and a minor in Mathematics. She spent the spring semester of my senior year at AUI, which allowed her to do some volunteer work for ASI and do research with an AUI professor. LaTonya planned to spend the year at AUI learning more, gaining insight on the functions of the university, and positively contributing to the AUI community. She also really wanted to do a lot of traveling and learn some Arabic and French before she left.





Gabrielle Leparik
Political Science
Hofstra University
United States of America

Gabrielle Leparik was the Presidential Intern for the Vice President of Academic Affairs during the 2018-19 school year. Born and raised in Long Island, New York, Gabrielle attended Hofstra University where she received her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in Graphic Design. Following her college graduation, Gabrielle interned with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and served with AmeriCorps, completing over 1,000 hours of community service in New York City. Prior to relocating to Morocco, Gabrielle was a Case Manager at a non-profit mentoring agency (Big Brothers Big Sisters), where she coordinated mentoring programs at high schools and universities on the east end of Long Island. While at AU, Gabrielle wants to develop her Arabic language skills and explore Morocco, especially Marrakech. Also, while working with VPAA, Gabrielle hoped to assist with developing more opportunities for AU students to enhance their university experience.



Jessica Borgert
*International Relations and Communication and
Media Studies*
Franklin University in Switzerland
United States of America

Jessica Borgert was serving as the Presidential Intern for the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Office of Residential Life and Housing. Jessica is originally from Blaine, Minnesota and attended Franklin University Switzerland, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both International Relations and Communication and Media Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on political communication, particularly studying social media posts and political cartoons, with her undergraduate thesis entitled "The Political Implications of US Presidential Twitter Use on Foreign Relations: A Political Discourse Analysis of the 'Twitter Presidency'". During her time at AU Jessica hoped to learn basic Arabic and to see as much of Morocco as she could.





Kenneth Cruz

French

DePauw University

United States of America

Kenneth Cruz was a Presidential Intern working with the Interfaith Office and the Community Involvement Program (CIP). Originally from New York City and having graduated from DePauw University in Indiana with a major in French, Kenneth enjoyed exploring new environments and cultures. As alum of the Bonner Scholar and Posse Scholar programs, he enjoyed getting involved within the community, engaging in volunteer and social justice work when possible. While at AUI, Kenneth aimed to help facilitate students' understanding of community service and its impact, as well as strength the interfaith community at the University. He also looked forward to improving his French by taking French classes, interacting with students and traveling around the region of Morocco.



Nabeelah Muhammad

International Affairs and Arab World Studies

American University in Washington

United States of America

Nabeelah Muhammad was a Presidential Intern with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. She received her bachelor's degree in international Affairs and Arab World Studies from the American University in Washington.

She hoped her background in non-profit M&E would allow her to help AUI prevail as a leading institution of education in Morocco. During her free time, she enjoyed exploring new cities, binge watching TV shows and learning new phrases in Arabic and French.





Sarina Leon

History

Franklin University in Switzerland

United States of America

Sarina Leon was the Presidential Intern for the Center for Learning Excellence at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. Growing up in Seattle, Washington, she graduated from Franklin University Switzerland with a degree in History and a minor in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. Focusing on the development of Palestinian nationalism in the 1920's through various literatures in her undergraduate dissertation, Sarina planed on applying her passion for the Middle East and Northern Africa to her experience at AUI. Through working closely with students as well as staff and faculty, she was looking forward to immersing herself in the culture and studying Arabic. After her internship with AUI, Sarina planned to pursue a master degree in Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East and Northern Africa and hoped to use her year in Ifrane to empower student voices and raise awareness of the issues all university campuses face.



Trip to the Oudaya Kasba

PIP Cohort 2

2017 - 2018



Erin Worden

English Literature and International Studies

Denison University

United States of America

Erin Worden was excited to serve as the Presidential Intern for the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Erin graduated from Denison University with dual degrees in English Literature and International Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on gender and forced migration, particularly studying sexual violence experienced by MENA-native refugee women in Greece. While at AU, Erin especially looked forward to deepening her engagement with gendered displacement and strengthening the HCC's outreach programs. Erin also planned to expand her Arabic skills beyond 'yallah,' 'inshallah,' and 'habibi,' in addition to mastering the perfect tagine and traveling around Morocco.



Sara Stokes

Literary Studies and Creative Arts

American University of Paris

United States of America

Sara Stokes was the Presidential Intern working in the Center for Learning Excellence. Born and raised in Decatur, Illinois, she attended the American University of Paris where she earned a degree in Literary Studies and the Creative Arts. Her final portfolio included analyses of texts by Dostoevsky, Dante, Wright, and Highsmith, as well as her own short fiction and prose poetry. Sara looked forward to growing professionally and personally, while indulging her love of travel and language.



Carrie Robinson

Anthropology and Religious Studies

DePauw University

United States of America

Carrie Robinson was serving as the Presidential Intern for the Community Involvement Program and the Office of Interfaith Life. Carrie grew up in Dublin, Ohio and graduated from DePauw University with a double major in Anthropology and Religious Studies. Carrie's senior research focused on post 9/11 Islamophobia in the United States. Carrie hoped to spend her term at AU traveling, continuing with Arabic classes, and helping to strengthen the relationships between various religious groups both on campus and in the local community. She was attempting to learn how to cook so please pass along some tips!

**Liam Reilly***Comparative Literature*

Kenyon College

United States of America

Liam Reilly was the Presidential Intern in the Office of Development and Communications. A native New Yorker, Liam studied Comparative Literature at Kenyon College with an onus on post-colonial Anglophone-Irish and Francophone literatures. From taking part in various initiatives at Al Akhawayn University, to travelling the country and meeting new people, Liam was very excited about his year in Morocco. A few things Liam chose to share about himself: his passions include writing, cooking, and listening to music (of all kinds— he appreciates recommendations if you have any); sometimes he likes to lounge about on Sundays; he appreciates all puns (especially the bad ones), and he loves movies. Liam looked forward to meeting everyone, so introduce yourself if you haven't!

**Nanuka Chachibaia***International Relations*

Franklin University in Switzerland

Georgia

Nanuka Chachibaia was serving as the Presidential Intern for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE). Nanuka is originally from Tbilisi, Georgia but has lived abroad most of her life in such places as England, Germany, Libya, the UAE, and Switzerland. Nanuka graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations and a double minor in Communication & Media Studies and Germanic Studies. Nanuka's studies focused on Eastern Europe and her undergraduate thesis was entitled "A Discourse Analysis of Russia's Securitization of Georgia and its "Near-Abroad" Under the Leadership of Vladimir Putin." While at AU, Nanuka hoped to continue working on OIRE's strategic plan and to ensure the perpetuation of excellence at the University, especially given its accreditation. Nanuka also hoped to learn basic French during her time in Morocco, and to make use of it while exploring the country.



PIP Cohort 1

2016 - 2017



Alison Elder

English and International Studies

Texas A&M University

United States of America

Alison Elder was the first Presidential Intern for the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment (HCC). Prior to working at the Center she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in southeastern Morocco for 2.5 years.

Originally from Lubbock, Texas, Alison received her undergraduate degree in International Studies and English with a minor in Arabic Studies from Texas A&M University. Currently a graduate student in Geography at the University of Arizona, her research explores the nexus of irrigation agriculture, water sustainability, and economic opportunity for rural people in southeastern Morocco. Additionally, she is a Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow and graduate research assistant for a National Science Foundation Sustainable Water for Arid Communities project



Khairunnisa Usman

Economics

College of Wooster

Indonesia

Khairunnisa Usman or Nisa was the Presidential Intern for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) during the 2016-17 academic year. Born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, Nisa received her undergraduate degree from The College of Wooster, Ohio, where she majored in Economics. Prior to working at OIRE, Nisa was a Research Intern for the Indonesian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Nisa is also an AFS Exchange Program alumna, having been a high school exchange student in Arlington, Virginia in 2010-11.

Nisa is currently a business consultant at AIP-Rural PRISMA, an economic development program that aims to increase Indonesian smallholder farmers' income by improving their competitiveness and access to new markets, better inputs, know-how, and technology. Despite the "business consultant" title, Nisa spent most of her days putting around in undeveloped, rural, parts of Indonesia. She chats with pigs and cattle farmers, feed retailers, livestock traders, and many other market actors to develop financially beneficial and sustainable business models not only for farmers but also for all market actors involved.



**Marina Lorenzini***Arts History*

Franklin University in Switzerland

United States of America

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Marina Lorenzini attended Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano, Switzerland where she majored in Art History with a double minor in History and Italian Studies. As an undergraduate student, Marina primarily focused on Modern and Contemporary Visual Art, Ancient and Medieval Mediterranean History, and International Antiquities Law. She also studied Italian, Latin, German, and Arabic, and has pursued the latter since graduating—she studied Arabic at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan in May of 2016, and is currently studying part-time at the University of Pittsburgh in order to complete an Arabic Language & Linguistics Certificate. Since graduation, Marina decided to enter the nonprofit world, focusing her efforts on relations between the United States and the MENA region. She began her professional career at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) as a member of the Presidential Internship Program's (PiP) first cohort. Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, Marina worked in the Office of the President where she worked on various projects that contributed to AUI's NEASC accreditation. She also enrolled in three classes at AUI, while simultaneously serving as a TA for two additional classes. Upon the completion of her contract, Marina accepted a position as the Communication and Development Manager at the American Middle East Institute where she still currently works. There, she focuses on realizing international trade and development partnerships in the natural resources, technology, medical, and higher education fields. Looking forward, Marina hopes to study law in order to work with international policy pertaining to MENA Region antiquities.





Jessica Jaso

International Business

John Cabot University in Rome

United States of America

Jessica Jaso was the Presidential Intern in the Office of Student Affairs during the 2016-17 academic year. Mexican- American, and born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Jessica attended John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, where she received a BA in International Business. During her time at AUJ, Jessica served as a Resident Assistant where she was able to influence a variety of projects within the housing unit and resident assistant program. Prior to working at AUJ, Jessica worked remotely for Paranoid Fan, a tech startup based out of Dallas that provides mapping services for different sports teams worldwide, as well as tools and data to partners that enables them to better understand their consumers so that they can then make informed business decisions based on real-time patterns and behaviors during sports events. Jessica is currently an Operations Associate at the Techstars HQ in Boulder, Colorado, a worldwide network in over 150 countries that helps entrepreneurs succeed through accelerator programs. Her current role involves assisting with the launch of the first fully virtual accelerator program, “Techstars Anywhere”. When she is not working, she is usually traveling as she enjoys learning about new cultures and trying new foods.



Sarah Taylor

Political Science and French

Davidson College

United States of America

Sarah Taylor completed her BA at Davidson College where she double majored in Political Science and French. During her time as a Presidential Intern at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUJ), Sarah completed entrepreneurship and annual report projects for the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), assisted with events for the Hillary Rodham Clinton Center for Women’s Empowerment (HCC), and conducted development research for then-AUJ professor Dr. Heffner.

Since returning to the United States, Sarah has been working at a girls' empowerment nonprofit (Ruling Our eXperiences), producing content for the international wellness nonprofit Global Women 4 Wellness, and contributing to women's rights advocacy research for Innovation Ohio's Women's Public Policy Network (WPPN).

When she's not working and volunteering, Sarah travels the world (24 countries and counting), bakes, and reads voraciously. By June 2018 she will become a certified yoga teacher. Post-June Sarah hopes to work in women's rights advocacy and ultimately to attend a JD/MPP program in the United States.





Olivia Snow

Environmental Sciences

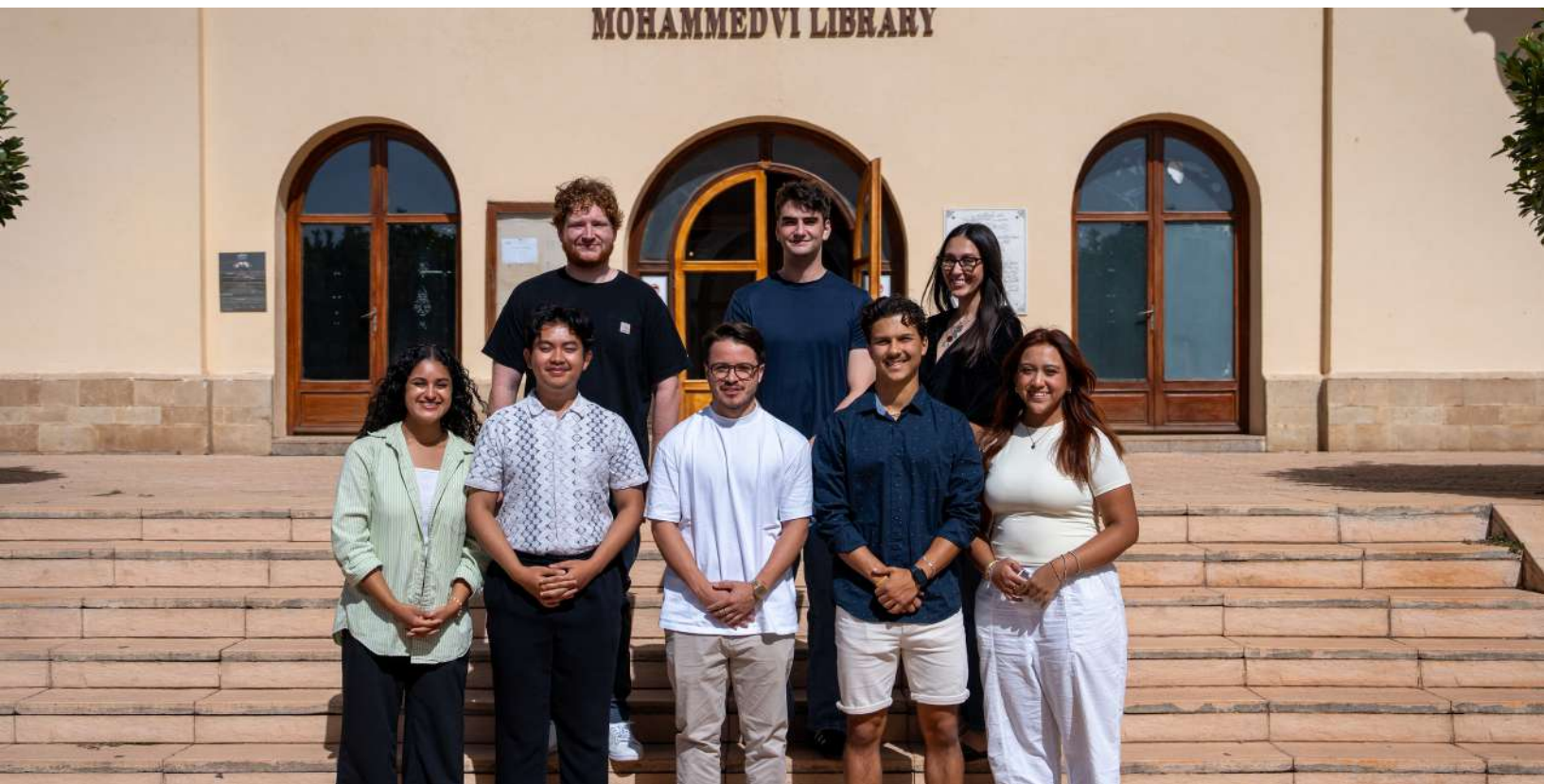
Denison University

United States of America

Born in the golden age of cassette tapes and Disney on VHS, Aladdin was one of Olivia Snow's favorite movies growing up. She knows what you're thinking—no, no Olivia, don't go down that rabbit hole! Aladdin is a Disney-fied, completely inaccurate, stereotype-creating, poor rendition of Middle Eastern folk tales from One Thousand and One Nights! She hears you. However, despite the less-than-idyllic founding for her intrigue, it developed into a greater passion for Islam's influence on art, culture, and food in the MENA region.

During the course of her time at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) with the Presidential Internship Program (PiP), she worked to make improvements to the school website, both in content and in formatting. The Office of Development and Communication was truly wonderful in allowing her to get involved in this process, along with the efforts behind the University's internal and external communications. The best part of the program for her was that it gave her the ability to truly explore Morocco. From surfing trips with the AUI Nautical Club to sheep shopping with coworkers for Eid al-Adha, AUI's PiP gave Olivia a tangible connection to the amazing country that Morocco is. Since leaving AUI, Olivia has been working for a travel group that allows her to come back and visit Morocco whenever she can!





**Cohort 9 Interns
2024 - 2025**