

CQ Boston
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My name is Isabella Joseph and I am rising senior in the GW School of Business studying business administration, finance and minoring in Spanish language studies.

I was really passionate about attending a Career Quest trip at some point throughout my academic career at GW. I loved the idea of not only advancing my career efforts but also meeting new students in the same position as myself at GW while getting to explore a new city in a professional sense. I applied to take part in CQ Boston specifically because of the resources, educational opportunities and vast corporate positions I knew would be available in Boston. After all, Boston is home to multiple accredited universities, research institutes, public sector offices and healthcare organizations.

We began our trip to Boston on Sunday night when a group of students on the trip and myself made our way through the streets of Boston's Little Italy located in the North End. There we gorged on lobster rolls, ice cream and spoke lightly about our individual career goals and GW experiences. It was clear that I had never been in a situation amongst such a diverse group of students. Students on the CQ were interested in fields ranging from engineering to medicine to urban planning. Not one of us had the same major or same "dream job" in mind. This not only allowed me the opportunity to hear about the other academic departments at GW but also broadened my horizon to understand what other young professionals' paths look like.

We began our trip on Monday visiting 3 vastly different companies: Raytheon, Google and The Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute. On Tuesday we made our way to 3 more companies: Skyword, Wellington Management and the Office of New Urban Mechanics at the Boston Mayor's Office. Each company had prepared differently for our visit. Some were tailored their presentations and panels directly to our resumes and interests while others were more generic and offered a picture of the company overall.

What surprised me the most was the network of GW alumni that lived and worked in Boston. At almost all of these company visits GW alumni would either be present for a question panel or lead tours of each campus. The alumni were not only passionate about the chance to meet us but were also willing to offer real advice as young professionals in Boston. Some alumni chose to focus their conversation on the comparison between life in DC to life in Boston while others chose to speak about their degrees and specific job duties. As a soon-to-be-graduating senior at GW all of this advice and feedback was extremely valuable as I look to making the next move in my academic and professional career.

I only have 9 months left at GW until I graduate. I am starting to feel the pressure to find a job or make *real* decisions about my life after school. CQ Boston allowed me the chance to take a step back and hear from GW alumni that were in my exact position in order to make more informed and educated decisions about my own future. I feel more at ease knowing the amount of vast opportunities that are available in cities like Boston and DC, especially after seeing just how passionate our alumni are about helping students like myself progress their careers.

Thank you to the GW Career Center and GWU itself for this great opportunity! I look forward to exploring other networking events in the future while I continue my journey to graduation. I encourage people to apply to any CQ of interest to them- you never know who you will meet or what you will learn!