

**Carnegie
Mellon
University**

Washington
Semester
Program



Fall 2022 Program Guide

From embassies to non-governmental 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.



The classes offered by the Washington Semester Program are amazing because of the professors and the speakers they bring into class. The professors care so much about our well-being and they go above and beyond to help us with any issue we are having. Furthermore, the alumni and other speakers who have come to class have been so generous with their time. I have felt a sense of community within the Washington Semester Program through the amazing people I have met."

*- Julianne Tippett, DC '21, CMU/WSP Spring 2020
Internship: Climate Institute*



At a Glance

Undergraduates from any course of study who value firsthand policy experience are invited to apply to the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program, sponsored by the university's Institute for Politics and Strategy. Students will live, intern, and study in the nation's capital and interact with political, business, and community leaders to learn about the most pressing policy issues of the day.

Students earn forty-eight units for the CMU/WSP, interning twenty-four hours per week in any sector or field of interest within

Washington, DC, while taking CMU classes taught by IPS faculty.

Students attend classes in the early evenings. The Internship Seminar and Policy Seminar are core courses in the program. Students also enroll in twenty-four units of elective seminars, which vary by semester.

The Institute for Politics and Strategy sponsors events and forums for students to enhance their understanding of Washington, DC, as a hub of national and international policy making, domestic politics, and more.

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. The junior year is the ideal time to participate in the CMU/WSP. However, the program is open to second-semester sophomores, juniors, or first-semester seniors. Sophomores must declare a primary major before attending the CMU/WSP.

Internships



Students participating in the CMU/WSP are responsible for finding an internship. The search for an internship is an important part of the professional development experience, and the CMU/WSP assists students with this process. After acceptance into the program, students meet individually with the CMU/WSP Program Manager to develop a personalized internship search strategy. The CMU/WSP assists with placement in or referral to specific internships and helps in crafting cover letters, résumés, writing samples, and mock interviews.

Internship Seminar

The internship is the experiential “core” of the Washington Semester Program. In addition to a part-time internship, students will meet in the weekly seminar to report and reflect on their internship experiences, often joined by DC-based CMU alumni working in a variety of professional fields. Their personal and professional experiences become part of the seminar conversation, and they make themselves available to students as ongoing sources of information and advice.

Policy Seminar

The Policy Seminar takes a critical look at Washington, DC, as an arena for decision making in domestic politics and US foreign policy. It does so through weekly roundtable discussions with a diverse set of thought leaders. Based on intellectually significant essays that students are expected to read in advance of each class, these discussions give students an opportunity to ask probing questions about the three branches of the US government, media, embassies, advocacy groups, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.

Minor in Politics and Public Policy

Students who participate in the CMU/WSP are eligible to complete the Politics and Public Policy minor. Rooted in the discipline of political science, the minor investigates US public policy issues and other matters of domestic politics while providing students hands-on and practical learning experiences.

In addition to their CMU/WSP classes, students must complete one course from the following list offered at Carnegie Mellon University's Pittsburgh or Qatar campus. Students may take this course before or after participating in the CMU/WSP:

- **84-104** Decision Processes in American Political Institutions
- **84-275** Comparative Politics
- **84-326** Theories of International Relations

Students are also required to complete an economics course: 84-110, Foundations of Political Economy, or 73-102, Principles of Microeconomics.

Mentorship

Every student in the CMU/WSP is paired with an alumni mentor for the duration of the program. Pairings are based on career interests and personal compatibility. Throughout the semester, students and their mentors meet to share career advice and tips about life in DC, and mentors are invited to select events organized by the CMU/WSP.

Housing in the District

Students will live in CMU-sponsored housing in the heart of Washington, DC, in the H Street Corridor. The residences are fully furnished and equipped with standard kitchen appliances, cookware, and dinnerware, as well as an in-unit washer and dryer, cable, and high-speed Internet. Housing is minutes away from grocery stores and Metro stations, providing easy access to the CMU/WSP classrooms and offices, and the city beyond.

Program Cost

Students who attend the CMU/WSP will continue to pay Carnegie Mellon tuition, the standard double room fee, and other fees to Carnegie Mellon for the semester in which they are in Washington, DC. Students are eligible to receive the same financial aid package they receive while attending Carnegie Mellon.

Friedman Fellowships

Students with strong academic records and financial need who are accepted to the CMU/WSP are also eligible for a Friedman Semester 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, a trustee emerita, in memory of her husband Milton, an alumnus of Carnegie Mellon. The grants are designed to foster significant work experiences that complement students' academic studies, and they encourage and support student participation in internships located in the nation's capital. There is no separate application process for the Friedman Fellowship. Decisions are made by the admissions committee based upon the strength of the students' CMU/WSP applications.



CMU/WSP application form checklist:

- One-page essay
- Current résumé
- Approval from academic advisor
- Unofficial CMU Transcript
- Two letters of recommendation
- Statement of financial need for Friedman Fellowship consideration (optional)

All CMU/WSP application materials are available at cmu.edu/ips/cmuwsp.

Applications for the Fall 2022 semester are due by:

April 1, 2022

Applications received before this date will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please submit your application through the online portal. Letters of recommendation should be emailed directly to cmuwsp@andrew.cmu.edu.

Join us for an info session!

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

**Carnegie Mellon University
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