

## **Internship Reflections by Yuliia Deka, TWG-sponsored Ukrainian Embassy Summer 2025 Intern**

Interning at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington this summer was a truly valuable and professionally enriching experience for me. While studying diplomacy for five years now and dreaming of starting a career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, I have never had an internship or work experience with a public service institution before.

I started in the economic section, where I assisted with updating the Embassy's business contacts database. The research done for this database opened my eyes to the large number of American companies that maintain their operations in Ukraine or support our country in different ways. This convinced me of the powerful role of the private sector in diplomacy and intergovernmental relations. In the second half of the internship, I dealt primarily with the public diplomacy section, fulfilling translation tasks and helping with research for topical diplomatic cables. I got to complete creative tasks as well, including speechwriting. Going over the draft speeches with my supervisor helped me understand their structure, how to form a solid message that will grasp the attention of the audience, and how to appropriately use diplomatic parlance.

One of my tasks also included reviewing the hundreds of letters the Embassy received from American citizens. It gave me a lot of insight into American attitudes towards Ukraine and how supportive Americans are of a country fighting back against Russia's invasion. Thus, the most important thing I learned during the internship is that the diplomatic service is primarily about the people. Equally, I was very glad to network with many professionals at the Embassy, who kindly shared their career stories and gave me valuable advice that will guide me in the future. The whole Embassy experience reassured me that public service would be my career path. Now, enriched with this new knowledge, I am moving into the final year of my Master's program at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University and starting to explore job opportunities in Ukraine's public service sector after graduation.