

Theodore Green '21

Research at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in
Leipzig, Germany
Summer 2018

On my off term in 18X, I went to the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany with two other Dartmouth students. I worked in Dr. Janet Kelso's bioinformatics group on a project about recombination motifs in the DNA of early hominids, which involved modeling and statistical analysis to find trends in recombination pairs across many genomes and predict pairs where data was missing. I was able to draw on previous experience with cryptography while combing through datasets to find clues about the evolutionary history of humans and how genetic markers have changed over time. I also got a lot of practical experience with coding, which I had not done much of before. The opportunity to explore this intersection of biology, math, and anthropology while living abroad with other Dartmouth students was an invaluable educational experience that would not have been possible without the Byrne Scholars Program. I was immersed in a field I had not studied before, learned practical skills that will be of use in future projects, and made connections with students and researchers. I am very grateful to the Byrne Program for allowing me to take advantage of this opportunity, and I look forward to putting what I learned to use in future projects.