Recent BSPH Graduate Named Eisenhower Global Scholar, Sets Sights on International Diplomacy

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2025 NTC Graduate Maya Neiberg (BSPH, B.A., Political Science) wants to create meaningful change and improve human rights protections internationally. Now, thanks to support from the Eisenhower Global Scholars Program, this dream has the chance to become a reality.

"I have always aspired to work in diplomacy and foreign policy, and now, with Eisenhower Fellowships' support and international network, I will be better equipped to contribute to meaningful policy change and build cross-border collaborations that promote justice and accountability."

The Eisenhower Global Scholars Program sends four American university graduates abroad for an academic year of postgraduate studies at one of two prestigious European universities. In addition to the connections they make in pursuit of their master's degree, scholars are immersed in the EF global network of Fellows. Neiberg will be headed to IE University in Madrid to pursue a master's degree in international relations. Through networking and follow-up discussions, Neiberg has done her research on the university and the program.

"After connecting with multiple IE University alumni, I realized that many of the US graduates I admired were also Eisenhower Global Scholars. Speaking with a fellow Tulane alum and past recipient solidified my interest, especially after hearing how the program shaped her global outlook and career path."

Neiberg credits her strong academic background as well as previous internships for making her a strong candidate for this opportunity.

"I have foreign policy research experience from my past internships at the United States Army War College and the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Additionally, my study abroad experience in Argentina allowed me to deeply engage with another culture and further reinforced my interest in human rights and international law."

She also recognizes that the <u>Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships</u> helped her to focus her ambitions to create a compelling and ultimately successful application.

"I first met with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships during the spring of my junior year to explore opportunities for my post-graduate plans. When I first spoke with Dr. Spencer and Dr. Wolfe, I had a broad interest in foreign policy but no clear path forward. With their guidance, I refined my academic goals, clarified my "why" for graduate study, and developed an application that reflected both my personal story and professional aspirations." Neiberg, originally from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, plans to spend her time at IE University in Madrid broadening her understanding of international human rights. Her long-term goal is to improve accessibility to international legal mechanisms and ensure they serve not only governments but also the individuals and communities they are meant to protect.

"It feels amazing to know that I will be joining a community of leaders who are committed to tackling global challenges and improving the world."