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About The Washington Center



The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. The largest program of its kind, The Washington Center has 70 full-time staff and more than 50,000 alumni, many of whom are in leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

TWC's Mission is Building Future Leaders

Leaders are built from the inside out. They are made, not born. The Washington Center's program advisors and internship site supervisors work tirelessly to ensure that students get the most out of their internship experience.

The Washington Center believes it is a fundamental civic duty to instill in all program participants the need to be well-informed, public-spirited and socially engaged leaders. TWC's alumni hold leadership positions in virtually every career field, including law, education, social work, medicine, journalism, diplomacy, business and politics.



Program Components

- 1. Internships in Washington, D.C.:** Students intern four days per week, full-time, in an organization in the D.C. metro area that will help them gain professional experience in their chosen field. Students are involved in tasks, projects, and assignments at their internship sites and they will end the semester with work samples. TWC guarantees that interns will be engaged in 80 percent substantive work at their internship site, and interns should be a contributing member of their workplace. Internships not only develop professional habits, but also help students transfer their academic skills to the workplace and begin to understand the operations of complex organizations with global horizons.
- 2. Academic Course:** All students select an academic course among 20-30 courses offered by TWC. Classes, taught by TWC adjunct faculty members, meet one evening per week for three hours, with additional independent work required. The courses help students understand development theories, business and trade models as well as relevant policy-making processes.
- 3. LEAD Colloquium:** This full-day Friday programming was designed for students to engage with leaders in a variety of settings and reflect on their own leadership skills. Activities include the Alan K. Simpson-Norman Y. Mineta Leaders Series, Prudential Foundation Global Citizenship Day, Career Bootcamp, Public Policy Dialogues and Civic Engagement. Students also engage in exploration of their chosen professional field through LEAD Professional Track specialization and participate in Small Group Discussions to reflect on their professional leadership development.



The **Civic Engagement/Social Responsibility Component** of the LEAD Colloquium is an integral part of TWC's internship program. Over the last three decades, this targeted programming has produced thousands of thoughtful, ethical and engaged citizens who are prepared and motivated to contribute to the vitality of their home communities and countries. TWC's Civic Engagement program integrates purposeful public service with academic grounding, dialogue and activity with businesses, community partners and personal reflection. The purpose of civic engagement at TWC is to help students become well-informed citizens capable of making a difference in public life at the local, national or global level.

Students attend workshops on some Fridays and choose volunteer projects to contribute a minimum of 5 hours of service in the D.C communities. Workshops are offered on various topics under the following four modules:

- Community Development
- Social Responsibility
- Public Sector
- Political Participation



The Alan K. Simpson-Norman Y. Mineta Leaders Series

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series is founded in the spirit of the lifelong friendship of two extraordinary leaders from opposite sides of the aisle. Norman Y. Mineta and Alan K. Simpson met during World War II when Simpson's Boy Scout troop met with Mineta's in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming where Secretary Mineta's family was then interned with over 10,000 other Japanese-Americans. Despite their differences, both their friendship and their commitment to leadership and public service endured.

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series aims to create a forum in which students from around the country and the world can engage with extraordinary leaders, explore issues of contemporary public concern, and articulate

“Road to 2016: The Candidates, the Parties, the Issues & the Debates,” June 16, 2015

- James K. Glassman – Visiting Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Founding Executive Director, George W. Bush Institute
- Rep. Christopher Shays – Former Representative, Connecticut
- Moderator: Professor Steve Scully, M.S. – Host, Senior Executive Producer, C-SPAN

“Race Relations in the United States,” July 17, 2015

- Juan Williams, Contributor – Fox News
- Michael Eric Dyson, Author and Contributor – MSNBC
- Moderator: Ray Suarez, Host – Al Jazeera's Inside Story

“Right to Bear Arms vs. Rising Gun Violence in America: A Discussion on 2nd Amendment Rights,” September 25, 2015

- Colin Goddard, Senior Policy Advocate – Everytown
- Erich Pratt, Director of Communications – Gun Owners of America
- Moderator: Professor Steve Scully, M.S. – Host, Senior Executive Producer, C-SPAN

“The Obama Presidency: Legacy of First 7 Years & What to Expect in the 8th Year,” October 30, 2015

- Kathleen Hennessey, White House Correspondent – The Associated Press
- April Ryan, White House Correspondent – American Urban Radio Networks
- Jim Acosta, White House Correspondent – CNN
- Moderator: Christi Parsons – White House Correspondent – Los Angeles Times/Tribune Newspapers DC bureau

“U.S. Foreign Policy: What is America's Role & How Should We Lead?” November 20, 2015

- Steve Clemons, Editor at Large – The Atlantic
- Steven Bucci, Director – Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation
- Moderator: Professor Steve Scully, M.S. – Host, Senior Executive Producer, C-SPAN



Apartment-style Student Housing

Interning with The Washington Center (TWC) is great life experience because living in Washington, D.C., offers endless opportunities. The U.S. capital is a crossroads of national and international policy, media organizations, cultural institutions, think tanks and nonprofits. Washington D.C. offers many things to do and see all around town: incredible museums and galleries, cultural and sporting events, recreation and outdoor activities, and great restaurants and nightlife. Students live independently, have ample opportunities to meet fellow interns and get in deep discussions with new friends.

The students reside in one of TWC's housing facilities: the Residential and Academic Facility at NoMa, or the Residential Facilities at the Flats 130 or Elevation which are located near Capitol Hill and Union Station. Students share two-bedroom apartments with three other TWC interns. All TWC units are fully furnished and equipped with private bathrooms, air conditioning, laundry facilities, high-speed Internet, cable and phone, and 24-hour front desk coverage. In addition, the buildings are very close to the Metro and other public transit systems.

TWC's staff includes international experts who understand different cultures and speak various languages. In addition, every housing facility has Alumni in Residence, young professionals who are alumni of the program and live in the housing facilities to counsel and support students. They are available to help students make the most of the internship and help solve any problems that might arise. Also, the student life department organizes a social justice discussion group and various professional development events like a pitch competition. They also arrange for cultural outings such as walking tours of Washington, D.C. neighborhoods, day trips to nearby historical landmarks and cities, and kayaking on the Potomac River.





Alberta Recipients – 2015 Award

	TWC Term	Internship Site	Professional Track	Academic Course
1	Summer 2015	STEMconnector	Postgraduate Professional Development	Global Markets and International Business Strategies
2	Summer 2015	Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies	International Affairs	Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction: Historical and Current Policy
3	Summer 2015	GIC Group	Business & Global Trade	Global Markets and International Business Strategies
4	Summer 2015	Shia Rights Watch	International Affairs	U.S. Foreign Policy
5	Summer 2015	American Legislative Exchange Council	Business and Global Trade	Essentials for Aspiring Leaders
6	Summer 2015	Enroll America	Science Technology and Society	From Ideas to Action: The Anatomy of Entrepreneurship
x	Summer 2015			(late withdrawal fee)
x	Summer 2015 (2014 funds)	Amnesty International USA	International Affairs	International Organizations and Humanitarian Law
x	Summer 2015 (2014 funds)	Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies	Advocacy, Service & Arts	International Organizations and Humanitarian Law
7	Fall 2015	826DC	Advocacy, Service & Arts	Bargaining and Negotiation in International Conflict
8	Fall 2015	826DC	Advocacy, Service & Arts	Campaigning for a Cause: How Advocacy Groups Change the World
9	Fall 2015	Inscape Publico	Advocacy, Service & Arts	From Ideas to Action: The Anatomy of Entrepreneurship
10	Fall 2015	Center for Strategic and International Studies	Media & Communications	Mass Media and American Politics



	TWC Term	Internship Site	Professional Track	Academic Course
11	Fall 2015	NARAL Pro-Choice America	Politics & Public Policy	Scandalous Washington: Uncovering D.C. History
12	Fall 2015	BRAVO! Events	Media & Communications	Communication Law and Ethics
13	Fall 2015	Embassy of Canada	Politics & Public Policy	Scandalous Washington: Uncovering D.C. History
14	Fall 2015	National Hispanic Medical Association	Advocacy, Service & Arts	Nonprofit Leadership and Management
15	Fall 2015	Embassy of Canada	International Affairs	Scandalous Washington: Uncovering D.C. History
16	Spring 2016	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	International Affairs	International Organizations and Humanitarian Law
17	Spring 2016	Naval History and Heritage Command	Advocacy, Service & Arts	Scandalous Washington: Uncovering D.C. History
18	Spring 2016	Special Olympics	International Affairs	Research & Writing
19	Spring 2016	Abraham Group, LLC	International Affairs	Rising China: U.S.- Chinese Relations in the 20th and 21st Centuries
20	Spring 2016	State Bank of India (California)	Business & Global Trade	From Ideas to Action: The Anatomy of Entrepreneurship



Testimonials



“My time spent in Washington, D.C. has undeniably molded me into a new and improved global citizen of the world. My internship at the Embassy of Canada involved me sending daily press clippings to the Ambassador of Canada to the United States, working with Government of Canada foreign service officers, and networking with diplomats from around the world - something I do not have access to back home in Calgary, Alberta. My internship, combined with the LEAD colloquium sessions and professional track programming at The Washington Center, have given me the skills needed to return back home and confidently know which direction I want to go in life. On top of that, living in Washington, D.C. for four months while being surrounded by some of the greatest friends I’ve ever had is an experience I will never forget.”

– **Jalyn Callele**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: University of Calgary, Internship Site: Embassy of Canada, Professional Track: International Affairs.

“My experience with The Washington Center has been life changing. This program is very well rounded; it was not just an internship. I learned about myself, how to act in a professional environment, and also about the importance of civic engagement. Prior to my exchange I was unsure about what career path I wanted to pursue with my Communications degree. Living in D.C. provided me with the experiences I needed to help guide my future, and now I can confidently say that I am on my way to pursuing a career in public relations and event management. I now have memories and friendships through this program that will last a lifetime.”

– **Ashley Arndt**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: University of Calgary, Internship Site: BRAVO! Events, Professional Track: Media & Communications.





“My time in DC has exceeded my expectations in every way possible. The Washington Center matched me with an internship that perfectly suited my interests and goals, and allowed me to log over 480 hours of observation and hands-on experience in my field of study. My internship reaffirmed my desire to teach and helped me develop a greater understanding of educational policy and classroom management. My favorite aspect of my internship was the independence and life experience I gained living in another country. I can’t wait to visit my roommates in Korea and Mexico in the coming years! The Washington Center provided a multitude of opportunities for me to develop both professionally and personally, and I’m excited to take those experiences back to Alberta, and one day, into my own classroom.”

– **Kendra Thompson**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: Concordia University of Edmonton, Internship Site: 826DC, Professional Track: Advocacy, Service & Arts.

“Life in Washington, D.C. has been a remarkable, life-changing experience. This diverse city is a career and expertise hub; I am excited to have stepped into a strong network of designers committed to making a difference. The Washington Center’s slogan “Experience transforms,” has been an accurate description of my time here. This semester has given me skills, resources, and drive that I am certain will help me advance in my career. As I reflect on the memories and friends I have made, the knowledge I have acquired, and the lessons I have learned here, I feel very rich—these fifteen weeks have been nothing short of incredible.”

– **Melissa Christenson**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Internship Site: Inscape Publico, Professional Track: Advocacy, Service & Arts.





“I’ve grown in ways I never could have imagined. When I got here, I had very little idea of what I wanted to do after university. I knew that I was an activist, but I wasn’t sure how I could turn my passion into a career. My experience with The Washington Center has been about more than just the internship. I left DC confident and excited about what lies ahead.”

– **Claire Edwards**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: University of Alberta, Internship Site: NARAL Pro-Choice America, Professional Track: Politics & Public Policy.

“The Washington Center has provided me with more than I ever could have expected, and I know that this experience will have a lasting impact on my life. As a result of my internship, academic class, civic engagement, and professional programming, I can confidently say that I have been able to grow both personally and professionally, in ways that I did not think were possible. Thanks to my time with The Washington Center, I have not only developed a better understanding of the possibilities within my chosen field of public policy but I was able to lay out a specific plan for my future academic and professional goals to ensure that I will be successful. This was a very unique and beneficial experience that I would not have been able to get elsewhere.”

– **Brittney Whittaker**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: University of Calgary, Internship Site: Embassy of Canada, Professional Track: Politics & Public Policy.





“Build Your Character while You Build Your Career” - This was the first quotation I read when I arrived at The Washington Center for my internship this fall, and this is exactly what I believe I have accomplished during this semester. My experience with The Washington Center has been life changing, not only did it provide the opportunity for me to decide that working with children is what I would love to do as a career but I also had the chance to discover who I am as a person, how to act in a professional environment, as well as the importance of being engaged in one’s community through civic engagement. I can now confidently say I am on my way to pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education and Advocacy, and this is all thanks to the opportunity to live in D.C., participate in The Washington Center program and intern at 826DC. I now have memories and friendships that I will cherish for a lifetime.”

—**N'makaba Conteh**, Semester: Fall 2015, School: Concordia University Edmonton, Internship Site: 826DC, Professional Track: Advocacy, Service & Arts.

“My favorite aspect was being in such a prime location where there is an abundance of networking opportunities across so many diverse areas, especially because many influential decisions that affect our lives are made in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill. My involvement in Civic Engagement helped me understand processes that influence decision making, and I was exposed to different areas of concern and interest. Overall, this was a very different yet valuable experience for me and I feel it has changed me for the better. I am now more proactive, better at decision making, and have gained new skills that I can apply in any job while establishing a career.”

—**Navpreet Loyal**, Semester: Summer Term 2015, School: Concordia University College of Edmonton, Canada, Internship Site: STEMConnector.





“Participating in the Washington Center Program was surreal in all aspects. Not only did I have the opportunity to study American foreign policy while interning at a wonderful organization in the heart of the American Capital but I also got to experience firsthand and in real time events such as the Supreme Court legalizing gay marriage, the Iran deal being signed, and diplomatic relations being re-established with Cuba. The connections that I made and the situations that I was put in through the program helped me to make decisions about my academic and professional careers that I could not have possibly made if I stayed in Edmonton for the summer.”

– **Stephanie Gruhlke**, Semester: Summer 2015, School: University of Alberta, Internship Site: Shia Rights Watch, Professional Track: International Affairs.

“This experience in Washington, D.C. offered me the opportunity to internationalize my education in a way that would not have been possible in Alberta. Not only was I able to live in the United States for ten weeks, but I was also able to work at an organization with an international mandate and attend TWC events that allowed me to learn more about current international issues. I think that the most meaningful part of the experience for me was the opportunity to explore international career options within my area of studies with the support of my mentors at my internship site and The Washington Center.”

– **Kirsten Brassard**, Semester: Summer Term 2015, School: University of Alberta, Internship Site: Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Professional Track: Advocacy, Service & Arts.





“This opportunity allowed me to test an American workplace experience and gain insight into North American culture outside Canada. My main opportunity to learn was through direct contact with students at the undergrad level in the U.S. I got to understand the issues they face and their main concerns and challenges. It was also a meaningful experience to explore an urban area on the east coast of the U.S. It was an intense period of time even though it was only ten weeks long, and it gave me the opportunity to better understand North America.”

– **Carlos Venegas**, Semester: Summer Term 2015, School: University of Alberta, Internship Site: The GIC Group, Professional Track: Business & Global Trade.

“This experience offered me the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and learn new things about myself. It helped me advance my networking skills and helped me learn how to adapt to different situations. It showed me how classroom knowledge can be used in a business setting and further motivated me to study hard when I get back to school next semester. I met a lot of people and made lifelong friends. Living with total strangers showed me the importance of communication as well as helped me advance my social skills. It was truly a life changing experience, and I think it helped me develop skills that I would have never been.”



– **Bettina Bartha**, Semester: Summer Term 2015, School: University of Calgary, Internship Site: American Legislative Exchange Council, Professional Track: Business & Global Trade.

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