

Upon arriving in Scotland, I was immersed in a beautiful world so different from the one I was used to in the United States. From the stunning architecture, to the gentle accents, and genuinely wonderful people, I quickly fell deeply in love with this charming country.

The incredible team at Housing Options Scotland instantly welcomed me as if I was family, and introduced me to a culture so unlike my own, filled with immaculate castles, colorful tartans, haggis, and the poshest of afternoon teas. During my internship, I was fortunate to accompany the team in embarking on its first countrywide tour to both locate need and provide housing information to individuals in rural areas. Through the course of the tour, we traveled from the mountainous highlands, to the depths of the boarders, all of which allowed me to see the true diversity of this country. This also enabled me to observe the abundance of parallels Scotland shared with my own home state of Oregon. From the rugged mountains, lush forests, and deep blue seas, to the constant rainfall. Many of the sights felt very familiar to me.

My time in Scotland is an experience I will never forget. It greatly inspired the next chapter in my life, as well, to pursue my master's degree in social work. I currently work at an incredible program which provides intensive support to children living with chronic/complex medical conditions, who also experience various social vulnerabilities. I am deeply passionate and inspired everyday by the work I do and by those I am fortunate enough to work alongside. This is the same passion I witnessed from each member of the HOS team, and I knew that was something I wanted to feel one day in my own career.

I am deeply grateful for the time I was able to spend with HOS and all the wonderful friends I met along the way. My experience truly helped shape me into the person I am today and influenced where I am going in my future. I highly recommend this internship placement to anyone looking for an enriching experience that will forever change their lives for the better.

Brandi, Oregon State University