

Laura Bach, AB 2010

Senior Research Assistant at the Center for Tobacco Policy Research

Current job description

Ms. Bach works as a senior research assistant at the Center for Tobacco Policy Research (CTPR) on Washington University's North Campus.

Career arc

As an undergraduate, Ms. Bach received anthropology credit for an internship at the Komen Foundation, she interned for the FDA, and she also worked for a contact at the Cook County Hospital system in the Chicago area.

The relevance of anthropology

Ms. Bach notes that high-quality writing is very important in most job fields, including hers, and the anthropology department does a lot to provide that skill to students. She also got qualitative analysis and interviewing experience from her senior thesis, which she uses regularly at the CTPR.

Marketing anthropology

She hasn't really found the need to explain her anthropology major as of yet, as the Brown School in general has good experience with anthropology undergraduates.

Advice to undergrads, new grads

Ms. Bach highly recommends pursuing work before getting an MPH, as many programs will require one or two years of prior working experience. She also wishes that she could have had more quantitative experience from undergrad; SPSS (statistics software) and GIS (mapping) are relevant throughout anthropology, especially in public health and archaeology. Finally, she recommends keeping in touch with professors so that you can have strong graduate school recommendations from professors in the future.