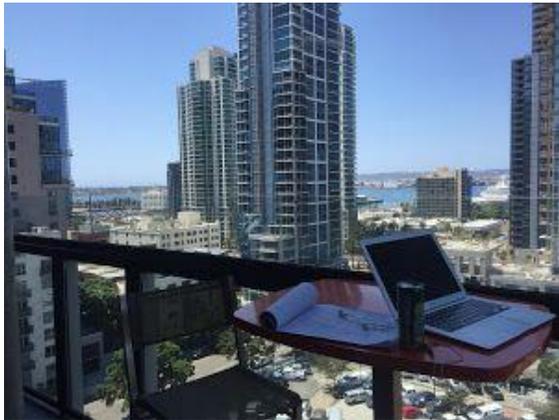


Summer 2018 Internship, San Diego, California

As a 1st year BA English student who was passionate about her subject but confused about career opportunities, I was certain that I needed to do an internship this past summer. I researched far and wide about careers that may be transferable to the skills I have been fine tuning through my course. Again and again, careers such as marketing and public relations appealed to me. Therefore, after applying last september, I began as a student intern at **J Public Relations** in London on days that I did not have school. From January to June, I was revelled in the opportunity to learn about this career and the travel industry in which it promoted.



From the balcony of our office where I often did my work!

Through this experience, I began to understand marketing and media were important to me as well as the ability to experience a new city. Therefore, I was set on taking the skills I acquired through my internship in London and finding a job in Sunny San Diego. After applying to 20+ internships in the San Diego area, my heart became set on **The Control Group**, a technology company based in San Diego. While they were not actively looking for an intern, I contacted the company which is constantly ranked a “Top Place to Work” to see if they needed any help in their inbound marketing/ PR department. After explaining my experiences and passion to learn about this sector, they were happy to create a paid summer position for me.



Torrey Pines Park in La Jolla



Repping my Control Group Shirt

From web development to programming and marketing to the company's incredible search engine 'Instant Checkmate' and 'Truth Finder', it is no surprise that the Control Group is one of the fastest growing technology companies. However, above all this success, I was most impressed with how the company used its profitable funds to develop a company culture that is shaking up the technology sector with surf breaks during lunchtime to massage Wednesdays, and a catered lunches. As the only intern at their 100+ employee company, I worked directly with the inbound marketing director to write articles for their blog, schedule meetings with influencers and celebrities to promote the product and even meet directly with the company's CEO, Steven Grey to discuss his next two year vision for the company. For 28 hours a week from June - August I was immersed in the world of writing, marketing and search engine optimization. I am forever grateful to the Control Group for this opportunity as well as Queen Mary's Bursary fund which helped alleviate flight costs.



Surfing Break after work



Running through Joshua Tree National Park

While I was not at the office in downtown San Diego, I could be found practicing yoga before work in Pacific Beach, running at the beach, eating lots of burritos, exploring the beautiful area and breathing the fresh air of Southern California. While I thoroughly enjoyed every second of my summer, I am so grateful to be back at QMUL for my second year, immersing myself in this year of study and my internship at J Public Relations.

“Maria has been integral to the development and implementation of our public relations campaigns, offerings and promotions, and media management. Maria is responsible for all office support including drafting press releases, newsletters, research projects, tailored media pitches and creation of PR literature on behalf of our clients. Other responsibilities include event coordination, guest list management, scheduling appointments and intensive follow up.”

- Emma Hartland - Mahon, UK Director, JPR