

Laffer Associates Internship Executive Summary

This summer I had the opportunity to serve as an intern at the economic research firm Laffer Associates in Nashville, TN. It was a wonderful chance that allowed me to learn about a career field I am interested in, as well as connect and network with other people in my field.

One of the greatest thrills was being able to work with Dr. Arthur Laffer, a former advisor of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. By being polite and courteous in greeting him every morning, I was eventually able to have some wonderful conversations about economics with him before the work day got fully underway. I also had access to many of his previously published papers and was able to listen in on a conference call between the economist and his clients. Being able to have these discussions and analyze economics in the real world as opposed to a classroom setting was an irreplaceable experience.

While at Laffer Associates, I was able to participate in the research, writing, and proofing of several papers. It was wonderful learning about the paper-writing process in the professional world as opposed to the academic world. I also learned about and became familiar with using several information and data sources that will aid me in future paper-writing endeavors. By the end of the quarter, Laffer Associate expects to publish two papers with my name on them.

In addition to learning about economic research, I was also able to learn about the financial world. Laffer Associates is associated with an investment firm, Laffer Investments, which operates from the same office. I was able to learn about various products offered by the firm, including several that are unique to the market. I also learned about the compliance issues faced by even a small investment firm. Furthermore, I was able to talk with the head of marketing, and learned about various marketing strategies.

Laffer Associates was, for me, the opportunity of a life time. In addition to being able to learn from one of the giants of the field, I gained practical experience in research and writing. I eagerly look forward to being able to continue on the path down which Laffer Associates has pointed me.