



NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

Rome, Italy

Carly Zogg

Class of 2020

International Affairs and Cultural Anthropology



NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

The NATO Defense College is an international institution facilitated through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that focuses on education to keep the alliance effective and well informed. It was founded in 1951 and is located in Rome, Italy

MISSION: “TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS AND COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE BY DEVELOPING ITS ROLE AS A MAJOR CENTRE OF EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND RESEARCH ON TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY ISSUES.”

- Divisions:
 - Academic Operations
 - Academic Planning and Policy
 - Research
- Courses:
 - Senior Course
 - NATO Regional Cooperation Course (NRCC)
 - Generals, Flag Officers & Ambassadors' Course (GFOAC)
 - Senior Executive Regional Conference (SERC)
 - Modular Short Courses (MSCs)
 - Integrated Partner Orientation Course (IPOC)

LIVING IN ROME

.While living in Rome was an absolute dream, it did come with some challenges. Aside from the culture shock and language barrier, being away from friends and family for a few months was hard occasionally. However, I still made the most of my time in Europe and was able to travel to Venice, Lisbon, Budapest, Vienna, Florence, and the Amalfi Coast. I also learned so much about the Italian culture: no cappuccinos after noon, limoncello is always for dessert and Italian drivers are bold.



MY ROLE: VOLUNTARY EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH INTERN

I WORKED IN THE MIDDLE EAST FACULTY WITH ONE SUPERVISOR AND TWO OTHER INTERNS. OUR PRIMARY WORK WAS FOCUSED ON THE NRCC COURSE INCLUDING LOGISTICS, ADMINISTRATION, AND DAY TO DAY TASKS THAT THE COURSE REQUIRED. WE INTERACTED WITH THE COURSE MEMBERS EVERYDAY AND, AS A RESULT, BECAME VERY CLOSE WITH MANY OF THEM.

Specific projects/ tasks:

- Attend committee meetings and take notes
- Aid course members in the “processing” procedures
- Conduct research on supplement readings for course members
- Greet and escort ambassadors and high ranking officials during formal college events (ex. The 50th anniversary)
- Complete travel orders and pamphlets for field studies
- Create powerpoints for group exercise presentations
- Construct photo charts
- Organize passport information



SPECIAL PROJECT: NRCC COURSE

“THE ALLIANCE’S MAJOR EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH TO MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE (MD) AND ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE (ICI) COUNTRIES AND PARTNERS FROM THE BROADER REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST”

- I helped facilitate this 10 week course
- 38 course members come from 19 countries (from NATO and the MENA region)
- Lectures everyday that focused on security with emphasis on migration, radicalization, counter-terrorism, politicization of religion etc.
- Field Studies to Tunisia, Brussels and Naples

RELATION TO COURSEWORK

POLS 1160- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This class covers major international topics including alliances such as NATO. Having gone from studying NATO’s role in international security to working there was a major connection. I was also able to see how international theories I’ve studied played out amongst actual diplomats and military officials.

INTL 3400- INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND NEGOTIATION

This class and my co-op focused on security. For example, this class goes into detail on many international conflicts, including Israel-Palestine, which was a major discussion at the NDC. The class also covers counter-terrorism and how to negotiate (if at all) with terrorists which was a major exercise the course members at the NDC worked on and I got to observe.

PROFESSIONAL OUTCOMES

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

I worked with colleagues from Italy and course members from 19 different countries where occasional cultural clashes were present. I also had to work around language barriers and treat every culture I came across with respect. I was able to challenge many worldviews and have very thoughtful discussions with many course members on many topics from gay marriage to migration.

LEARNING TO WORK IN A HIGH SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

Working at the NDC required maturity and attention to detail. The organization works with high security projects and requires employees to be attentive to what they share. I had to make sure my work was being received by only those I intended and that I wasn’t oversharing with friends, family or social media. I also had to maintain a level of maturity as there were many formal events where I had to greet and escort ambassadors and high ranking officials..