



VALERIE TUCKER

FOREIGN SERVICE
OFFICER,
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STATE

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Valerie Tucker's SLP experience provided her with skills and opportunities that positioned her for a Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship and a career in the U.S. State Department.

Valerie's curiosity and passion for the world led her to major in International Affairs and Spanish at UGA. She applied to the SLP after learning about nuclear grand strategy in an American Foreign Policy course her second year. Through the SLP she gained valuable policy writing skills and got her first taste of diplomatic work assisting with the CITS Security and Strategic Trade Management Academy.

Valerie's SLP experience opened several doors that were crucial to her career development. She worked alongside renowned experts on nonproliferation at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in Monterey, CA, as an export controls intern. During her junior year she was awarded the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, a highly competitive U.S. State Department program for exceptional undergraduates seeking careers in the Foreign Service. As a Fellow she interned in the Office of Japanese Affairs and at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She also earned an MA in international relations and economics at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and, after graduating in 2019, joined the Foreign Service.

Today, Valerie is a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo. She uses diplomacy to promote U.S. commercial interests and supports U.S. foreign policies relating to the environment, science, technology, health, entrepreneurship, and women's economic empowerment. She met virtually with the Fall 2020 SLP and encouraged the students to actively seek opportunities to build expertise on a topic and develop their writing skills. Valerie's story exemplifies how the SLP enables students to explore their interests and learn valuable skills that can lead to careers at the forefront of positive change at home and abroad.