

Kayla Hamann '22  
Data Science Internship  
Summer 2022

This summer, I used my Byrne funds to support my living expenses in the Washington DC area while completing a data science internship. The DC area is an expensive place to live, but the financial support of my Byrne funds allowed me to feel secure and truly enjoy my time. I was able to network and build connections outside of the workplace without worrying about whether or not I could afford something, which was an amazing resource to have as a young professional. As far as the internship goes, it was a great experience and allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of what a future career in math or data science could look like. I found this highly valuable, especially as my graduation approaches in the next couple of months. I was able to take skills and concepts I have learned in my math classes at Dartmouth and rely on them as a foundation in the workplace which allowed me to focus on learning other industry skills we often aren't exposed to in the classroom. One benefit of the internship was that I was able to utilize and maintain my programming skills. Another benefit is that I gained more experience working with Big Data; Big Data is a major part of many real-world careers, and it has plentiful nuances and kinks so it is highly beneficial that I can now refer to my time working with Big Data when advertising myself to future employers as most college students do not encounter Big Data in the classroom. Overall, I would recommend to all future Byrne Scholars that they pursue internships in fields relevant to the one they hope to eventually pursue, as my internships have been crucial for building relevant skills, making relevant connections, and deciphering if I would truly enjoy a specific career or company.