

Maria B. Ziaja

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EDUCATION

- Vassar College**, Poughkeepsie, NY May 2022
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Russian Studies (double major)
GPA: 3.80 / 4.00
Thesis (with distinction): The Soul of a Nation: Russia's Omnipresent Forests
- The Vassar Russia Program**, St. Petersburg, Russia Spring 2022
Awarded State Department's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

EXPERIENCE

- Tesla Gigafactory 2, Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Intern, Buffalo, NY** June 2021-August 2021
- Developed written programs in preparation for site-wide audits
 - Conducted research and inspections to ensure that factory was compliant with safety codes and environmental standards
 - Presented on local environmental issues at monthly EHS Committee meetings
 - Assisted with reporting safety and environmental incidents, as well as developing measures to ensure similar incidents would not occur in the future
- Sustainability Office, Intern, Vassar College** September 2018-Present
- Worked with Facilities Operations to rewrite Green Building Code (a set of guidelines and standards for sustainable development on campus)
 - Helped develop the Vassar 2020 Climate Action Plan, a comprehensive policy to improve campus sustainability
 - Produced and distributed zines and brochures informing students of green resources and opportunities on campus
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Intern, Buffalo, NY** June 2020-August 2020
- Researched legislation related to conservation of Lake Erie
 - Produced reports summarizing harmful algal bloom policy and prevention
 - Assisted with hands-on shoreline habitat restoration and site maintenance
 - Engaged in community outreach and video production regarding local waterways
- Colligan Law, LLP, Intern, Buffalo, NY** June 2019-August 2019
- Shadowed lawyers at Colligan Law, LLP
 - Assisted with administrative and paralegal duties
 - Managed social media accounts
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Intern, Buffalo, NY** May 2018-June 2018
- Shadowed DEC regional attorney Maureen Brady
 - Organized and updated volumes of NYS environmental regulations
 - Assisted in conducting research for workshop on environmental management and education strategies that was to be attended by attorneys at DEC

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Vassar Underground: Human Trafficking Awareness Organization**, Treasurer Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Democracy Matters, Member, Vassar College Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Vassar Aikido Club, Member Fall 2021
Say Yes Buffalo, Student Ambassador Fall 2020-Spring 2021
Vassar Equestrian Team, Member Fall 2019-Spring 2020

SKILLS

- Language:** Translational fluency in Russian and conversational Polish
Certifications: OSHA 10 General Industry
Technical: Gensuite, Microsoft Office, Google Suite