

My name is Seher Arora, and I am a junior at Boston University majoring in International Relations with a minor in Public Policy. Over two months, I interned as a Resettlement Intern at the International Institute of New England (IINE), a refugee resettlement agency. I worked with a team of other bright and passionate college students on day-to-day office tasks, projects, and directly supporting incoming immigrants and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders.

Some of my office responsibilities included learning, understanding, and ensuring that clients were up to date with the services they were entitled to upon arrival in the United States, depending on their immigration status and income. This included making sure their healthcare, insurance, food assistance programs, and other basic needs—such as transportation and childcare—were properly arranged. Through this process, we became familiar with the vast and intricate resource pool available and the legal entitlements of these individuals.

The main project I spearheaded was a series of community-oriented programs, such as the Women's Safety and Health Speaker Series for both Spanish- and Dari-speaking women. These sessions addressed critical issues including domestic violence, available resources, reproductive health education, and featured trained professional guest speakers. These were group events conducted bilingually, and I produced outreach materials in English, Dari, and Spanish to promote them. This experience deepened my motivation for social impact, community engagement, and cross-cultural communication.

In addition, I taught one-on-one English classes to a few of the immigrants, which gave me the opportunity to build meaningful personal relationships and better understand clients' stories and challenges.

I am incredibly grateful for this internship, the learning experiences I gained, and the opportunity to work with such a passionate team of colleagues and supervisors from whom I learned so much. This experience has shifted my perspective on refugee resettlement, strengthened my interest in refugee law and migration studies, and reaffirmed my commitment to working on issues at the intersection of race and migration. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Corgan Internship Fund for making this enriching summer possible.