

2025–2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECIPIENT



Aarushi Garg

Aarushi Garg is an International Relations and Global Studies and Plan II Honors student at The University of Texas at Austin, entering her senior year.

Aarushi interned with the Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, where she produced research and written analysis on state-backed cyber activity, critical infrastructure security, and emerging technologies, including quantum computing. She published six pieces, including a co-authored article with RADM (Ret.) Mark Montgomery on cyber strategy, information sharing, and technological competition, as well as public comments submitted to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Department of Health and Human Services on cyber insurance policy and health care cybersecurity resilience. She also contributed to the center's weekly Cyber Briefing.

Because most of Aarushi's academic background has focused on governance and public policy rather than technical cybersecurity, the internship helped her build technical knowledge while applying the analytical and writing skills from her liberal arts training. Working on the Treasury comment alongside a colleague who had served in the White House Office of the National Cyber Director also gave her a clearer view of how cyber policy is made at the federal level. She begins her senior year planning to pursue a career in cyber policy and national security.