



Countering Wildlife Trafficking Institute Internship Spotlight Spring 2020



Will Slatin
Washington University of St. Louis

[CWTI](#) began offering student internships in 2018. The goal of our internship program is to harness and apply an intern's individual interest and area of study to a wide array of Countering Wildlife Trafficking issues: biodiversity conservation and social sciences, epidemiology, economics, policy and law, law enforcement and human security issues, and geospatial analytics and AI modeling.

This CWTI Internship Spotlight is awarded to Mr. Will Slatin, a freshman at [Washington University in St. Louis](#) with a focus on environmental analysis and economics.

Will found that the CWTI mission: *to create and sustain a professional CWT body of knowledge through advanced geospatial analysis (GEOINT) and to unify organized partnerships that bridge wildlife conservation research, anti-poaching operations, law enforcement, and strategic intelligence*; fit his interest and decided to become an intern because of his passion for environmentalism and its nexus with economics. For his internship theme, he chose to research the wildlife trafficking supply chain and pursued a project to help disrupt the illicit wildlife trade demand.

Will's initiative is an example of how to harmonize his personal interests with academic coursework and apply it toward his internship experience. Within a few short months Will developed the CWTI Travel Awareness Module, an educational quiz designed to instruct university students about the severity and complexities of Wildlife Trafficking and how to detect and avoid illegal wildlife trade both at home and while traveling abroad.

In concert with his academic mentor, [Dr. Suzanne Loui](#), [Washington University Environmental Studies Program](#), Will worked with the [Washington University Overseas Program](#) and subsequently was approved to publish his module and will become a component of the mandatory, pre-travel courses. Will also received **college credit hours** for his internship project.

Will's educational module is agile and scalable for other schools and Conservation Travel Awareness programs to implement, such as: [Association of Zoos and Aquariums Wildlife Trafficking Alliance](#), [World Wildlife Fund Travel, Tourism, and Conservation Program](#), [Department of State travel advisory website](#), and TRAFFIC/USAID Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species ([ROUTES](#)) program.

[Contact us](#) if you are interested in learning how to adopt Will's travel awareness quiz.

Congratulations Will on your exceptional work and leadership. We are proud to have you and your Washington University affiliation as part of the [CWTI](#) team! We look forward to the great contributions you will make in your bright career ahead of you!

Most sincerely,
Odean Serrano, PhD
Founder, CWT Institute