Waylon Huang

Honors 100

16 November 2015

Experiential Learning Interview

Summary:

In my discussion with Oscar, he shared his interest in solving global challenges concerning disparities between the privileged and the less fortunate. Specifically, one of Oscar’s main interest is in examining the political process and understanding how the less fortunate are systematically deprived of power, in the United States and around the world. A close examination of how political power is distributed will reveal the inherent unfairness of the system which disempowers the less fortunate. A different, but closely tied, interest that Oscar holds is political science. Particularly, he wants to understand the origins of modern day conflicts and struggles by examining historical trends and events. Oscar also expressed his concern with how the distribution of wealth and resources affects the relations between countries around the world. Oscar noted that technology can be an important asset that will help to minimize the disparities between different groups around the world. Emerging technology will continue to help the poor and developing nations, creating new opportunities that were not seen before. Amongst these varied interests that all have a focus on fighting inequality, Oscar also shared his passion for Estonia, the country in which he was born in. Though having been immersed in Estonia’s culture for a significant part of his life, Oscar hasn’t had the opportunity to utilize his background and hopes to incorporate his cultural influences into his future work.

1. The University of Washington has a Baltic Studies Program which offers two years of classroom instruction in Estonian in addition to independent study of the language. https://scandinavian.washington.edu/fields/estonian. Similarly, UW has a study abroad program for Scandinavian and Baltic countries. https://scandinavian.washington.edu/study-abroad
2. UW has research opportunities with Political Science. The current ongoing programs involve labor studies, communication and civic engagement, and public policy. https://www.polisci.washington.edu/research/undergraduate. UW’s Department of Political Science also offers credit for internships and seems to be affiliated with a variety of different organizations. https://www.polisci.washington.edu/internships
3. UW’s affiliation with the Center for American Politics and Public Policy offers many opportunities for research. http://cappp.org/
   1. Related, it offers a CAPP fellows program which promotes collaboration between faculty and students to engage in research. https://www.polisci.washington.edu/undergraduate/cappp-undergraduate-fellows-program
4. An interesting article on how democracies can tackle inequalities. https://www.polisci.washington.edu/news/2014/08/01/prof-victor-menaldo-london-school-economics-site-capitalism-need-not-churn