



## Meet Joanna Miller, an International Human Rights major who is enthusiastic about children's rights and non-profit work.

**Tell us a bit about yourself:** I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and received my B.A. in History and Sociology from the University of New Mexico. My first experiences with human rights were on the legal side, investigating discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and advocating for migrant workers' rights. I was working in education and outreach at a government human rights office when I realized that if I wanted to move up in my field, I would need a Master's degree.

**What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?** It was a combination of Denver, the location and the opportunities here with the non-profit community—in addition to the reputation of the school. I actually first heard about the Josef Korbel School through its [Human Trafficking Clinic](#). I was working with domestic workers, and I didn't really know what that entailed, so I researched human trafficking and came across the clinic. I then became an associate at the clinic, researching child trafficking in Haiti. I am now working on my project independently, which is essentially about child domestic slavery and child domestic labor in general, and how that might create vulnerabilities to other abuses.

**How are you involved with Denver's non-profit community?** I am mostly interested in children's rights and advocating for education through small non-profit work in outreach and communication. I have two internships this term, working with [Starfish One-By-One](#) and the [Lambi Fund of Haiti](#). I was doing language training in Guatemala over the summer when I learnt about Starfish One-By-One's efforts to educate and mentor young Mayan women. I had also been to Haiti, where I volunteered in a child relief home that helped deter children from running away, so I wanted to continue doing outreach through the Lambi Fund.

**Between internships, work study jobs, classes and homework, how do you stay sane?** I am passionate about both my internships, but I have definitely learned to prioritize; it's all about time management. I try to reserve an entire day for working on Lambi Fund stuff and an entire day for working on Starfish things. My planner is my best friend. You would go crazy if you never went out though, so I go to student events and potlucks as well. It's not as much as I would like, but I have taken advantage of the city.

**What advice do you have for incoming students?** Be willing to take a class outside your comfort zone and explore new topics. I am passionate about contemporary slavery, so Professor [Claude d'Estrée's](#) class on the subject was really influential, as was the skills-based course International Project Analysis, taught by [Professor Tom Laetz](#). But I also loved my microfinance class though, which was something completely out of my comfort zone, and I think all students should

take a class like that; an elective can really make a huge difference. And get involved; there are so many events going on here that can really enhance the experience—it shouldn't just be class, go home, study.

**What was your favorite toy as a child?** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—all four of them! I stole them from my brother, and used to paddle them about in a tub of water.

Check out [Joanna's blog](#)

Learn more about the [M.A. in Human Rights](#).

- - Nirvana Bhatia, Master's candidate International Human Rights  
Josef Korbel School of International Studies