

YOUR NAME

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am enthusiastically applying for a summer internship at the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) or the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (R). Given my academic and professional interest in democracy-promotion, I would be most qualified to work on policy towards the Middle East and Islamic world in the (DRL). Yet, having spent two years living in the Middle East, I am also very aware of the critical role of U.S. public diplomacy towards this region of the world, and would be honored to contribute to the work of the (R).

As a first-year Master in Public Affairs candidate at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, I believe that such an internship will prepare me for a career at the State Department upon graduation. Prior to graduate school, I worked on democratization and political reform in Cairo, Egypt as the only American on the staff of the political journal *Democracy Review*. I am confident that the perspective I gained from working in the Middle East with Arab colleagues will be of benefit to the Department of State's efforts to develop policies to promote liberal democracy in the Middle East and effectively explain these policy objectives to the citizens of the region. I have intermediate skills in both Colloquial Egyptian and Standard Arabic.

Before that, I served for a year as a research assistant at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where I further refined my research, writing and editorial skills and gained experience writing and publishing papers for a policy audience. While there, I also organized and participated in several international conferences, interacted with foreign representatives, government officials, and journalists on a regular basis, and coordinated and participated in a two-week research trip to Israel and Jordan.

My coursework at Princeton and at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service have taught me how to think critically about complex issues, summarize dense articles, write concise memos and reports, and effectively convey information and ideas to others.

I believe that my work experience, language skills, and academic qualifications demonstrate my ability to assist in achieving the important missions of these two bureaus. I hope to build upon my professional experience through an opportunity to contribute to democracy promotion and public diplomacy for the U.S. government.

[Unless rules have changed, the State Department will only allow 2,500 characters with spaces on your statement of interest. Please be sure to check in advance.]