

Jordan L. Wolken

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Summary

Mission-driven and open-minded with a passion for social entrepreneurship and impact investing in Africa and other emerging markets. Proven leader with strong communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Extensive global experience studying and working overseas, including in the EMEA region. Diverse work experience from both the public and private sectors spanning non-profits, consulting, tech, venture capital, and government. Core capabilities include impact measurement, business and impact due diligence, qualitative/quantitative research, report writing, project management, communications, and non-profit fundraising.

Professional Experience

Roots of Impact (emerging markets impact investment firm)

Berlin, Germany

Associate, Impact Intelligence & Education

August 2022 – Present

- Conduct impact and commercial due diligence on impact startups, structure Impact-Linked Finance transactions, and manage the contract, impact verification and funding disbursement process for startups in the Biniyog Briddhi program in Bangladesh – a \$14 million public-private development partnership between Roots of Impact, SDC, and LightCastle Partners.
- Manage the Biniyog Briddhi program budget and bi-annual reporting procedure to SDC on program achievements.
- Coordinate with external funders to provide hands-on technical assistance to impact startups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America on the topics of impact measurement and investment readiness through the Social Finance Academy platform.
- Manage the Roots of Impact research agenda by designing and delivering on strategies to mainstream impact evaluation and developing partnerships with research institutions to generate knowledge on Roots of Impact's engagements.

EcoVadis (tech company providing ESG/sustainability ratings for global supply chains)

Paris, France

Project Consultant

Jan 2022 – April 2022

- Interned 2 days per week with the Customer Success team to provide recommendations for redesigning their customer portal. Consulting process involved interviewing key stakeholders, conducting a benchmark analysis, and defining metrics.

Sherpa Ventures (African tech pre-seed venture capital firm)

Nairobi, Kenya (remote)

Venture Associate Fellow

April 2021 – January 2022

- Led the research and insights function by executing research on industry trends via data analysis and interviews with operators and investors in the African startup ecosystem. Conducted due diligence on 10+ startup applicants to the Sherpa Basecamp Fund. Published 4 content pieces for public audiences. Managed social media marketing for LinkedIn and Twitter accounts.

Atlantic Council (DC-based foreign affairs think tank)

Washington, D.C. (remote)

Africa Center Fall Intern

September 2020 – December 2020

- Provided event support for the Investing in Africa's Future Conference (October 2020), a jointly hosted event with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation that drew over 40,000 virtual attendees. Wrote speaker bios, event memos, and closing remarks for Atlantic Council executive leadership.
- Published a blog post, "Startup Acts are the Next Form of Policy Innovation in Africa" that was tweeted by the Atlantic Council twitter account (138k+ followers) and the African Business Angel Network (16k+ followers).

APCO Worldwide (global public affairs and strategic communications consultancy)

Tel Aviv, Israel

Strategy Consulting Intern

June 2019 – August 2019

- Assisted 11 different multinational clients by drafting research briefs on the Israeli and U.S. political landscapes, monitoring social media discussions using APCO digital tools, and strategizing how clients can tailor messaging to address key stakeholders.

Marula Proteen (Ugandan-based sustainable agriculture startup)

Paris, France

Economic Development Intern

February 2019 – May 2019

- Co-developed Proteen's first business plan by assisting with quantitative and qualitative research, writing, and editing. Helped lead impact reporting process and pitched Proteen to 100+ European investors at the 2019 HEC Seed Summit at Station F.

Volunteer and Leadership Experience

Bridges for Enterprise (volunteer-led UK charity accelerating underserved social enterprises)

London, UK (remote)

Global President & Trustee

July 2020 – Present

- Promoted by the Bridges for Enterprise (BfE) Founder to be non-profit's first Global President (CEO equivalent). Responsibilities include leading 250+ person organization by setting strategic priorities to expand global operations, recruit and liaise with advisory board members, seek partnerships, write monthly internal newsletters, and represent BfE at external events.
- Drove digital transformation by recruiting and ideating with a tech lead to build software solutions that automate select operations. Managed global expansion by launching new university chapters in Vancouver and New Delhi. Grew global management team from 10 members to 45 members through internal promotion and external recruitment. Led 2 summer internship programs (2020, 2021) to provide meaningful experiences for 11 students and long-term benefits to BfE.
- Created first comprehensive organizational strategy, including a 125-page 3-year vision slide deck outlining mission and vision, organization chart, and long-term priorities. Led rebranding process by working with interns to design a new logo, color scheme, and fonts. Initiated a new website launch (March 2021) by writing text and designing UI/UX mockups for subpages.
- Facilitated workshop sessions with diverse stakeholders to build first-ever Theory of Change (ToC) diagram. Built a UN SDG-aligned impact framework with 50+ metrics measuring outputs, outcomes, and long-term impact of organizational programs. Successfully obtained UK charity status by collecting impact testimonials, case studies, and aggregating feedback surveys.
- Collaborated with management team to redefine startup recruitment criteria for Incubation Programme along 6 key pillars. Forged partnerships with 3 organizations to provide pro bono services to participating startups in Incubation Programme.

Founder & President, New York Chapter

February 2017 – May 2020

- Founded the BfE New York Chapter (first expansion outside Europe). Grew the Chapter from 2 to 45 students working in various roles across 6 client and non-client-facing teams. Successfully trained new leadership team to take over upon graduation.
- Led 3-4 month virtual consulting engagements for a solar energy startup in Zimbabwe, education startup in Rwanda, and organic agriculture/solar energy startup in Uganda. Team efforts resulted in \$100,000+ in collective post-engagement funding.

Amenuveve (community-led non-profit in rural Ghana)

Woadze Tsatoe, Ghana (remote)

Advisory Board Member

July 2020 – Present

Teacher's Assistant for NYU Stern SEG: Social Entrepreneurship in Ghana Course

January 2020 – May 2020

Fall Intern

August 2018 – December 2018

- Advised Amenuveve in scaling 5 new enterprises by providing business development and consulting services over sustained involvement since participating in the NYU Stern SEG: Social Entrepreneurship in Ghana Course in 2017. Highlights include collaborating with female artisans to conduct market research and develop a new product portfolio for batik textile business, and organizing budgeting and bookkeeping training modules for community members.
- While Ghanaian schools were shut during COVID, co-developed a virtual English reading program for K-12 students that was awarded the Innovation of the Year award by the NYU Alumni Association. Built methodology to measure program's impact.
- Raised over \$5,000 by winning grants and courting individual donors to support community scholarship program, ensuring that all junior and senior high school students had the necessary funds to attend school for 2 consecutive years.

Education

HEC Paris

Jouy-en-Josas, France

Master's in Sustainability and Social Innovation (SASI); Certificate in Inclusive and Social Business

August 2021 – July 2022

GPA: 3.94/4.0 | **SASI Program:** 68 students representing 24 nationalities

Master's Thesis: Understanding the Utility of Impact Measurement for African Startups

Honors: HEC Foundation Merit Scholarship

Relevant Coursework: Strategy & Sustainability; Social Impact Measurement; Impact Investing; Research Methodologies

New York University, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

New York, NY

Bachelor's in Business & Political Economy (BPE); Minors in Social Entrepreneurship and Peace and Conflict Studies

August 2016 – May 2020

GPA: 3.62/4.0 | **BPE Program:** 50 students; internationally diverse; 4% acceptance rate

Bachelor's Thesis: Agricultural Development in Post-Conflict Northern Uganda

Honors: 2020 NYU Stern Dean Blount Social Impact Award (Stern's highest service honor given to two seniors for outstanding leadership and dedication to social impact); 2019-2020 NYU Stern Dean's List

Relevant Coursework: Business & Government; International Economics; Sustainable Urban Development; World Politics

Overseas Exchanges: NYU London (Fall 2017), NYU Shanghai (Spring 2018), HEC Paris Startup Launchpad (Spring 2019)

Additional Information

- Cultural adaptation demonstrated through five study abroad experiences and 40 countries visited while at NYU and HEC Paris.
- **African Startup Ecosystem:** Dream VC Launch Into VC Fellow; A&A Collective Member; Africa's Business Heroes Judge.
- **Languages & Technical Skills:** French (B1 intermediate proficiency); Microsoft Office Suite; R; Python; Canva.
- **Interests:** Travel photography, documentary film, distance running, Afrobeats music, Chicago Bulls basketball.