

Jacob Leppek

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Education

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI Expected May 2017
Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, Economics, & Arabic with Political Economy
With Honors, James Madison College and Honors College

Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education AY 2015, Summer 2016, AY 2016

- Awarded to high-achieving students for advanced Asian language and culture studies.

Econ Scholars Program, MSU Department of Economics 2015 - Present

- An initiative for the top 5% of accomplished undergraduate economics students.

MSU Koch Scholar, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation 2016-2017

Independent Study, James Madison College, focusing on financing and legitimacy of non-state actors. Spring 2016

Senior Honors Thesis, James Madison College, *The Political Nature of Iraqi Media Organizations*, supervised by Professor Martha Brill Olcott 2016-2017

- **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**, U.S. Department of State Summer 2016
 - **Dean's List**, Michigan State University, James Madison College 2015, 2016, 2017
 - **Jeffery Cole Excellence Award** 2016
 - **Ford Motor Company/MSU Alumni Scholarship** 2015
 - **Cole International Study Award** 2015
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Professional Experience

Social Media Manager & Research Assistant January 2016 - Present
MSU University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI)

- Managed social media presence and public relations for over 2,000 Network members through e-mail, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and other formats. Additionally, I created accessible online content for public access.
- Edited, formatted, and reviewed research proposals and feasibility studies describing models, practices, and strategies meant to build economically vibrant communities.

Community Engagement Scholar (MSU) October 2016 – May 2017
MSU & Midtown Detroit Inc.

- Created informational handouts and other resources for residents regarding housing opportunities to aid residents as part of the non-profit Stay Midtown initiative.
- Researched, assessed, and recorded housing stock in edge neighborhoods of Midtown, Detroit.

Research Aide May 2016 - Present
Office of International Research Collaboration (MSU)

- Researched online sources including public and private databases for available and applicable grants.
- Curated and assembled weekly newsletter of international grant opportunities for 300+ MSU faculty.

Front Desk Receptionist April 2015 - June 2016
Office of International Students and Scholars (MSU)

- Acted as point of communication for over 7,000 international students.
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Leadership & Activities

- **MSU Student Economics Association**, Vice President of Programming May 2016 - May 2017
 - **Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SWAG)**, Volunteer Grant Writer Dec. 2016 - Mar. 2017
 - **Spartan Global Development Fund**, Member 2016
 - **Spartans Rebuilding Michigan**, Volunteer 2015, 2016
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Languages & Programming

- Limited Working proficiency in Arabic (MSA/Levantine) (6 months studying abroad in Amman, Jordan); working knowledge of *Python*, *SQL* & *Stata*; extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office.