



After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Genetics from University College Cork, county Kerry native Shauna Corcoran was determined to begin her career as a woman in science. Upon graduation, many of Shauna's friends were applying to Master's programs, but Shauna felt she would gain more from hands-on experience working in the industry. Like many young Irish people, Shauna longed to work in the U.S through the J-1 visa program. Shauna expressed that with this visa, it would give her "something different, and exciting... something outside of my comfort zone."

Given the influence of world-renowned universities including Harvard and MIT in the science industry, specifically biology and genetics, Shauna was drawn to the historic city of Boston as the launching point for her career. "The abundance of brilliant scientists here have driven science to new heights." Shauna's dream for her year in Boston was to work alongside brilliant science minds, as she "wanted to be influenced and surrounded by these people and just hope to take in as much as possible along the way".

Like many of the young Irish Exchange Visitors that come over on the visa, the internship search was initially harder than Shauna anticipated. However, the trials and tribulations did not sway Shauna, instead they propelled her forward. Shauna said that "with hard work and a bit of patience, [opportunities] began to appear." Shauna's internship search was successful in large part due to her networking abilities, and her dedication to establishing her career in biological science. Shauna said, "I have always been passionate about supporting women in science, so I joined an organization called Women Accelerators, which empowers women in business and science." This organization helped shape Shauna's experience; she not only had the ability to network and meet influential people, but also to volunteer as an event coordinator, allowing her "to gain even more than just work experience."

What's next for Shauna? For now, Shauna wants to absorb as much knowledge as she can from her biology internship and lab experience, and develop further confidence in her new skill set. Shauna speaks highly of her internship experience, and stated "my experience here has attracted me to areas I would never have considered before." From arriving in Boston, to gaining a role as a Research Intern at a drugs discovery start up, testing therapeutic hypotheses for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, Shauna has forged her own path. As a recent graduate, she is well on her way to launching her career as a woman in science, in no small part due to the unique opportunities afforded by the J-1 visa.