

Angela Adduci

**Graduation Year:** Senior

**College:** Arts & Letters

**Major(s):** Political Science & Peace Studies

**Minors(s):** Glynn Family Honors Program

**Scholar Group Membership:** Glynn

**Did you received other funding for this project?:** no

**Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding?** No

**More details on CUSE funding assistance?** This is more thoroughly described in my Eagan Fellows application from this year. I come from a family of 15 and would not have been able to take an unpaid internship in DC for the summer without CUSE's assistance.

**Project Title:** Orphan Demographics & Disabled Children: Inclusiveness in International Law

**Project Location:** Disability Rights International, Washington, DC

**ND Faculty Mentor:** none

**Project Type:** Research, Conference - Attendance, Internship, Eagan Fellowship

**Why did you undertake this project/experience?** Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Research/experience necessary for senior thesis or capstone project, Career discernment and/or preparation

**Did your funded experience help you:**

**[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]:** Yes

**[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]:** Very Much

**[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]:** Yes

**[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]:** Yes

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:**Very Much

**Tell us about your experience.**

This summer, I worked as a research intern with the non-profit Disability Rights International. As part of this internship, I was sent as an NGO delegate to the UN Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This experience in particular allowed me to gain a deeper perspective on how NGOs interact with states with regard to international law and marginalized groups. My work in DC built on this knowledge: I researched and wrote a critique of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. While these Guidelines are incredibly important, they do not include disabled children specifically. Thus, governments often implement the Guidelines for all orphans EXCEPT disabled orphans. This is not only unjust, but ineffective, as disabled individuals are overrepresented in orphanages worldwide. My written critique will be included in an appeal to the UN for the clarification of the existing document. This experience taught me many important things about the interaction between international law and on-the-ground advocacy.

