

## Case study – Virtual Internship with Silk Road Rising, Chicago, USA

**Julia Hammond, Shakespeare & Theatre Studies Masters Student**



Julia undertook a Literary Liaison Virtual Internship with Silk Road Rising; a Chicago based non-profit theatre and video company. Her main was to promote a key play *Mosque Alert* to theatre companies in the UK, US, and Canada, and to English-speaking theatre companies in continental Europe. *Mosque Alert* explores the intersections of Islamophobia, public policy, and zoning.

### **What are the key skills you've developed from the virtual internship?**

I developed the following skills during the virtual internship:

- Ability to work independently and act on my own initiative, particularly in researching and understanding the script submissions process and identifying and targeting suitable theatre companies and publishers.
- Marketing skills, for example researching author bios and adapting wording to appeal to specific theatre/publishing sectors
- Communication and writing skills – weekly reports and communicating virtually/on-line), writing appealing content within specified word limits, for example, synopsis in 250 words.

### **What did you most enjoy about the virtual internship?**

I enjoyed the cultural exchanges I experienced working with Silk Road and learned a lot about the social and political structures of a large US city (Chicago). My supervisor, Jamil, was a constant source of support and intellectual inspiration. I benefitted from working in a collaborative way and felt that the project was truly a joint venture.

A virtual internship is a great opportunity for students who would find it difficult to do regular days or hours. The ability to fit the hours around my existing commitments was very useful.

### **Has the virtual internship helped with your career path?**

One of the reasons why I applied for this internship was that I had realized I would not be continuing in HE to do a PhD after my Masters, and was looking to develop some new skills for my CV. While working on the internship, a marketing and communications role was advertised where I had been working in a different role part time. I was able to use my internship experience to refresh my CV, and as a talking point in interview. I was successful in securing the position, and am really enjoying my new role.