

## **My Internship at Diversity Role Models**

I started my summertime internship with the lovely team at Diversity Role Models (DRM) in June 2023 as a Fundraising and Communications Intern, working closely with the Head of Relationships and the rest of the leadership team. In the 5 short weeks here, I've gained exposure and insight that I will be applying to any workplace I come across in my future.

I appreciate DRM's approach to my internship. The programme was very well structured and tailored to my interests. I was given the opportunity to learn about the business in its totality. Not being limited to my department allowed me to approach conversations and pitches about DRM with a lot of confidence. Observing their delivery to schools, corporates and volunteers made it easier to understand where DRM's USP would be valued the most and allowed me to think of the multiple ways in which partnerships could be formed. I spent a fair amount of my time engaging with like-minded, inspiring people at networking events, learning about what the corporate world is capable of and how it can intersect with social causes at varying levels, beneficial not only to the LGBTQ+ community but to many other marginalised groups.

I've been able to learn in detail about how the charitable sectors in the UK function and how they are funded along with what sponsorships across businesses could look like. I primarily focused on researching Soho-based and National businesses in the UK that would be in our scope of work, giving me a deep understanding of the LGBTQ+ initiatives taken by small and large businesses and where the gaps may lie in terms of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This process has allowed me to finetune my research skills and develop a deeper understanding of the basic points and factors that are at play when forming partnerships across businesses and charities. It allowed me to critically analyse the mutual potential of partnerships and how marketing and communications play central roles in forming ever-lasting relationships that help DRM continue the impactful work they do across schools in the UK.

Personally, being surrounded by such inspiring LGBTQ+ people was transformative for me and my attitude to my future career. One of the most memorable moments I have from working at DRM was my day at Pride in London, meeting volunteers and celebrating the community with my colleagues in a way I had never experienced before. It was heartwarming to see the support and love.

The entire DRM team has been welcoming and forthcoming in their interactions, creating a very well-balanced and positive work environment. 10/10 would recommend working here.