

Erica Lutes  
Educational Adviser, Program Officer  
The Commission for Educational Exchange

Dear Ms. Lutes,

I am writing in response to your organization's internship profile in the Vesalius Internship Program Catalogue for Fall 2011. I have been following Vesalius' internship partners since I decided to apply to the university last fall and am extremely excited to see a Fulbright internship added to the list.

I relate well to Philip G. Altbach's video on the Fulbright website that discusses the strengths of the U.S. Education System. A liberal arts education has allowed me to combine my passions for education, political science, and traveling during my pursuit of various career opportunities. It is these opportunities that not only fuel my interest in an internship with your organization, but also make me a prime candidate for one.

My participation in the International Baccalaureate program in high school taught me the importance of international educational standards and fostered a desire to experience other cultures. It strengthened my applications for admission to undergraduate studies and accompanying scholarships. My full-tuition scholarship to my university in the United States and the various scholarships I received to study abroad at Vesalius College are testaments to my understanding of the U.S. education system and what it takes to be a successful university applicant within it. It is this passion and this knowledge that I feel compelled and qualified to pass on to Belgian students looking for help from the U.S. embassy's Educational Advising Center.

I have experience in diplomacy, reporting, and research thanks to my liberal arts degree in political science. In the summer of 2009, I traveled to Ottawa, Canada to intern with a cable news station that reports on parliamentary affairs. The internship placed me in contact with numerous members of parliament and earned me invitations to exclusive cultural events that taught me more about international diplomacy than a textbook ever could. When I returned to school, I was honored with a job offer to work with two of the professors in the Political Science Department at my university. I worked with them to advise students, conduct research, and help them lead their classes, so I feel confident that I would be able to complete the main duties and responsibilities of your organization's internship profile independently and effectively.

For brevity's sake, I have many qualifications I have not discussed in this cover letter. I am familiar with social media resources and have a basic knowledge of the French language, which I will continue to study at Vesalius. I am an active volunteer and advocate for a local NGO in my community, Down Syndrome of Louisville. I just completed an application for a Spring 2012 internship with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, to complete when I return to America. I would love the opportunity to interview with you when I arrive in Belgium and discuss my passions and qualifications further.

Respectfully yours,

Ali Edelstein