

## **An overseas internship with U.S. Department of State? Yes, please!**

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Kelsey Lacourrege visits the Hofburg, the main imperial palace of the Austrian monarchy. She is representing America while working with The United States Mission to International Organizations in Vienna. (Photo from Kelsey Lacourrege)

Kelsey Lacourrege, who has completed her sophomore year at Tulane University, is one of a select few students who has the opportunity to work at a U.S. embassy through a U.S. Department of State internship this summer. Lacourrege is representing America while working with The United States [Mission to International Organizations in Vienna](#), one of five major United Nations offices.

She learned of the internship while participating in an exchange program through the U.S. Department of State in high school.

"I enjoy the cultural heritage and atmosphere in Vienna," Lacourrege says. "I traveled to Vienna when I was living abroad in Germany, and it's probably the nicest city I've ever seen."

Lacourrege will work with the Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of Outer Space Affairs and the Industrial Development Organization. Her first assignment: to

research and report on a lab facility designed to train less technologically advanced nations about forensics and drug testing.

“You can always benefit from getting a broader perspective and meeting people from other countries,” says Lacourrege, who will collect research materials to use in an independent study course for the fall semester and petition the Tulane [Center for Public Service](#) to receive public service credit.

“A growing number of Tulane students is realizing that they can take the initiative with their professors, and a wide variety of organizations and the Center for Public Service to develop independent studies or internships that take their academic experiences in unique and fascinating directions,” says Agnieszka Nance, interim executive director of the Center for Public Service.

Lacourrege plans to major in cell and molecular biology and attend medical school. She will minor in German and will receive language credit upon her return.

“I very much like the sciences, but for me it's an opportunity to do something completely different,” Lacourrege explains. “After medical school, I would like to use my expertise in a way that is beneficial to the international community.”

*Jamie Logan has completed her first year as a Newcomb-Tulane College student.*