



Oftentimes, the biggest place that is overlooked for opportunity is our own area. The Bulletin is beginning to work through a series of interviews with students and alums to highlight how the program has set them up for success, and this week we begin with two students currently interning at NATO's Allied Command Transformation here in Norfolk!

*Practical experience exists right around the corner in Norfolk. As the only place in North America where NATO calls home, Norfolk holds a brilliant opportunity for students to gain practical experience in high-level international organizations just up the road from ODU. GPIS students are in an extremely privileged position, as we're able to study in the in the only NATO-accredited program in close to both NATO Commands in North America.*

*NATO ACT offers internships in a great variety of branches, what allows a competitive student to select the field of work most interesting to them. For instance, Nikita works in the field of strategic planning and implementation with his primary role to support the staff officers working on the Smart Defence program aimed to enhance multinational cooperation in development of defensive capabilities. Monitoring progress of international projects, Nikita communicates with various national and international stakeholders from across the Alliance. Meanwhile, Ian works in strategic plans and policy in support of ACT's resilience program of work, assisting in developing conferences and cultivates interest in ACT programs. In addition to primary field training, ACT allows interns to participate in courses to develop writing, language and presentation skills, and knowledge regarding NATO and other defense processes – all of which is directly complimented by the foundation offered by GPIS. The application process is quite simple, with just a few pieces of general documentation to collect and put into a packet including a statement of intent. Overall, this internship offers a major opportunity for students because it promotes so much professional development and networking opportunities while being one of the few internships that is paid. If you have any questions relating to interning at NATO bodies please reach out to Nikita (nlumio01@odu.edu) or Ian (ibird001@odu.edu).*