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### The first step to a career in IR: Georgetown University

By spending a week at Georgetown University, I was able to open my eyes to issues which concerned me and my life on a global scale- as a citizen of the world rather than a citizen of a small bubble in Naples, Florida. The week I spent sitting in on lectures and meeting members of congress and intergovernmental organizations which attempt to find a global solution to conflicts made me realize what I wanted to pursue in my life. Georgetown enabled me to pursue a new passion and to get a sample of a college life I will be faced with in less than a year.

The lectures at Georgetown also covered a plethora of topics ranging far from simple diplomacy as one would originally expect. Through the words of the skilled professors I heard speak throughout the week, I learned that the international system can be expressed through various ways, ranging from modern technology such as social media and pop culture, as well as through more structured organizations like intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations.

The sizes of the lectures and discussion groups at Georgetown were also a stark contrast to the environment I am used to at my school. Georgetown gave me the opportunity to interact with a multitude of students, all which come from different parts of the world and bring forth different ideologies. I met friends from major cities like Portland and Seattle, giving me an insight of what it is like to live in a democrat-run city. A French boy in my discussion group spoke with pride of their newest president, President Macron, and how his political party gained vast momentum and followers in a mere year and a half. Despite any political differences I had with members in my discussion groups, I was able to put them aside to listen to opposing opinions. One of the lessons which resonated strongest with me was that intense partisanship does not further international law, but rather hinders it. In order to be successful and for a country to come to a conclusion which benefits the lives of their citizens and civilians all across the world, lawmakers must find ways in which to work across the aisle, and to break down political expectations if it meant finding the correct solution.

Furthermore, I was fortunate to tour the embassy of the European Union as part of my time at Georgetown. I explored the world outside my own country and my own experiences, and delved into how the actions of other nations affect the European Union and similar intergovernmental organizations. The speakers of the European Union spoke with candor on their stance of modern conflicts such as the United Kingdom's intended withdrawal from the EU, as

well as President Trump's decision to remove the United States from the Paris agreement. These decisions, though stemming from distant countries, have powerful impacts throughout the world, giving an insight to students like me the complexity of an ever-changing international system.

I would not have imagined I would have the opportunity to study international relations from one of the best IR schools in the country, but thankfully, I was able to do so with the help of the NWCA. As college application season rolls in, I find myself more confident in my own skin, ready to take the leap into college and into a further education in international studies. Through the NCWA and through Georgetown University, I deepened my passion for helping others in different countries and I know that my week in Washington, D.C has impacted my life in a positive and long lasting way.