



JAMES WEBER works as an advisor for firms and governments through a small private Limited Liability Company in the international development sphere. He graduated from Cal Poly in 2005 with a degree in Political Science.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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Though James began his college career as a Natural Resource major, his interest in international affairs, economics, and the environment kept him engrossed in political science. In addition to political science, James kept his General Education courses centered around those that challenged him, such as business law, economics, and entrepreneurship. After graduating from Cal Poly, James attended graduate school at Notre Dame from 2008 to 2010 to earn an MBA. Not wanting to stop at an MBA, James has now decided to add another degree and will accomplish this at the University of Cambridge's International Relations program.

Currently, James works as an advisor for firms and governments through a small private Limited Liability Company (LLC) in the international development sphere. In February, James's latest project brought him to the Equatorial Guinea where he worked to analyze the economic landscape on the Bioko Island with the goal of recommending economic policy initiatives for the area. The project was successful and gave James and his team the opportunity to advise the Minister of Agriculture of their economic diversification strategy. In terms of accomplishments, James is proud of the research he has done. In 2012, James developed a strategy for the United Nations, which was presented at Davos and became a central part of current UN mainstream humanitarian strategy. This strategy will influence the World

Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in July 2016. For James, participating in a project that began before 2012 and is continuing to have an impact four years later illustrates that the hard work a person places in their research now will have a lasting impact.

For students who have an interest in working in the realm of international development, James has a few pieces of advice. First, it is important to consider the career path. This line of work has been very rewarding and has provided James with numerous opportunities to see the world. However, a career such as this does come with the internationality aspect. Jobs in international development are found in either Washington, D.C. or abroad. Moreover, in order to embark on a career in international development, it is important to find a niche within the career that draws passion. Outside of school, do something of interest – start a club, study abroad, or participate in ASI. To all Cal Poly Students who are graduating and might be unsure of what direction to head in, take challenges as they come, learn how to speak publicly, seek out mentors, and push yourself to grow.