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

Once accepted into the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMUWSP), students have the option of enrolling in either of two partner programs located in Washington, DC. Each program allows students to earn 12-15 credits (36-45 units at Carnegie Mellon) and includes three core components: an internship, academic coursework, and extracurricular programming, in addition to the opportunities provided specifically for CMU students by the Center for International Relations and Politics. Programs differ in the academic tracks offered and in the nature, logistics, and location of the program.

Due to existing agreements for each program, Carnegie Mellon students must apply through the CMUWSP rather than directly to any outside program. This ensures that applications will be appropriately considered and that students will be eligible for tuition discounts and financial aid, where 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 spent in Washington, DC.

Friedman Fellowship

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 students’ participation in internships located in the nation’s capital. They are designed to foster significant work experiences that complement students’ academic work 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 to the CMUWSP.

Students with strong academic records who are accepted to 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. Grants of up to $3,000 are available. 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.

“The overall experience of being in DC was one that I will cherish for a lifetime. The balance of academics, the internship, and experiencing DC … made the entire semester amazing. To spend time in a city that is 24 hours/day politics … made for experiences that couldn’t be expected but were fully embraced. I would recommend the program to anyone and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend.”

BILLY JORASKIE, HSS ’12
CMUWSP, SPRING 2011
INTERNSHIP: REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
CMUWSP: Partner Programs

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 four academic areas from which to choose:

- American Politics and Public Affairs;
- International Affairs;
- Law and Society; and
- Religion and Politics.

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.

Capital Semester - The Fund for American Studies
(in partnership with Georgetown University)

Students participating in The Fund for American Studies’ Capital Semester Program live in apartment-style housing near Capitol Hill and pursue course work in one of two areas:

- Public Policy;
- Political Journalism.

Students in both academic tracks intern four days per week (approximately 30 hours) and take the following two courses: Theories of Constitutional Interpretation and Economics and Public Policy Issues. Additionally, students pursue an internship seminar in their field of interest, earning 12 credits (36 CMU units) for the semester. Courses are taught by adjunct faculty members and credit is transferred through Georgetown University. Scholarship assistance is available through The Fund for American Studies (TFAS).

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.

Each of the CMUWSP's partner programs 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. The ultimate responsibility for securing an internship rests with the individual student.

CMUWSP Recent Internship Sites:

- U.S. Department of State: Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation
- Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Council for Court Excellence
- Congressional Offices
- The Daily Caller
- Republican National Committee: Government Affairs
- U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- The Center for Health Transformation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Choose 2 Lead
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Planet Forward
- Environment America
- International Fund for Agriculture
- National Academy of Social Insurance
- U.S. Coast Guard - Office of International Affairs
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 each partner program and others are hosted specifically for CMUWSP students by the Center for International Relations and Politics.

During the spring 2010 semester, CMUWSP students 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.

During the fall 2010 semester, 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 programs also provide extracurricular opportunities to 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 receive the same financial aid package.

Students attending the Capital Semester with the Fund for American Studies will pay tuition directly to TFAS for the semester in Washington. These students may take advantage of federal and state financial aid while in Washington but are ineligible for CMU-based financial aid. Some scholarships are available, however, through the Fund for American Studies.

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

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, HSS ’12
CMUWSP, SPRING 2011
INTERNSHIP: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE:
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION

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