



2025 JRI Economics Department Internship Testimonial

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Internship period: July 18 – September 5, 2025

- **Why did you apply for this internship?**

As a graduate student who's passionate about data collection and research to improve policy, this internship seemed like a perfect way to better my skills and learn more about the energy industry. With JRI being home to established economists and quality research, I believed that the experience I would gain would be valuable for my future career. Also, I have always wanted to travel to Japan and experience its rich culture.

- **Please describe what you did during the internship, including memorable experiences.**

The most important part of the internship was supporting a research project, which focused on the importance of domestic solar panel manufacturing with regards to economic security. However, there was no shortage of memorable experiences outside of my work: Most notably, JRI was kind enough to give me a tour of Tokyo, which included visiting the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the National Diet, and Tokyo Tower. Additionally, we took a two-day trip to Osaka, where we visited the JRI Osaka office and spent one day at the Osaka Expo. Not only did I learn about the different projects being done by the consulting and research departments, but the Osaka Expo was a great experience that enriched my knowledge about countries from all over the world.

- **Please describe skills and knowledge you gained and challenges you overcame during the internship.**

Supporting the research project allowed me to gain vast knowledge regarding not only the solar industry, but also the different institutions and economic implications that come with it. I learned about policymaking in the US, Australia, EU, and Japan, as well as the importance of energy diversification and global economic relations, which exemplified the interconnection of economic and political systems.

I also advanced my skills in trustworthy data collection and data visualization using Microsoft Excel, which is a valuable part of research. As my final deliverable, I made a PowerPoint presentation about my research findings and presented it to the research department, and this taught me how to overcome public speaking anxieties. Lastly, as someone with little skill in speaking Japanese, I learned that productive and effective work



can still be completed despite the challenge of language barriers.

- **What is your advice for future interns?**

JRI and its employees were welcoming, kind, and respectful in every way. They trusted me to add my own original ideas and strategies to my research. My advice would be simple: Be yourself, work hard every day in the office, and don't be afraid to offer your own perspectives and thoughts. The skills and opportunities that were given to me have been very special, so as long as future interns perform to the best of their abilities, they will experience the same result.