



MIT SLOAN SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Sustainability Internships

SUMMER 2021



Our Internship Programs:

Sustainability Initiative Internship Program

The MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative is committed to empowering leaders everywhere to take action. One way we do this is by connecting our students with leading organizations ready to create value for business and society.

[Sustainability Initiative Internship Program \(SSIP\)](#) positions are summer-long impact-oriented roles for first-year MBAs. The Sustainability Initiative and MIT Sloan's Career Development Office award grants to both students and organizations who participate. Grants are made possible by donations from alumni and friends.

Sloan Social Impact Fund

Sponsored by the Net Impact Club and supported by the Sustainability Initiative, [Sloan Social Impact Fellows](#) get the opportunity to apply the skills they are learning in school to local, national, and international social impact organizations.

"SSIF" internships are self-sourced, with funding provided to assist with salary requirements.

Interested in hosting an internship?

Reach out to us at sustainability@sloan.mit.edu for more info.



Investing for Sustainable Development in China



Summer Siman Li

MBA '22 | MPP '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF

EHONG 禹同
IMPACT CAPITAL 资本

Last summer, I had the opportunity to intern with [Ehong Capital](#), a pioneering Chinese impact investing fund, who supports mission-driven enterprises tackling the most pressing social and environmental challenges in China.

Ehong serves underserved and vulnerable communities in China by providing capital, resources, and connections to companies serving the needs of these communities and engages actively in shaping the nascent impact investing field in China.

In my role as Summer Associate, I worked closely with Impact Measurement and Management and Investor Relations on central projects including developing their impact measurement and management practices, conducting research and developing a perspective on hydrogen, and supporting fundraising.

I particularly enjoyed the project on professionalization and further embedding of ESG and impact considerations in their investment process from revamping the process together with the deal team to developing the actual tools, e.g., an ESG issue framework, because it allowed me to draw on knowledge learned at Sloan and explore the impact investing field's current practices and methodological challenges.

This internship strengthened my resolve to become an investor who advances sustainable and equitable growth. It was also great to gain a deeper understanding of the current opportunities and challenges in China, and how (social) enterprises navigate unique market and regulatory dynamics.



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- Summer Siman Li

Diversifying the Cannabis Industry



Kayemba Mvula
MBA '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



I spent my summer as a Summer Associate with the [New York City Economic Development Council's](#) Initiatives team, developing a series of potential interventions centered around the cannabis industry. When marijuana was legalized in New York State in April of 2021, the EDC began conducting research and stakeholder outreach focused on ensuring that the industry could become more diverse and inclusive.

The core of my work has been centered concretely around desk research and stakeholder interviews towards a series of final deliverables. Given that the cannabis industry will be opening legally in two years, the EDC is taking a longer-term outlook to this work. In the short term, the focus is on ensuring better outcomes than have been seen in other states and municipalities that have ended prohibition.

Strengthening National Parks

Monchen Kao
MBA '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



I worked for the [National Park Service](#) this summer at Lake Clark National Park & Preserve in Alaska. The park is known for its large population of Alaskan grizzly bears, and the number of people visiting the park to go bear-viewing has skyrocketed over the last decade. My project helped develop and evaluate a set of management actions that **will allow the park to manage its increasing visitation sustainably in the coming years.**



Monchen at Lake Clark Nat'l Park, July 2021



Advancing Sustainable Energy Solutions



Jeffrey Pickett

MS, SDM '22

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SIIP



Last summer, I interned as the Business Development Graduate Intern with [Ocean Renewable Power Company \(ORPC\)](#). ORPC is a global marine renewable energy development company headquartered in Portland, Maine. Their patented hydrokinetic technology is used in tidal and river environments with smart microgrids or utility-scale applications. While with ORPC, the company raised \$25M in Growth Capital and began its transition from R&D-focused to commercial.

ORPC truly lives by its mission statement of “improving people’s lives and environment through sustainable energy solutions.” One of the most prominent target customers for their RivGen® technology is rural coastal villages whose primary electricity source is diesel generators. ORPC’s marine energy solutions are helping the communities most impacted by climate change, and my project is helping accelerate their impact. Often, the body of water these communities live next to is their literal lifeblood. So, using it as their primary energy source has some poignant social impacts on the community.

I came to MIT to begin a transition from the military to the energy industry, and this opportunity with ORPC was my first experience in the tough-tech startup space. Exposure to the business and regulatory aspects of renewable energy development, in addition to the engineering uncertainties of technology development, was extremely valuable.



Jeffrey and Eastport's City Manager, Kate Devonshire

I really enjoyed applying the concepts I learned in the [MIT System Design & Management](#) program in a real-world environment. Additionally, the opportunity to work with a community-oriented company that has achieved success through strong relationships with its partners was an approach that really resonated with me, and is something I hope to emulate going forward.

Breakthrough Energy

Wynn Oja Tucker

MBA '21 | MPP '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



This summer, I worked as a Business Strategy Intern for [Electrified Thermal Solutions](#) (ETS), an MIT spinout with a thermal storage technology. My biggest project was focused on market research and customer discovery; I identified and interviewed target customers to understand where ETS could add the most value, and translated this into recommendations for ETS's strategy. It's been a really valuable experience to work hands on at an early-stage company developing breakthrough technology!

Offshore Wind + Equity

Sarah Kalish

MBA '23 | MCP '23
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



With the Smart & Sustainable Cities team at the [NYCEDC](#), a quasi-public economic development agency that sets the economic development strategy for NYC, I've focused on efforts to develop an offshore wind industry in NYC that leads with equity. For my summer project, I researched the global offshore wind R&D landscape and connected with key offshore wind hubs, to help inform what opportunities NYC could pursue that drive innovation, create good jobs locally, and align with equity goals.

Promoting Equity and Opportunity



Priscilla Liu

MBA '21 | MPA '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



With remote work, I'm grateful I had the opportunity to explore internships at two separate organizations, creating high-impact solutions for workforce development challenges through policy and impact venture capital. In my first internship with the policy team at Jobs for the Future (JFF), I supported the new Financing the Future Initiative, focused on informing stakeholders of innovative ways to finance education and skills development to promote opportunity and equity.

To scale workforce development solutions from a different angle, I also joined the [Acumen America](#) team to support the sourcing, evaluating, and supporting of investments that create opportunities for upward mobility for low-income Americans.

Sharing Knowledge to Reduce Hunger



Cierra Martin
MS IDM '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



During my internship, I worked with [Feeding America](#)'s Digital Learning team on the design of a new learning management system for its network of 200 food banks and 60,000 partner agencies. I also helped develop digital curriculum for new network leaders to become fluent in the detriments of food insecurity. This helped them better understand the complex relationships between hunger, food insecurity, health, equity, poverty, and employment.

As a passionate and lifelong learner, I believe leadership and learning go hand in hand. To have the opportunity to learn alongside the largest hunger relief organization in the U.S. and strategically design educational tools for its continued effectiveness and success, has been a dream.

Securing Oxygen Supply During COVID-19



Evan Suara Ramsey
MBA '22 | MPP '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



Amid tidal waves of COVID-19 in countries without vaccine access, demand for respiratory care equipment has surged. At [PATH](#) – a global health NGO, I worked to alleviate bottlenecks in the medical oxygen supply chain for Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

By coordinating the flow of demand visibility up the supply chain and the flow of supplier commitments down the supply chain, I believe that we can prevent needless loss of life. To mobilize faster delivery of products, I also grappled with innate tradeoffs between speed, quality, cost, risk, sustainability, political feasibility, and ethics.

Changing the Face of Food



Raffaella Fontes
MBA '22
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



I worked with Shayna Harris and Noramay Cadena (Sloanies, 2011) at [Supply Change Capital](#) as they raised their first fund together to invest in the changing face of food. We had our first capital close in June and made our first two portfolio investments.

I have helped them develop a pipeline strategy and processes to source, evaluate, and diligence deals. In addition I worked on a few thought leadership and industry thesis pieces for the team.

Enhancing the Efficiency of ESG Data

Junxiang (Sabrina) Zhao

MFIN '22

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SIIP



PANAGORA

I worked as a quantitative research intern at PanAgora Asset Management under its dynamic equity team, and participated in ESG-related research.

Altogether, I got my hands onto three projects: voice features analytics, NGO reports, and construction of an ESG data portal. The project I spent most of my time on was digging for information on voice feature analytics.

The NGO reports project incorporated a lot of web scraping to find whether NGO's opinions on companies' ESG-related campaigns actually influenced their future performance. For the ESG data portal construction, I worked to build a platform that enables individuals and firms to upload ESG data to enhance the overall efficiency of ESG data transmission and usage.



Other 2021 Internships



Sarah Allibhoy

MBA '23 | MS '23

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF

ISI KAR



Beatriz Aldereguia Pons

MBA '22

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



Jessica Leon

MBA '21 | MPP '22

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF



Olivia Wold

MBA '22 | MPP '23

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SIIP



Liane Yue

MS IDM '22

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SSIF

CITY of BOSTON



Sustainability Initiative

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