

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

HARRISON COVINGTON MU '22

What degree(s) and INIA concentration did you pursue at Marquette?

I studied International Relations and Pre-Law with a concentration in Political and Military Relations.

What experiences outside of the classroom (e.g., internships, jobs) led to new skills?

At Marquette, every student studying political science, law, international affairs, or any related major NEEDS to utilize the Les Aspin program. Although some of the internships are not directly applicable to certain interests in international affairs, the experience is super valuable and building your resume is critical in the job search.

What are you doing now? Did you have connections to your current employer already or did you apply to the position through a cold search?

After graduation, I started as a policy analyst for a consulting firm called FiscalNote. I worked primarily with domestic policy, but I was lucky enough to do some global policy research and advisory (which I embellish on in my resume). Currently, I am a Senior Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton. I work as a strategy consultant with the Air Force within their ICBM program.

Unfortunately, I got every job I have ever had (besides Les Aspin) through a cold search and application. HR teams can be challenging to break through, and interviews are exhausting. Good luck!

What transferable skills (hard skills and soft skills) did you develop during your undergrad years at Marquette that are critical and relevant to your work now?

Many of the jobs you will be applying for are focused on research and advisory, probably with a client-facing component. Therefore, writing and public speaking (at least presentation skills in meetings) will be vital in establishing your expertise and trustworthiness as an advisor. Many people call this line of work the "knowledge economy," and expressing your knowledge in an articulate fashion is very important in interviews and day-to-day job requirements.



Any advice for current students or soon-to-be-graduates?

The application and interview process can be brutal and long. You will probably get passed over for a million jobs you don't even want before landing a job you feel satisfied with. However, there is certainly light at the end of the tunnel! Make sure to start as early as possible, stay organized, and apply to as many jobs as you can. Additionally, take every interview! Practice makes perfect.

Also, remember that you are early in your career and don't have to worry about being pigeonholed – likely, you will only stay at your first job for 2 to 3 years. Candidly, I never thought I would want to work in domestic policy. Still, it was one of the best options presented to me, and I am confident the experience will be valuable in eventually pivoting my career solely to international affairs.