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Valeria Yermakova, Gilman Scholar in Singapore

Video Transcript

My name is Valeria Yermakova. I'm a student at UC Berkeley. I just finished my first year there and I'm concentrating my studies in computer science and business. It was sort of the ideal situation for me because with this program I get to study about the Asian culture, about business, and also, I get to actually have a real internship in a field that I love. I'm working in a consulting firm for a not-for-profit organization. It's actually a pro-bono consulting firm, which I love because the work I do, you really feel good about what you do.

In the states there aren't that many opportunities to work in a consulting firm as a first year student, so I was very fortunate to get this position here. It's very cool because we work in small teams. We work on projects and it's not sort of the daily-grind nine to five office job. Because it's very project oriented and there's only five people in my group, I get a lot of responsibility. Our consulting firm recently doubled in size, and so we have to deal with all the logistics of restructuring the entire hierarchy of the company, incorporating new data interface systems, and just getting exposure to all of that is very fascinating and I'm very fortunate to have this opportunity.

Singapore is a jungle, it's a legitimate jungle, as well as they've built this concrete jungle with skyscrapers and astounding sculptures and these high-rises that we just so gorgeous. They've really found this wonderful balance that is very cool. You're walking through the street through these massive skyscrapers and then there's foliage, there's monkeys, and it's very cool.

When I wrote my essays I really, I dug very deep into my heart and into my history to see why this would mean something to me. I didn't just write, "oh, it would be a great experience," even though it is a phenomenal experience. You really find out, sort of find that connection as to why it means so much to you. Why will it impact your life?



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