From embassy headquarters to nongovernmental organizations, think tanks to advocacy organizations, and consulting firms to media outlets, Washington, DC, is a focal point for many international and public policy activities.

Undergraduates from any course of study who would value firsthand policy experience are invited to apply to Carnegie Mellon University’s Washington Semester Program, sponsored by the university’s Center for International Relations and Politics. In this semester-long program, students live, work, and study in Washington, DC, coming into direct contact with political, business, and community leaders and learning about the most pressing policy issues of the day.

The Center for International Relations and Politics will sponsor policy events and forums for CMU students participating in the program to further enrich their experience and enhance their understanding of how Washington functions as a hub of international and public policy decision making.
Program Structure
Carnegie Mellon University’s Washington Semester Program (CMUWSP) partners with the Semester in Washington program offered by the School of Continuing Studies at Georgetown University. Students earn 15 credits (45 units at Carnegie Mellon) and participate in three core components: an internship, academic course work, and extracurricular programs, in addition to opportunities provided specifically for CMU students by the Center for International Relations and Politics.

Due to existing agreements, Carnegie Mellon students must apply through the CMUWSP rather than directly to Georgetown University. This ensures that applications will be appropriately considered and that students will be eligible for tuition discounts and financial aid, if applicable.

CMUWSP Eligibility
• Full-time undergraduates from any college at Carnegie Mellon University are eligible to apply.
• Applicants should demonstrate a strong academic record with a minimum cumulative QPA of 3.0. Exceptions may be made for students with lower QPAs based on strong recommendation letters and application materials.
• Students should be second-semester sophomores, juniors, or first-semester seniors during their semester in Washington, DC.

Friedman Fellowship
Students with strong academic records and financial need who are accepted into the Carnegie Mellon Washington Semester Program are also eligible to receive a Friedman Fellowship, which helps to defray the cost of a semester in Washington, DC.

The Milton and Cynthia Friedman Fellowship Grants were created through a generous gift from Cynthia Friedman, currently a trustee of the university, in memory of her husband Milton, an alumnus of Carnegie Mellon. The grants encourage and support student participation in internships located in the nation’s capital. They are designed to foster significant work experiences that complement students’ academic studies and assist them as they make career and graduate education decisions. During the fall and spring semesters, fellowships of up to $3,000 are available on a competitive basis to undergraduates accepted into the CMUWSP. There is no separate application process for the Friedman Fellowship. Awards are made by the admissions committee based on the strength of students’ CMUWSP applications.

“All on any scale that matters, the Carnegie Mellon-Georgetown Washington Semester Program sets a new standard by which all study abroad experiences should be judged. I could not have imagined how thoroughly the WSP would prepare me not only professionally and intellectually, but spiritually and culturally for the challenges that lie ahead for any young, aspiring international relations and politics scholar.”

Chris Sparks, DC ’13
CMUWSP, Spring 2012
Internship: Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MI)
Semester in Washington - Georgetown University, SCS

Through the School of Continuing Studies at Georgetown University, the Semester in Washington offers students the opportunity to pursue academic courses taught by Georgetown faculty and receive credit through Georgetown University. Students live on Georgetown's campus and take advantage of the university's facilities and services. There are six academic areas from which to choose:

- Law, Legislation, & Politics;
- Politics & Public Policy;
- Religion & Political Culture;
- International Relations;
- International Commerce & Trade;
- Journalism, Politics, & the Media.

As part of the Semester in Washington program, students intern three days per week (for a minimum of 20 hours) and earn 15 credits (45 CMU units) for the semester. The program's curriculum has three components in addition to the internship. The Academic Seminar consists of assigned readings, discussion groups, and lectures, and includes guest speakers and site visits. Students interact with elected officials, policy makers, and practitioners in the private and public sectors. The Research Seminar is a guided independent research project in which students produce an original research paper focused on a topic of their choosing. Finally, students complete an Internship Class designed to complement their internship experience.

Internships

Through the CMUWSP, students gain valuable professional experience and make long-lasting professional and personal contacts.

CMUWSP welcomes students with a wide array of backgrounds and interests, and students may pursue internships in any sector or field within Washington, DC.

The CMUWSP partner program provides support in securing an internship. This support typically includes placement in or referral to specific internships as well as help in crafting cover letters and résumés. Additionally, students are encouraged to make use of the resources of Carnegie Mellon's Career & Professional Development Center and the Center for International Relations and Politics for internship placement. The ultimate responsibility for securing an internship rests with the individual student.

Recent CMUWSP Internship Sites:

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Congressional Offices
- Council for Court Excellence
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Foreign Policy Magazine
- International Fund for Agriculture
- Millennium Challenge Corporation
- National Academy of Social Insurance
- NBC
- Republican National Committee: Government Affairs
- The Center for Health Transformation
- U.S. Coast Guard - Office of International Affairs
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of State: Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- U.S. Trade and Development Agency

“My internship working at the International Affairs magazine, The Diplomatic Courier, gave me access to venues and persons normally unavailable to the public eye. As a member of the press I was granted entrance into some of the best think tanks in the world, including the Center on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where speakers such as Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice were featured.”

JESSICA HAN, DC ’13
CMUWSP, SPRING 2012
INTERNSHIP: THE DIPLOMATIC COURIER
Extracurricular Opportunities

In addition to their academic course work and internships, students may participate in extracurricular opportunities throughout the semester. Some events are arranged by the partner program and others are hosted specifically for CMUWSP students by the Center for International Relations and Politics.

In the past, CMUWSP students have attended a private dinner at the Embassy of Cyprus hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Andreas Kakouris. Students had the opportunity to interact informally with the ambassador, to hear about foreign policy issues facing Cyprus, and to learn about careers and life within the diplomatic corps.

The Center for International Relations and Politics hosted a private dinner for CMUWSP students featuring Paul Wolfowitz, former president of the World Bank, and Shaha Ali Riza, a high-level World Bank staffer. Dr. Wolfowitz and Ms. Riza spoke about the international system and US policy in Asia and the Middle East, among other topics, and answered questions from students.

Our partner program also provides extracurricular opportunities for students. Recent events include a luncheon with former governor of Minnesota Tim Pawlenty and a briefing at the National Press Club by Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke. Students have also had the opportunity to visit the State Department, the White House Complex, and the Federal Reserve, among other sites. For more information on site visits and extracurricular opportunities, students may wish to visit the Georgetown SIW student blog at https://commons.georgetown.edu/blogs/swp/.

Program Cost

Students who attend the Semester in Washington with Georgetown University’s School of Continuing Studies will continue to pay tuition to Carnegie Mellon for the semester in which they are in Washington, DC, and are eligible to receive the same financial aid package.

All students are responsible for paying other fees, such as room and board, directly to Georgetown University. Please discuss financial questions with the CMUWSP Advisor.

Carnegie Mellon University
Center for International Relations and Politics
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"My Washington semester experience was extremely beneficial. Not only was I able to spend a semester actively working in government and taking high-level political science courses, I developed a greater sense of my personal interests and potential career paths. For most undergraduates, entering their post-college careers can be stressful…but spending a semester as an undergraduate in a new city working full-time prepared me for just that."

PETER HENDRICKSON, DC '12
CMUWSP, SPRING 2011
INTERNSHIP: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION