

Olivia Schubert
Internship Summary
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This summer I completed an internship as a research assistant at the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, a non-profit, non-partisan organization affiliated with the J. Mack Robinson School of Business at Georgia State University. During my 11 weeks as a research assistant I learned everything from how to write an excel formula to how to maintain sanity during rush hour Atlanta traffic. I worked primarily under Dr. Christopher Brown, Vice President of Research and Analysis at the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and a political science professor at Georgia State University.

The World Affairs Council of Atlanta is involved in several programs and projects, including the Young Leaders Program and the Robinson Country Risk Index (RCRI). I spent the majority of my 40-hour weeks at the Council as a member of the 6- person RCRI research team. The RCRI is a large research project which measures business risk across 122 major world economies. It benefits business owners by evaluating how politically stable a country is, or how long it takes to open a business before expanding operations.

As a full-time intern I was assigned multiple projects including researching the functionalities of existing indices, longitudinally checking data for the 265 variables in the RCRI, determining the validity of certain sources in the index (such as the Environmental Performance Index), identifying the "Big Movers" in the RCRI (a.k.a which countries moved the most across 5 years), editing and restructuring the definitions for all RCRI variables, locating data for countries to be added to the index in 2011 and exploring variables available for a middle class "mini index" within the greater RCRI.