

Leila Aval, 2nd Year Medicine student

The Charity:

[The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative](#) is a non-profit initiative that works with Ministries of Health in sub-Saharan African countries and Yemen. It supports and evaluates treatment programmes against Schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

The Project:

The project involved compiling lists of old and new potential donors mainly in the US and UK. Writing contact reports on these prospects which my supervisor will use to contact to increase SCI's donor base and hopefully get more grants.

My time spent at SCI has taught me a lot about working completely independently. I enjoyed having the freedom to go off on tangents and explore my own ideas. Over the 4 weeks I managed to narrow down a list of 300+ to around 30, with detailed information on their financials, contact details and grant application process. This will hopefully be a lot more manageable for my supervisor and the maximum amount of funds will be made for SCI. With every pound helping treat three children, I believe that any sized grant made to us will be making an impact.

I can also now confidently say that I have learnt a lot about the intrinsic running of a charity, myself and that I want to come back to SCI. Most importantly, I have left the internship with a fair few more friends who I am keen to stay in touch with, and even work with in the future!



Highlights:

- Having the support of my supervisor to develop my own ideas, as well as her approval, has been the highlight as it has given me more confidence and independence to grow.
- Working alongside a multidisciplinary team who were all just as passionate about one main goal, and were willing to share all their stories and experience with me
- Charity jobs can be highly rewarding. With opportunities to give back to a community, or to contribute to a broader national and international charity effort, charity work can represent challenging but beneficial employment.

