HSS Scholar

Maddy Middleton

**MAJORS: URBAN STUDIES AND FINANCE**

**MINOR: ECONOMICS**

**Educational Highlights:** I have balanced two very different course loads as I have navigated through the School of Business with finance and economics courses as well as the interdisciplinary track of urban studies through the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Having extensive experience in both has strengthened my analytical and research skills in such a way that I am able to take a situation or problem and look at it from many different perspectives like sociological, geographical, historical, political, and business/economic. I completed an internship abroad in London with an insurance underwriting firm, in which I analyzed risks from many angles. I also completed a participant ethnography for my urban sociology class where I volunteered at the Ansonborough House in Charleston. My time there, along with extensive research, helped me to explore and understand the sociological phenomenon known as the Helper’s High and the Frustration Factor, two important principals for all non-profits to understand and prepare for. Most recently, I completed my urban studies practicum with the City of Charleston’s Parks and Recreation. I worked with a non-profit program whose purpose was to spread the game of tennis to all the schools in the lowcountry.

**Research Focus or Project:** My research is on the effects of Brexit on stakeholders. Specifically, I examined how share prices of companies who have announced plans to reduce the effect of Brexit differ from companies who have not shared any news. Although it is focused mostly on finance, my empirical results show that political events like Brexit have grand, and lasting, impact on financial markets, as well as, macroeconomic variables and geo-political decisions.

**Future Plans:** I plan on working for the FDIC as a Financial Institution Specialist. I will be based in Charlotte, NC, and will spend 3+ years learning and mastering the skills of Bank Analysis before testing for my Commissioner’s License. This job is the perfect marriage of urban studies and finance, as I will working with numbers, while also helping everyday citizens to guarantee that the place they choose to keep their money is there for them when times are hard.

*This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, interim dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Urban Studies Program at the College of Charleston, at the end of the spring 2020 semester.*