

Carls Help Carls eNewsletter

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Hannah Lucal '12: Advocating for Women's Health

A liberal arts education often brings together seemingly disconnected subjects in unexpected ways. Perhaps that explains how Hannah Lucal '12, a Studio Art major, received a language-study scholarship to work for an international reproductive-health initiative based in Belgium.

Lucal helps connect the dots for us: "My senior comps project in photography focused on public health and women's health," she says, "and I'd previously studied French on a Carleton program in Mali. That's where I first became exposed to the issue of female genital cutting. So this internship with The International Center for Reproductive Health seemed like an excellent next step for me to continue developing my interest in these issues."

Lucal joined an ICRH project devoted to the study and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, primarily in French-speaking African countries, and in Europe among immigrant communities from those countries. Her language skills were put to the test as she reviewed scholarly literature and policies written in French.

"I transcribed interviews and researched articles on topics such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and honor-related violence," Lucal says. "The ability to speak French gave me a unique opportunity to connect and learn from an incredible team dedicated to creating better reproductive health options around the world."

After Carleton, Lucal hopes to continue working and living abroad, learning more about international issues of public health.

"Through this internship in Belgium," Lucal says, "I saw that there is an amazing community of local experts collaborating across borders—groups all over the world, working on the same issues. It's not defined by national boundaries."

"My summer internship really put it all in perspective for me."

Hannah Lucal's internship was funded by the Richard T. Newman Family Fund for Language Study Internships.

