FOREWORD

Judith Goldstein
Founder and Executive Director of Humanity in Action

Humanity in Action works at the international intersection of education and diversity to promote a new generation of global leaders. Through its highly regarded fellowship programs, conferences and expansive global network, HIA encourages university students and young professionals to confront the complex challenges of diversity within the broad context of human rights and promotes the values of civic engagement, individual responsibility and collaborative action. HIA organizes programs in many countries that have tragic histories grounded in racial, religious and ethnic conflicts which have too frequently resulted in mass violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide. The holocaust is the primary historic reference for the programs in Europe as they connect past to present, with the conviction that knowledge leads to action.

This educational focus is critically important today in democratic and pluralistic societies that have to face challenges and seize opportunities of large-scale migrations. Over 18 years, and now with more than 1600 fellows, HIA has inspired action and built a unique and vibrant global network of students, young professionals and experts in diverse fields, committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship — in their own communities and around the world.
Martine Alonso Marquis
Director of the Pat Cox-Humanity in Action Fellowship

Martine Alonso Marquis is the Director of the Pat Cox - Humanity in Action Fellowship, an international relations lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, a career adviser and trainer at Key2Advance as well as a drama student. Her engagement with Humanity in Action goes back to 2003, when she participated in the summer program in Berlin. She was also a Pat Cox fellow herself in 2010, after which she was recruited as foreign policy adviser and chief of staff to a member of the European Parliament. Martine has gained extensive work experience in the field of human rights with Oxfam, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Law Center in Belgrade and Pristina. She also has organised many educational workshops with the South-Eastern initiative of the French-German Youth Office, mostly focused on cross-culturality, human rights and post-conflict reconciliation. Martine studied social sciences in Berlin, conflict studies and international relations in Paris, where she also obtained her PhD in political science.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Each year, Humanity in Action brings together a small group of outstanding international students and young professionals for three-month professional fellowships in Brussels. Participants in this program spend four days a week in the office of a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), a Brussels-based NGO or a political foundation. One day a week they attend a selection of seminars, lectures and site visits to introduce them to a variety of topics concerning contemporary politics in Europe. The program was founded in 2005 and has helped nearly 100 young people gain insights into the workings of the European Union, understand the intricacies of Brussels’ decision-making processes and acquire invaluable work experience.

Pat Cox
Former European Parliament President

Pat Cox was President of the European Parliament from 2002 to 2004. He has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1989, representing the constituency of Munster in the Republic of Ireland. Before entering politics, he worked both as an economics lecturer and as a journalist and TV presenter. In 1998, he was first elected President of the European Liberal Democrat Group. He was unanimously re-elected in June 1999. In 2005, Pat Cox was elected as the new president of the European Movement International.
I was in the office of Mrs. Norica Nicolai, MEP from Romania. Among other responsibilities, she is on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which is my main area of interest. My working tasks included everything from attending meetings, writing drafts, explanation of votes and drafting amendments.
This Fellowship has been a great transition as a recent graduate student. My workplace allowed me to gain insight into future career paths and opportunities. The value of this program has been tremendous, but mostly it was the other HIA fellows that have left a great impact on me. Constantly being surrounded by critical and inspiring people has allowed me to grow and further develop as a person.
I have worked for the office of MEP Mr. Eduard Kukan from the European People’s Party (EPP), the biggest and most influential political group in the Parliament. I worked on a wide variety of issues regarding the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET). The fellowship fulfilled my dream to work on the Western Balkan EU integration process and made me want to stay engaged with this topic for the coming few years. Getting to know the Parliament’s rhythm and procedures, while working under tight deadlines on a wide variety of subjects (from South China Sea to EU-US relations) was an eye-opening experience to the political processes here. I believe the Pat Cox fellowship is designed purposefully for students and young professionals to dip their toes into professional experiences that might shape their future. I am incredibly thankful to HIA and the Office of Mr. Kukan for this opportunity.
Mr. Deva being the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development, most of my work focused on international politics and development issues. I undertook background research, wrote briefings, contributed to press releases, drafted amendments and a resolution, worked on the organization of an international conference and attended a broad range of meetings. Coming back to the professional world after a sabbatical year with my family, the fellowship was the perfect starting point in Brussels. I gained insights into EU politics and the interaction between EU institutions and other actors. The Pat Cox Fellowship pursues HIA’s objectives: it educates the fellows providing better understanding of EU issues and actors, it inspires action to bring the EU closer to the citizens, and it connects HIA young leaders and other leaders committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship.
I worked for Ms. Kati Piri, the rapporteur on Turkey. I prepared briefings about the situation in Turkey and I translated sources of information. The responsibilities that I carried have made me more confident and more capable. In the busy corridors of the European Parliament, a familiar face and a helping hand is truly a blessing. The Pat Cox Fellowship bridges the gap between academics and professionals in the field. Every issue that I was dealing with at the office was contextualized by the conferences and seminars that we attended. Being trusted with organization of events and research builds self-assurance, I am now much more confident about expressing my observations in a professional setting.
During the Pat Cox Fellowship, I worked in MEP Renate Weber’s office on the new policy on the reception of asylum applicants and health and safety at the workplace. Additionally, I conducted interviews with refugees in The Netherlands to present their stories at an event on refugees in Europe, organized by Mrs. Weber. These experiences offered me the opportunity to discover whether international politics and policy making is a field I would want to work in, and to discover how I can contribute. This will guide me in making choices for further studying, and in making career related decisions. That is what makes the Pat Cox Fellowship so valuable: it offers Senior Fellows the chance to experience how the HIA pillars (human rights, diversity and inclusiveness) can be translated into action in the professional world.
My fellowship was with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, a German political foundation. I managed events, carried out research for the managers and helped with other duties as required by the team. I also had the opportunity to join international political, diplomatic and business representatives during high-level meetings. For my career, this meant a deep immersion into the world of the European Union. An incredible chance to learn how European politics really work. The Pat Cox Fellowship is a true professional experience. It opens many doors and perspectives for your future.
During my time as a Pat Cox fellow, I worked at International Partnership for Human Rights, where I assisted Tinatin Tsertsvadze, the international advocacy manager. My experience at IPHR has given me valuable insights into the challenges in advocacy and policy making in general, and those faced by civil society organisations in specific. This will be invaluable in my career later on, as it will help me identify and hopefully solve problems more adequately. Pat Cox is an opportunity for senior fellows to apply and expand on the lessons learnt during the summer fellowship, whilst simultaneously gaining practical experience in a dynamic and challenging environment. I am extremely grateful to both HIA and IPHR for this enriching experience.
I worked at International Partnership for Human Rights, where I researched possibilities to prosecute the war crimes that were committed in Crimea via universal jurisdiction mechanisms in other European countries. I obtained very practical legal experience. I also go to attend many conferences, policy dialogues, and other events, where I met interesting people who told me about their work. I now have a clearer vision of what I would like to do in the future. Furthermore, this was my first full-time job. I learned a lot about my own strengths and weaknesses. Most importantly, I have had an unforgettable experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. HIA needs a human rights dimension. During the Summer program we (solely) focused on social justice. In this fellowship I was able to focus on legal justice.
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Martine Alonso Marquis for organizing this amazing program, bearing with us and helping us become SHARP cookies ;)

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