

Project Proposal: Arts Administration in Barcelona

In my time studying the arts at UVA I have come to find that they are truly interdisciplinary. A painter must understand basic mathematical concepts, a musician must understand the physics of sound, and an actor must understand history and language arts. I therefore am extremely grateful for my liberal arts education for giving me the opportunity to explore many areas of study and understand how they overlap and connect. I have a hard time defining myself as an artist. I applied to this program as a drama arts scholar, based off of writing samples that I created for playwriting class. However, throughout the course of my academic career, I have written and performed poetry, taken a drawing class, developed a photography hobby, tried out for musicals, stage managed, directed, written plays, and even performed as a circus clown. The through line throughout all of my creative work at UVA has been a focus on the process of creating a piece, more than the finished product. In order to effectively work as an arts administrator and facilitate this creative process, I feel I must first understand it for myself. Thus, creation and facilitation are not two separate processes for me, but rather parallel ones which support each other.

In my arts administration course, Ecology of the Arts, we have begun to discuss the arts as not only interdisciplinary, combining multiple areas of study, but transdisciplinary, involving thinking between, across, and beyond disciplines. It is transdisciplinary thinking, and process oriented study that have defined my time and UVA and inform my proposed research project. I am seeking support for travel so that I can participate in an international internship at an international art auction house in Barcelona, Spain, where I will utilize transdisciplinary thinking as I interact with the art and culture of a foreign country.

I have studied Spanish formally for almost seven years and taken three semester's worth of Spanish classes at UVA. While I enjoyed my time in these classes, I became frustrated that the curriculum was mostly focused on analysis of literature as opposed to practical application of language skills. Interning at an art gallery in a Spanish speaking country would offer me an immersive experience and provide opportunities for me to strengthen my Spanish speaking skills that I would not have access to in the United States. Additionally, the gallery work will help to strengthen my resume and enable me to experience daily administrative operations of an international art auction house, as I pursue a career in education and outreach for arts organizations.

The goals of my proposal are twofold. First, I hope to gain important skills necessary for succeeding in a career in arts administration. For me, this includes strengthening my Spanish speaking and writing skills because this will give me the ability to better serve Spanish speaking communities when I return to the United States. Second, I would like there to be an artistic component to my project. In order to document the experience of living and working abroad and the process of immersing myself in a foreign language I will be taking photographs, writing small pieces of poetry and prose, and continuously updating a blog. I would also like to attend at least one theater performance and museum while I am abroad. I have found I can learn a lot about the administrative process simply by observing how different artistic companies function. Finally, I plan to send weekly emails to my advisor, George Sampson, discussing the practical aspects of my internship and how I can best apply the concepts that we have studied in our classes to international work.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Spring 2018

- Follow up with Ingrid Hakala at the Office of Global Internships in regard to the status of the application to the Museo de Solidaridad de Salvador Allende
- Apply to IES internship abroad in Barcelona
- Buy airfare
- Secure housing
- Acquire necessary work/travel visas
- Visit the UVA student health travel clinic and acquire all necessary immunizations
- Download the DuoLingo app and begin reviewing Spanish vocabulary
- Meet with George Sampson to discuss working in an art gallery
- Interview the curatorial staff at the Fralin and Kluge Ruhe to gain a better understanding of how museums collect, preserve, and choose which works to display
- Apply to Skinner, Bryant, and Kness Scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year to offset tuition costs so that more personal funds can be allocated to interning abroad
- Apply to scholarship opportunities through the UVA study abroad office

Summer 2018

- Complete internship abroad
- Document the experience through an online blog
- Exchange once weekly email with George Sampson outlining internship experiences and what was learned
- Visit museums and attend theatre performances in order to immerse myself in the creative world of Barcelona

Fall 2018

- Meet in person with George Sampson to discuss overall internship experience

Spring 2019

- Present outcome report

Estimated Budget***Transportation**

Roundtrip Airfare Estimate	\$1,500
	<i>Total: \$1,500</i>

Housing

Airbnb Estimate	\$1,500
	<i>Total: \$1,500</i>

Books

<u>Lonely Planet Barcelona Guidebook</u>	\$26.99
<i>By: Lonely Planet and Carolyn McCarthy</i>	
<u>Art as Language: Wittgenstein, Meaning, and Aesthetic Theory</u>	\$28.95
<i>By: G.L. Hagberg</i>	
<u>Identity and the Museum Visitor Experience</u>	\$36.91
<i>By: John H Falk</i>	
	<i>Total: \$92.85</i>

Excursions

Average price of ticket to a show at a national/collegiate theater	\$75.00
Average price of ticket to a national museum	\$50.00
	<i>Total: \$125.00</i>
	<i>Total: \$88.49</i>

Grand Total: \$3,310.70

*My proposed budget does not include the cost of food, transportation within the country, or money to be spent on additional arts immersion activities. I expect to cover those costs out of pocket and am prepared to do so.

Involvement in the Arts at UVA

Throughout my time studying here at UVA I have come to recognize that there is an art to facilitation. I find myself constantly toeing a line between creation and facilitation, trying to strike a balance between the two that will make me feel fulfilled as an artist and educator. To that end, my involvement in the arts at UVA has taken on many roles. Each year has brought with it different challenges and learning experiences and I am thankful for them all.

My first year, I participated heavily in a slam poetry organization called Flux Poetry and Spoken Word, eventually serving as publicity chair my second semester here. I also became heavily involved in the artistic experiences of the International Residential College by serving as entertainment committee co-chair and planning events like movie nights and the annual talent show. I served the wider Charlottesville community by volunteering with an organization called Kids Acting Out, which visited local elementary schools once a week to teach acting lessons and eventually direct the children in staging their own original plays.

My second year I branched out of my comfort zone and helped Spectrum Theater write and stage their annual sketch comedy show based off of first year students' admissions essays, *Voices of the Class*. I also worked with Virginia Players as a stage manager for the once-act play *What Every Girl Should Know*, which was staged as a part of their Lab Series. Additionally, I served as a stage manager for drama faculty member Theresa Davis's devised step performance that she created with a group of UVA students as a part of a one-night tribute to Maya Angelou titled *Throw Your Head Back and Sing*. The tribute was presented by the Furious Flower Poetry Project at James Madison University. Outside of UVA directly, I served as a gallery intern for New City Arts on the downtown mall and got a better understanding of the vibrant local arts community in Charlottesville. One of my favorite projects that I got to work on my second year was with fellow Miller Arts Scholar Michael Giovinco. At an arts scholars get together early in my second year he casually asked us if we knew any female students looking for a performance opportunity. Eager to get on a stage, I quickly raised my hand and Michael had found a clown. We collaborated for the rest of the year to create the clowning portions of his devised circus show entitled *Grounded*.

During my third year, I became heavily involved in the Arts Administration program helping support the Faculty Arts Grant for the *Things Unseen* Project and working as a Course Assistant for *Ecology of the Arts*. I also worked with other arts scholars to help support the multi departmental artist in residency program in which Wadada Leo Smith and his Golden Quintet visited. This semester I am working with the Fralin Museum of Fine Arts as an Early Visions Volunteer. I'm also taking directing two and as a result will serve as a director for the New Works play festival this Spring.

In terms of coursework, although I'm not a drama major, I've taken almost enough courses in the drama department to qualify as one. I also took drawing one in the art department to expand my horizons a bit and understand different types of artmaking. It is my goal before I graduate to take a class in each of the artistic disciplines offered at UVA: drama, music, visual arts, and dance. I took the Miller Arts Scholar Seminar courses last Spring and Fall, and although timing would not allow me to take seminar this Spring, I remain in conversation with our current president about what is being discussed in class and am dedicated to maintaining a sense of community amongst our current group of arts scholars.