WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LASELL COLLEGE

STUDENT APPLICATION

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:
- Completed Application Form
- Statement of Purpose
- Academic Advisor’s Signature
- Health Services’ Signature
- Emergency Contact Information
- Two Academic References
- Copy of Unofficial Transcript

I authorize the Director of Internship Programs to access my academic and student conduct status to determine my eligibility for the Washington Semester. I acknowledge and approve that, if approved for the WSP, this access will continue through my semester away.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________

ELIGIBILITY:
Students must have a cumulative G.P.A of 2.5 or higher and be in good academic and disciplinary standing. If a student falls out of good academic or disciplinary standing at any time prior to going on the Washington Semester program, he or she will no longer be permitted to participate. Students are encouraged to go during the fall of their junior year. Students who wish to complete the WSP during a different semester must petition the Director of Internship Programs to do so. Please be advised that participation in this program is competitive and that the College will make a limited number of nominations as determined in consultation with WSP each year. Students are not permitted to participate in the WSP during their last semester at Lasell.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
1. In completing this Application, please type or print clearly in ink (if the Application is illegible, it will not be accepted).
2. Remember to sign the Application (above).
3. Submit an unofficial transcript with your WSP Application.
4. Students will be responsible to secure their own internship while in Washington, D.C. The WSP and American University have a database of internship opportunities which is made available to applicants. The student should have a polished resume and a sample cover letter ready to apply for internships. High clearance internships (i.e. The White House) require very early applications; students should apply concurrently with the WSP application.

The deadlines for Washington Semester Program applications are:
- Fall Semester: March 10th
- Spring Semester: October 1st

Please advise the Director of Internship Programs of any changes to your address, telephone number, or email that arise after you submit your Application.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Sarah Burrows
Director of Internship Programs
sburrows@lasell.edu
(617) 243-2394

WSP.American.edu
Washington Semester Program at American University | Information

American Politics | Study the impact of the two-party system, the relationship between the executive and legislative branches, the role of the courts in decision making, and the management of campaigns and elections.

Islam & World Affairs | Experience a rigorous semester of seminars and guest lecturers that provide you with an in-depth investigation of Contemporary Islamic Affairs in American politics. You will develop expertise on Islamic perspectives, strengthen your professional skills and gain valuable political experience from an internship at a key Islamic organization. You will emerge with practical knowledge about effective cross-cultural communication and a better understanding of Islamic approaches to complex policy making. The program includes a three-week field excursion to Cairo, Egypt and Amman, Jordan.

Foreign Policy | Explore emerging issues such as the war on terrorism, conflict prevention in the post-Cold War era, response to the collapse of states as well as to religious and ethnic conflicts, and NATO, the United Nations in the 21st century, and regional conflict in the Middle East and the Iraq War.

Global Economics & Business | Discuss business and trade with corporate executives, and U.S. and foreign government officials in their offices at corporations and embassies. To gain a true international perspective, spend 13 weeks in Washington, followed by three weeks in China, where you will visit major political and economic centers, such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Ningbo. This program offers DC-only or DC + China options (Fall Semester) or DC + Europe options (Spring Semester).

International Environment & Development | Spend time in Washington studying global environmental policy issues and the roles of major international organizations, then spend 3 weeks in Ecuador (Fall Semester) or Ghana (Spring Semester) studying those issues at the national and local levels. Discuss global environmental challenges with World Bank executives one day and then, only a few weeks later, see up close how these challenges are being addressed when you travel to Ecuador or Ghana.

International Law and Organizations | Explore the nature of international law in interstate relations by studying the activities, and performance of major global organizations in areas such as: security and terrorism, international trade and economic development, the environment, human rights, and humanitarian assistance. In addition to your time in Washington, you will spend three weeks visiting the United Nations in New York City, the International Court of Justice at The Hague, and NATO and the European Union in Brussels.

Journalism | Meet a diverse pool of national and local media figures, including newspaper and wire-service reporters, magazine editors, television and radio personalities, public relations executives, and political press secretaries. Open to students of all majors, this program attracts many who have studied communications, English, and print/broadcast media.

Justice & Law | Through discussions with policy makers, legal experts, law enforcement officials, psychologists, criminals, and those who deal with crime, you'll gain exposure to all sides of the issues facing today's justice community. Topics may include: criminal and civil justice, morality and justice, and the use of the legal system to define and enforce justice. Internships at the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security are a special feature.

Peace & Conflict Resolution | Go on field studies in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia (Fall Semester) or Greece and Turkey (Spring Semester) in addition to spending time in D.C. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity lets you examine how the theories you've learned work in real-world situations. Explore social and political conflicts around the world, with an emphasis on conflict resolution models and peacemaking initiatives between people, communities, and nations.

Transforming Communities | Washington, D.C. is a distinctive learning laboratory for exploring how leadership, grassroots action, advocacy, litigation, and government programs can improve communities. The program focuses on urban political and social change. This is the program for students who want to be change agents.

* Denotes a travel component which will be an additional fee.
Washington Semester’s Internship Philosophy (from wsp.american.edu)

Added to the core curriculum in the late 1960’s, the internship experience is an integral component of WSP.

- provides needed on-the-job experience
- allows you to test career interests
- integrates classroom learning into real world situations
- enhances personal development and the development of interpersonal work skills
- provides practical knowledge of and exposure to the real world

About the Internship

The internship in the Washington Semester Program is an academic endeavor as well, representing one-fourth of the semester curriculum. The course that accompanies the actual work experience helps you place your internship in the larger context and relate your experiences to those of your peers. Several class sessions plus a series of written assignments and projects constitute the course requirements.

Completion of these requirements, along with a formal evaluation submitted by your office supervisor, are the elements factored into your final grade for the internship component. A formal syllabus outlining specific requirements is included in the packet of materials you will receive once you’re in Washington.

In the Washington Semester Program, each student is required to intern two full days a week. Specific days vary, depending upon your program and unit assignment. Interns do not normally receive monetary compensation for their work; you are trading your services for access to an organization and for the on-the-job training the organization will provide.

Internship Bazaar

The WSP holds an Internship Bazaar at the start of each semester. The Bazaar is held in the Bender Arena on the main campus at American University, which provides space for each organization to meet with the students in an informal setting. During the bazaar, internship sponsors distribute information and answer questions about their organization. Some even pre-screen and/or interview prospective interns. We strongly encourage all students to attend this bazaar.

Start Your Internship Search Here

Our 30-year reputation of superior programming has earned us a bit of clout in the D.C. internship arena. In fact, our one-of-a-kind, fully searchable online internship database boasts over 2,000 different internships at thousands of sites—all in the D.C. metro area.

COURSE SELECTION & COURSE APPROVAL | Washington Semester Program

Please indicate below the courses you’d like to take while Studying in Washington, D.C. Course offerings and descriptions may be found on the WSP website. If you experience difficulty finding course information, contact the Office of WSP Admissions. Keep in mind you must take a minimum of 12 credits (maximum 16) while you are away.

You must consult your academic advisor to help you plan your schedule. Go to the Department Chair of your major for course you wish to have approved for your major, go to the Department Chair of your minor for courses you wish to have approved for your minor. Go to Steve Bloom if you wish to have an elective course approved as an Area of Inquiry.

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<tr>
<th>WSP Course Number</th>
<th>WSP Course Name</th>
<th>Number of Credits</th>
<th>Distribution (Major, minor, elective, etc.)</th>
<th>Lasell Course Equivalent</th>
<th>Credits that will transfer back</th>
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Please note that the electives that you select are not guaranteed. Elective courses must be taken in the evening and WSP students are the last to register, so flexibility will be expected. You may not get approval for the course until the semester has begun. In addition, there is the option of doing a research paper with an American University Professor as an adviser. This option is a wonderful opportunity to do original research on a topic of your choosing, utilizing the library resources of American University, area colleges and the Library of Congress. The result is a 40-page research paper.