**Meeting locals to better understand economic challenges of developing nations.
Patrick Kapche, MBA 2018, Travels the World as a University of Washington Bonderman Fellow**

*Where would you go if you had eight months to travel solo? Which continents would you visit? Which countries? What experiences would you seek? How would you expect to change?*

Foster graduate, Patrick Kapche (Evening MBA 2018), was one of seven UW graduate students selected as part of a [University of Washington Bonderman Fellowship](https://bonderman.uw.edu/graduate-fellow-profiles/) to answer these questions while exploring the developing world.

The Bonderman Fellowship offers University of Washington students at the graduate, professional, and undergraduate levels the opportunity to engage in independent exploration and to travel abroad. Administered by the University Honors Program and the Graduate School, the Bonderman Fellowship enables students to undertake independent international travel in developing nations.

Since January, Patrick has been traveling across the South American continent, including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. Documenting his experiences along the way, Patrick is looking to better understand globalization’s impact on less industrialized parts of the world. He is interviewing locals and comparing the similarities and differences in local economies and markets, as well as applied local solutions. Early into his travels, he [interviewed a specialty coffee roaster in Buenos Aires](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/home/2019/3/2/specialty-coffee-roastery-in-buenos-aires-navigates-argentine-business-environment) and also spoke with locals about the [US currency role in Argentina](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/home/2019/4/16/chasing-the-almighty-us-dollar-in-argentina). He later [hiked across](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/home/2019/3/9/hiking-from-argentina-to-chile-2-boats-2-busses-20-kilometers-and-20-kilograms) the border to Chile while exploring remote communities, [and helped locals with cleanup efforts after a house fire](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/home/2019/3/17/tortel-the-wooden-town-in-chile-and-volunteer-cleanup-after-a-fire). Most recently, Patrick was in [Peru learning more about the alpaca wool industry](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/home/2019/5/12/a-visit-to-mundo-alpaca-in-arequipa-peru).

Patrick will soon be traveling to Vietnam, Cambodia, and India before returning home to Seattle in Fall 2019. While in Asia, he plans to continue to engage with the local communities, examining how different economies respond to the challenges of globalization and other economic matters.

You can follow Patrick and his global adventures in his blog, [People, Places and Thoughts.](https://peopleplacesandthoughts.com/)

*Patrick Kapche has worked in different finance, accounting, and global business roles during his career. While in the Foster School of Business Evening MBA program, he was a board member of the Foster Global Business Association. Patrick plans to apply his international experience from the Bonderman Fellowship in his future career endeavors.*