

Summer 2023: TWG Summer Interns at the Embassy of Ukraine Comment on Their Experience



From L-R: Karolina Naidon, Amb. Oksana Markarova, Mariana Piontkovska

Two university students who participated in summer internships at the Embassy of Ukraine with financial support from The Washington Group have sent letters of appreciation to TWG expressing thanks for “the opportunity to work closely with Ukrainian diplomats and gain more insight into Ukrainian-American relations and international affairs more generally.” They referred to the internship as “a meaningful

experience” especially because they “plan to pursue a diplomatic career path and work for the bright future of Ukraine.”

The aspiring diplomats who served as TWG-sponsored interns are Karolina Naidon, a student at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and Mariana Piontkovska, a student at Georgetown University.

In her correspondence Mariana, who is a native of Kyiv, added: “This internship helped me realize the various ways in which I could dedicate my professional career in international relations to advocating for Ukraine. It was truly amazing to have the opportunity to work with diverse professionals united with one purpose of fostering cooperation and friendly relations between Ukraine and the United States.”

Karolina, whose home town is the city of Dnipro wrote: “My summer internship at the Embassy of Ukraine in the USA truly gave me an opportunity to understand international affairs in action outside of my college curriculum. Close work with diplomats helped me to see the hard work of Ukrainian embassies in representing Ukraine on the international arena and gaining such valuable support from foreign states to combat the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. I am genuinely thankful for such an opportunity to work closely with diplomats that highly influenced me to continue to pursue a diplomatic career and, in the future, contribute to the worthy representation of Ukraine in the global political arena.”

Ms. Naidon and Ms. Piontkovska served as summer interns at the embassy for eight weeks under the supervision of First Secretary Kateryna Smaglyi. TWG provided stipends to each of

the interns in the amount of \$3000 to help cover their living expenses for the duration of the project. A dozen candidates applied for the internship. TWG Fellowship Committee members Natalie Korytnyk Forrester, Orest Deychakiwsky and Adrian Karmazyn reviewed the applications and participated in the selection process. The Embassy made the final decision from among the leading candidates.