

ANITA PATANE SELECTED FOR SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION INTERNSHIP



Senior Anthropology major Anita Patane was recently selected for a prestigious internship with the Smithsonian Institution for the summer of 2023. See below for more about her UNC story.

My name is Anita Patane (she/her), and I moved to Colorado in 2009 with my family after my father was honorably discharged from the Army. I'm a first-generation student and have more recently been increasingly supportive of calling myself a nerd. I graduated from Greeley West as a junior, and completed my Associates of Science at Aims Community College during the pandemic. Here at UNC, I'm currently a senior at UNC studying Anthropology (with Biological interest) and French as my major and minor, respectively. I spend a lot of my time completing tasks for my whopping 20-credits this semester, cataloging for a virtual internship for History Colorado, and contemplating my future within the McNairs Scholars Program. I also drive part-time for the City of Greeley's public city busses, maybe you've seen me on Route 1, or Route 5! Google Calendar, a physical planner, and my favorite pen help me keep all these chaotic pieces together. I'm always on the lookout to take full advantage of my tuition, as I feel we all should be doing. I am eternally grateful for my small support system, consisting of my grandfather, my professors as well as my boyfriend Jose, and my best-friend, Alora.

I was surprised upon receiving a post acceptance letter from the ECYC (Emerson Collective Youth Collaboration), who had posted two internship opportunities working with the Smithsonian (the Smithsonian, I know!) in early January. I had begun to accept the fact that I hadn't been selected when I got an email during class: "...Dear Anita, Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you..." in early April. I remember feeling overjoyed and overwhelmed. Out of nearly 2000 applicants, I, and presumably others, were selected to participate in an 8-week, fully paid (with stipend), in-person internship with the Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C from June 14 - August 4, 2023. What an incredible opportunity, is all I can say. While helping them achieve their own personal goals of the 2023 Smithsonian Leadership for Change Internship, I look forward to taking full advantage of the networking and learning opportunities that come my way while also touring around D.C searching for a good boba/bubble tea place. I'm also hoping to see some "behind the scenes" of their Hall of Human Origins exhibit; I'd love to see actual bones and learn the process that happens to protect them, both ethically and synthetically from professionals working there.

Merci! A+ !
(Thanks! See you later!)

Anita Patane