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Terra Alpha Intern Profile



Khushi Bora

Khushi is from Edison, New Jersey. She is a third year at the University of Chicago studying Economics and Anthropology. In her free time, she works as a barista at a student-run coffee shop on campus, backpacks across national parks, and runs. This summer, Khushi's research focused on the Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods and Automotive Retail sectors, evaluating companies through both a financial and environmental productivity lens. She produced and presented detailed research reports and financial models analyzing a company aligned with Terra Alpha's investment strategy.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
Terra Alpha showed me how multi-faceted sustainable investing can be. No two companies approach sustainability the same way, and the benchmarks that are material for each industry can look completely different from one industry to the next. For example, you can't evaluate an automotive retailer and a luxury brand with the same lens, because what counts as meaningful progress for one may be irrelevant to the other. I learned to start by understanding what sustainability actually means within a given industry before judging how a specific company measures up.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
The time the team invests in its interns is phenomenal. From day one, interns take on the same responsibilities as analysts, so you're contributing to real work right away. My analyst, Marissa, spent hours during our regular check-ins walking me through financial concepts and answering every question I had, big or small. The learning isn't limited to interns, either, as during weekly investment calls, the whole team hears about trends across industries they might not cover themselves.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
My biggest takeaway was seeing what really goes into making an investment fund work, and how collaborative the process is. Research isn't siloed. Everyone is exposed to each other's work, so ideas get tested from many angles before a decision is made. That opened my eyes to how much teamwork sits behind every investment.

What advice would you give to someone looking to get the most out of an internship experience?
Be curious! Something I found helpful was keeping a running list of questions, like a term you didn't understand in a meeting or an idea you want to dig into, and coming back to them. Don't be afraid to ask, and take the time to get to know the people you work with. They were one of the best parts of my experience!

Is there anything else you would like people to know about your experience at Terra Alpha?
Terra Alpha was an awesome experience with awesome people. I was trusted with real responsibility from the start and supported by a team that genuinely wanted me to succeed. I left with a much deeper understanding of sustainable investing, and with mentors I still stay in touch with.

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Katherine Fang

Katherine is from Marlboro, New Jersey. She is a junior at Harvard University, where she is studying Applied Mathematics and Economics with a minor in Environmental Science and Public Policy. In her free time, she enjoys playing the flute, drawing, and trying new cafes and restaurants. This past summer, Katherine's research focused on the testing, inspection, and certification industry, examining its long-term growth drivers and assessing several leading public companies through Terra Alpha's investment framework. She conducted in-depth research and built a financial model to support her final recommendation.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?

I greatly appreciate the fundamental perspective with which Terra Alpha approaches sustainable investing—grounded in the principle that, with a long-term view, the most successful companies will be the ones that enable the energy transition or adapt proactively to climate change. Evaluating the environmental productivity of prospective portfolio companies as a regular component of the research process helped to make this idea so much more concrete to me—this was my first experience investigating companies' environmental reporting and climate risk mitigation practices in such depth, and doing so helped me see how environmental performance can inherently connect to a business's long-term prospects. Learning about the work that Terra Alpha does in corporate engagement also showed me how investors can encourage companies to improve their sustainability practices through dialogue and long-term partnership. I've definitely gained a much deeper understanding of how positive environmental impact can come from the financial side and how investing can be an effective, even essential, tool for enabling a more sustainable future.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?

From the very first day, I felt incredibly welcomed at Terra Alpha—the team is tight-knit, and everyone made themselves available to teach and work with us. Having lunch with the team every day was one of my favorite parts of the internship. The culture also reflected a genuine love of the work itself and of learning in general, which was such an inspiring environment to be immersed in. I found the team to be so patient and generous with feedback—I especially enjoyed hearing and giving presentations during investment discussions, which were highly collaborative and provided a great opportunity for me to learn about how different team members approached the same companies or even the same information. I always felt like I was a true part of the team!

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?

My biggest takeaway was learning how to think critically about a company and an investment, taking into consideration the business model, environmental productivity, and larger macroeconomic backdrop. I came into the internship having some basic experience with developing investment theses and building financial models for stock pitches, but throughout this summer, I felt that I built so much more confidence in fundamental business analysis, including how to develop a defensible thesis on the growth trajectory of a company or industry from historical financial information and macro factors. I especially valued the opportunity to work on a real research project for the firm, through which I was able to take ownership of the full process of forming a view on a company and industry, turning that view into a thesis and a model, and updating my thesis in light of new information I discovered through continuous research. Experiencing this cycle in full gave me a more realistic sense of what investment research looks like in practice.

What advice would you give to someone looking to get the most out of an internship experience?

I'd encourage them to be very proactive in asking questions and starting discussions, especially if the internship environment encourages it as much as Terra Alpha does. I was fortunate to have been able to meet with my mentor very frequently, whether to discuss updates on my research or talk through my reasoning out loud—these regular conversations helped me catch gaps in my thinking and refine my direction as I went, and they were an integral part of my learning process. I also learned a lot from asking questions and having discussions with other team members, who each had their own valuable advice and expertise. My advice is to seek out and initiate these conversations instead of waiting for them to happen, and to stay very open to feedback and to changing your mind as you learn.

Is there anything else you would like people to know about your experience at Terra Alpha?

I truly could not have asked for a more positive, enriching summer internship experience—from the very beginning, I felt that I was trusted to contribute and supported as I learned. I was very lucky to have a mentor who invested time in helping me grow, a team that welcomed my questions and input, and a meaningful project that mattered to the firm. My intern project gave me hands-on, up-close experience with seeing how rigorous fundamental, financial, and long-term sustainability analysis work together in practice, and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity!

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Prathmesh Muchhala

Prathmesh is an international student from Mumbai, India. He is a third-year student at the University of Virginia, pursuing a degree in economics and computer science. In his free time, he enjoys playing cricket, visiting new countries, and watching thriller movies. This summer, Prathmesh's research focused on the enterprise software sector, evaluating companies poised for growth through both a financial and environmental, social, and governance lens. As part of his work, he presented his research on a company at the forefront of this industry, along with his final recommendation.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
I always viewed sustainability as a "checklist" rather than a core part of investment strategy. During my internship, I learned a lot about how climate change and resource constraints shape the future of the world we're living in. Reading about rising global temperatures and the destruction of communities by melting glaciers made me understand the criticality of change. Finance, and within that asset management, has the most potential to drive meaningful impact by allocating money toward sustainability. Investors should become more proactive about engaging with companies and acting as a catalyst for change, and that's something that stands out about Terra Alpha. I now believe that 'sustainable investing' shouldn't be a separate concept, and the sustainable aspect should be a natural starting point when one thinks of the word 'invest'.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
My internship at Terra Alpha has been one of the most rewarding learning experiences I've had. I don't think I would've gained so much knowledge in just eight weeks anywhere else. What stood out to me most was how approachable everyone was, which made it easy to sit with them and learn directly from their experiences. The entire team wants to see you succeed, and they go out of their way to ensure that we as interns are supported and satisfied. Even outside of aiding in completing projects, the culture is one that is very warm and welcoming. I especially enjoyed the daily lunch breaks with the team.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
My biggest takeaway from the internship was the importance of asking questions, as silly as they may seem initially. Whenever I came across something I didn't understand, I made note of it and later sat down with team members to go through everything in detail. The team's willingness to help created an environment that exponentially increased the pace of my learning. Very rarely have I seen people so happy to answer questions, and even simple 'yes or no' questions ended up in long, insightful discussions.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
Definitely apply, it was one of the best experiences I've had. Don't feel like you need to know everything before going in; when I looked back at the end of my internship, I realized how little I knew when I first started. All you need to do is go in with an open and inquisitive mindset. I would also recommend taking full advantage of the mentorship available, since team members are more than willing to share their experiences and perspectives. Outside the internship itself, DC is a great city to explore, with lots going on and amazing places to visit.

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
The best thing about the internship is that you get to leave feeling like you've genuinely contributed. The work is meaningful analyst work, the kind of tasks that senior team members would handle if not for the interns. Instead of handling grunt work, I felt encouraged to think and ask the 'big picture' questions, and instead of simply being told what to do, I was often asked what I thought should be done, which made me feel valued. The team acts as a guiding hand whenever you need support, but the best takeaway is the sense of work ownership and contribution.

Terra Alpha Intern Profile



Erik Pacheco

Erik is from West Lafayette, Indiana. He is a junior at New York University, where he is majoring in Finance and minoring in Public Policy. In his free time, he enjoys watching soccer and Formula 1, as well as trying new restaurants. This summer, Erik's research focused on the healthcare industry, specifically the eyewear and eyecare space. He developed a detailed research report and financial model analyzing a company aligned with Terra Alpha's investment strategy and presented his findings and recommendation to the team.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
Before my internship at Terra Alpha, I viewed sustainable investing as something often dismissed in traditional finance. It didn't seem like an area that professionals took seriously. But after working with Terra Alpha's frameworks this summer, I saw how rigorous and impactful the process truly is. What changed my perspective most was understanding that sustainable investing isn't just about generating long-term returns. It's also about holding companies accountable and encouraging them to become enablers or pioneers of sustainability. Even in industries where change feels unlikely, what matters is whether companies are intentional and genuinely working to embed sustainable practices into their business model.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
The culture and learning environment at Terra Alpha were incredible. I came into the office every morning genuinely excited to learn and contribute because everyone was so welcoming. One of the first things I noticed was that people treated each other like family. They weren't just coworkers. Every day at lunch, the entire office would sit together, and it became a time to talk, laugh, and connect. It felt comfortable and supportive. Terra Alpha also has an open-door policy that made a huge difference. If someone wasn't in a meeting, their door was open, and I never hesitated to walk in with a question. No matter how big or small it was, everyone was willing to help. I never felt like I had to be anyone but myself. In fact, being yourself was encouraged, and I think that environment gave me the confidence to grow and perform at my best.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
My biggest takeaway from my internship at Terra Alpha was learning that there's no such thing as right or wrong when it comes to investing. During investment calls, no one came in trying to prove a point or be the smartest in the room. Everyone showed up with the mindset to learn, ask questions, and hear different perspectives. It taught me that you won't always have the answers, and that's okay. No one does. That uncertainty is part of the process. Some of the most valuable lessons come from the moments when things don't go as planned.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
My advice for anyone considering an internship at Terra Alpha would be to simply be yourself. The team is made up of highly experienced professionals, but they are also approachable, genuine people who want to see you succeed. Being authentic will help you build real connections and make the most of the experience. I would also say not to worry about knowing everything in finance. Having some experience with stock pitches and a passion for investing will make things easier, but Terra Alpha isn't looking for someone who has every technical detail memorized. They want someone who is curious, eager to learn, and excited about sustainability.

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
One thing I would tell future applicants is to take initiative. The team at Terra Alpha is incredibly supportive, but the experience is what you make of it. Take the time to meet everyone, ask thoughtful questions, and show genuine curiosity about their work. If you come across an idea that could add value, share it. You don't need to be the first one in and the last one out every day, but showing that extra level of effort and engagement will not only help you grow, it will also show the team how much you care about the work and the mission.

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Abigail Ore Isola

Ore is an international student from Lagos, Nigeria. She is majoring in Economics and Computational Analysis at the University of Alabama in Huntsville where she wears different hats – she is a tutor for business classes, a resident assistant, and a member of the operations team for Women In Tech, Huntsville. She enjoys reading, playing the violin, and watching movies in her free time. This past summer, Ore's research was focused on the data centers industry and its suppliers. She identified a company with a key role to play in the industry and presented her research and investment recommendation to the team.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
Prior to my internship at Terra Alpha, the only thing I had heard about sustainable investing was that it was a 'myth,' and investment firms that want to make a profit don't seriously consider environmental data when making decisions. I am happy I had the opportunity to work at Terra Alpha and understand how untrue that is. The role that the finance industry plays in the move to a more sustainable economy cannot be overstated and investment firms like Terra Alpha are an important part of that. The more investors prioritize sustainability practices when analyzing companies, the more companies are compelled to do better environmentally. If most investors lean toward companies with better environmental practices, it gives those companies a competitive advantage that other companies will try to neutralize by also adopting responsible environmental practices.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
Over the course of my internship I became more confident and self-assured in my abilities, and that is a testament to the culture and learning environment at Terra Alpha. I had taken no finance classes and had almost no knowledge about finance and investing at the beginning of those 8 weeks. And now, I honestly don't think I've ever learned as much as I did in such a short amount of time. I feel like I was surrounded by people who were open to me knowing everything they knew. I always got answers to any question I had and more; all I had to do was ask.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
My biggest takeaway from this internship was learning how to think critically on a large scale. I learned many other things like analyzing financial statements, identifying and interpreting trends and presenting my findings to experts. But those were all things I expected to learn. The biggest impact this internship had on me is on the way I process things internally. Now, I ask more questions on a wider range of factors than I previously would have considered. That has positively impacted many areas of my life.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
Be yourself. Everyone at Terra Alpha is great, but they are also very normal people, and nobody is out to get you. Don't feel the need to fit into a certain “finance intern” stereotype. There is nothing wrong with the stereotypical finance intern, but to my knowledge, that’s not all Terra Alpha is looking for. Don’t be shy to share the things that make you a person and the things you are passionate about.

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
If you get to work at Terra Alpha, make sure you don’t overwhelm yourself in the beginning. If you’re like me, you’d feel like you know absolutely nothing, and everyone is way smarter than you. But remember that it was a consensus decision to hire you. Almost everyone, if not everyone on the team, is aware of your qualifications. If they didn’t think you were a good fit, you would not be there. Everyone is looking forward to teaching you and helping you learn, so it’s okay that you know absolutely nothing in the beginning because that won’t be the case at the end of the internship, as long as you’re ready to learn.

Terra Alpha Intern Profile



Neal Kinnard

Neal is from Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is a senior at Virginia Tech, studying Economics and Finance. In his free time he enjoys watching sports with friends and working out. This past summer, Neal's research focused on how GLP-1s (Glucagon-like Peptide 1s) will impact the healthcare industry, specifically diabetes companies. He also identified and presented research on a healthcare company that is spearheading change and aligns with Terra Alpha's investment strategy.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
Before joining Terra Alpha, I often heard about how people's actions contribute to pollution. Still, I only knew the basics of net-zero emissions and their role in fighting climate change. I believed sustainability and finance were entirely separate, thinking finance had little impact on climate change. I assumed sustainable investing was simply about supporting environmental causes and charities. Now, I understand it's much more than that – sustainable investing is about companies' operational changes to impact the planet positively. While some companies may struggle to invest in lowering emissions, those who take the initiative to make operational changes for the earth are true innovators and represent sustainable investing.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
My experience at Terra Alpha was great and unique. The environment Terra Alpha created was one of a kind, offering me the opportunity to develop my equity research skills. I gained hands-on experience analyzing 10-K filings, conducting deep dives into companies' business strategies, management, historical performance, etc. The one thing that stood out to me was the level of responsibility I was given. I was not doing typical intern tasks; I contributed in ways that helped analysts. Unlike other internships, Terra Alpha trusted me with two research projects, and I had the opportunity to pitch my ideas to the investment team. The culture was fantastic; they never made me feel like “the intern.” I truly felt part of the team. The atmosphere was more like a family, where everyone supported and collaborated with one another.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
My biggest takeaway from working at Terra Alpha was the importance of always asking questions and being open to learning. Interacting with the investment team made me appreciate their knowledge, especially when they shared insights from their experiences in the industry. Simply engaging in conversations with them left me feeling more informed.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
I recommend three things to those considering applying for an internship at Terra Alpha. First, be yourself during the application and let your personality shine. Second, take the time to understand the company and what Terra Alpha stands for. Dive deep into their philosophy on sustainability and investing. Lastly, don't overstress about the application process. Everyone at Terra Alpha is supportive, and their goal is to see you succeed.

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
I want future applicants to know Terra Alpha is a great place to learn and take on real responsibility. At Terra Alpha, you will feel like you are contributing to the investment team. You'll also gain valuable insights into sustainable investing and its impact on a company's operations. Lastly, the team at Terra Alpha is one of the most supportive groups I've worked with, and passing up the chance to intern there would be a missed opportunity.

Terra Alpha Intern Profile



Sydney Olorode

Sydney is from the Lower East Side of Manhattan, New York. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentrations in Finance & Economics at Babson College. Sydney enjoys spending quality time with his extended family in Kyoto, London, and Ibadan, where he appreciates local cuisine and museums. This past summer, Sydney's research focused on a risk analysis of the healthcare sector's regulatory environment, specifically focusing on the recall risk of medical devices. He also identified and presented research on a company within the field.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
At Babson College, my insights on sustainable investing primarily revolved around allocating capital to innovators in the private markets. However, my intern role as an Equity Research Analyst at Terra Alpha expanded this understanding to larger public companies. Covering the healthcare sector, I employed Terra Alpha's proprietary Environmental Productivity (EP) framework during an individual company deep dive project. This exercise highlighted that sustainable investing is not just about backing innovators; it is about recognizing companies with an enduring business model that efficiently utilize and impact natural resources, whether they are traditional or innovative.

At Terra Alpha, I realized that sustainable investing can go hand-in-hand with robust returns. Their unique offerings for large institutions underscore that impactful investments can align seamlessly with institutional values, proving that sustainability and performance are not mutually exclusive.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
The learning environment at Terra Alpha was nothing short of exceptional. The firm's open-door culture ensured that everyone was approachable and willing to assist. Terra Alpha provided a comprehensive insight into their business operations, even granting me the privilege to participate in the Advisory Board meeting. There, I had the honor of engaging with illustrious board members like Charles Bolden, Frank Loy, and Kathy Baughman McLeod. The connections I built at Terra Alpha transcended mere professional relationships, evolving into mentorship relationships, with many generously sharing invaluable life and career wisdom.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
The most profound takeaway I had was that it is entirely possible to achieve superior financial returns while investing in the best sustainable actors in our economy. The fusion of capitalism and sustainability is reshaping the financial landscape because stakeholders, from shareholders to communities, expect companies to spearhead global decarbonization.

Every industry is on the cusp of transformation in the race to a net-zero world. The automotive sector's shift to electric is likely just a glimpse of what is to come. The quest to decarbonize diverse sectors alongside institutions aligning their portfolios with core values presents a monumental investment opportunity. Those adaptive to change will thrive, while others risk obsolescence. As capital seeks transformative ideas, businesses must strategize for a net-zero economy.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
Do yourself a favor and apply! My time at Terra Alpha was a great learning experience, and I am so glad I made the decision to apply. If you are concerned about lacking experience, know that Terra Alpha values your character and passion for their mission more than your past roles. I also highly suggest connecting with numerous team members. They are genuinely welcoming and can offer insights about the company and the internship, aiding in your decision-making.

Approach this internship with curiosity and eagerness, and you will depart with a profound grasp of sustainable investing. The program is structured to foster continuous learning, engage with various team members, and contribute to meaningful projects. I wholeheartedly endorse it!

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
During my time at Terra Alpha, the team frequently underscored the significance of assessing all substantive risks when making an investment decision. Neglecting resource constraints, geological data, and climate data can lead to an incomplete risk assessment in investment decisions. As an equity manager in an ever-evolving climate, incorporating these elements is paramount to not only making the most informed investment decisions for one’s clients' returns, but also decisions that align with institutional investor’s core values. Terra Alpha's Environmental Productivity framework stands out for its rigor. It seamlessly integrates various scientific disciplines to inform a comprehensive and well-rounded investment decision. The internship program not only developed my skills as a traditional equity research analyst but also equipped me with the expertise to assess public equities in a transitioning global economy.

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Abdul Abiru

Abdul is an international student from Lagos, Nigeria. He is a senior at the University of Richmond studying Economics. At the University of Richmond, he helps students with professional development in his role as Lead Peer Advisor in Career Services. In his free time, he enjoys reading, baking, and trying new cuisines. This past summer, Abdul's research focused on assessing the long-term attractiveness of technology companies in Terra Alpha's portfolio as well as identifying companies in the agriculture industry that align with Terra Alpha's investment strategy.

How did your experience at Terra Alpha influence your understanding of sustainable investing?
My experience at Terra Alpha helped me realize that sustainable investing is not as unstructured as it seems. I feel like when I thought about sustainable investing, I thought mainly about venture capital and nascent climate technology. While these could fall under sustainable investing, there are many established companies that contribute to making the world a more sustainable place. At the end of the day, sustainable investing is just a label, and to really understand what the firm is doing, you have to dig into their strategy and how they define things.

How would you describe the learning environment and culture at Terra Alpha?
The learning environment at Terra Alpha was awesome. One of Terra Alpha's biggest strengths is its small size which allows members of its team to meet and chat on a regular basis. Learning also took place in different settings and was not always focused on investing. Besides weekly team meetings, I could always ask anyone about anything on my own time. We often ate lunch together and it was a good time to get to know members of the team and have conversations about their personal and professional experiences which made adjusting to living in a new city and a new work environment a lot easier.

What was your biggest takeaway from your internship at Terra Alpha?
I learned that being able to ask good questions is an essential skill to have in equity research because the position entails being able to ask important questions about a company and find the answers to them.

I also learned that working in finance can look different for everyone. I feel like in undergrad, there's a lot of pressure to end up on Wall Street and this can be tough for a lot of students. However, from my experience at Terra Alpha, I have realized that there are a lot of really interesting opportunities to work in finance outside of Wall Street if you are trying to find them.

What would your advice be to people considering applying for internship opportunities at Terra Alpha?
Have a growth mindset and be willing to work hard. In completing my projects, I had to learn new things and pick up new skills. However, if I hadn't been willing to push myself out of my comfort zone, I'd have a much different experience from the one I ended up having.

You also need to be very intentional about why you're applying. In my interview, I spent more time talking about sustainable investing and why it's important to me than answering behavioral or technical questions. Terra Alpha really felt like more than just another internship and I feel like being able to clearly articulate how this experience tied into my future goals really helped me stand out in interviews.

Is there anything else you would like future applicants to know about Terra Alpha?
It's a great way to understand what working on the buy-side could look like and it gives you great exposure to fundamental analysis. While there are many different investing approaches, I feel like this is a good place to start because it helps you develop strong critical thinking and research skills.