

Washington, D.C. Global Leadership Program- INTERNSHIP GUIDANCE

AREA	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATIONS	ADVICE
<p><b>Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)</b></p>	<p>Washington, D.C. is one of the leading cities in the world for NGOs or nonprofit organizations at the local, national and international level. Nearly every major NGO, such as Unite Way Worldwide or Save the Children, has an office in D.C. and most have their global headquarters here. This means there are more NGO internship opportunities here than anywhere else in the world, and they cover nearly every issue both domestic and international: health care, education, national security, veteran affairs, criminal justice, poverty, hunger, civil rights, religious freedom, cultural affairs, economics, art, etc. Like any organization or private corporation NGOs also have needs in wide variety of work fields, such as finance, operations, legal, communications, and program management. So whatever issue or field of work interests you it is likely you can find it in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>International NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World Vision</li> <li>- Mercy Corps</li> <li>- UN Foundation</li> <li>- International Justice Mission</li> <li>- Transparency International</li> <li>- International Refugee Council</li> <li>- Sisters Cities International</li> <li>- Partners of the Americas</li> <li>- Freedom House</li> </ul> <p>Domestic NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Martha’s Table</li> <li>- United Way</li> <li>- Children’s Defense Fund</li> <li>- Teach for America</li> <li>- Share Our Strength</li> <li>- KaBoom</li> <li>- National Geographic</li> <li>- National Urban League</li> <li>- Center for Public Justice</li> <li>- Boys and Girls Clubs</li> </ul> <p>The best resource for NGO internships is <a href="http://www.idealists.org">www.idealists.org</a>. Search by city and area of interest.</p>	<p>Working for an NGO is becoming one of the most popular internships and jobs for young professionals in Washington, D.C. This is because many young people want to work for a cause and to make a difference in the world. The best part about NGOs in D.C. is that you will be working for the best NGOs in the world, so your experience here can pave the way for career opportunities around the country and the world. Finally, we have found that students interning at NGOs tend to have some of the most rewarding internship experiences—both in terms of the work they do and the people they work with. This is generally because people really care about what they do..</p>

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<p><b>Think Tanks</b></p>	<p>Think tanks are basically research organizations that seek to influence public policy, public opinion and the actions of key decision makers or organizations in the government, NGO and private sectors. Most think tanks focus on specific issue areas, although some cover a broad range of issues. Washington, D.C. is home to most of the world's most reputable think tanks and experts in key areas, including: economics, national security, governance and democracy, education, energy, conservation, scientific research, religion, etc. Many think tanks are non-partisan while others have clear political or ideological agendas. Therefore, it is important to find a think tank that represents both your area of interest (such as national security) as well as your political or ideological views. So research carefully. Think tanks are a distinctly D.C. experience and are a great way to learn from top experts and begin building your own expertise in your area of choice.</p>	<p>Top Think Tanks (look at websites for issue areas and internship opportunities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brookings</li> <li>- Center for Strategic and International Studies</li> <li>- Carnegie Endowment for Peace</li> <li>- American Enterprise Institute</li> <li>- Center for American Progress</li> <li>- Center for Global Development</li> <li>- Heritage Foundation</li> <li>- Center for Budget and Policy Priorities</li> <li>- Peterson Institute (Economics)</li> <li>- Council on Foreign Relations</li> <li>- US Institute of Peace</li> <li>- Urban Institute</li> </ul> <p>For a full list of top DC think tanks see here:  <a href="http://blog.linktank.com/most-popular-think-tanks/2/">http://blog.linktank.com/most-popular-think-tanks/2/</a></p>	<p>Think tanks are some of the most prestigious and interesting internships in Washington, D.C. In part because think tanks in D.C. are highly respected and the top experts are “celebrities” in their respective fields. Working for a think tank is a great way to learn more about a field you might be interested in or to strengthen your knowledge in an area that you might like to work on in the future.</p> <p>We recommend that you focus on the issues that interest you the most and on organizations that you respect. You will do your best work when you care about the issues and the organization. Do your research before you apply.</p>

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<b>Advocacy Organizations and Lobbying Firms</b>	<p>Advocacy organizations and lobbying firms both seek to influence the opinions and decision-making of lawmakers and other key leaders on target issues. They do this in two basic ways: 1) educating lawmakers about an issue or problem and advocating for a specific policy response or solution (e.g. a group that provides evidence of climate change and advocates for policies to regulate greenhouse emissions); 2) mobilizing local citizens or other persons of influence to demand that lawmakers respond in a specific to an issue or problem. Advocacy organizations are generally nonprofit organizations who are guided by a specific mission, such as “ending hunger”, while lobbying firms tend to be for-profit organizations who do paid work for clients (based client needs and not the mission). Yet it is not common to find both working on some of the same issues. There is a third group, usually termed “associations” which may advocate on behalf of a specific industry, such as natural gas or cable TV providers. All of these organizations provide internships in a variety of areas but generally the emphasis on: communications, public relations, policy research and government affairs.</p>	<p>Advocacy Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bread for the World</li> <li>- RESULTS</li> <li>- Enough (anti-genocide)</li> <li>- NETWORK</li> <li>- National Wildlife Federation</li> <li>- Accuracy in the Media</li> <li>- National Rifle Association</li> <li>- National Crime Prevention Council</li> <li>- NAACP</li> </ul> <p>Lobbying Firms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patton Boggs LLP</li> <li>- K and L Gates</li> <li>- Cassidy and Associates</li> <li>- Akin, Gump et al</li> <li>- Podesta Group</li> <li>- Ogilvy Government Relations</li> </ul> <p>Associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>- American Gas Association</li> <li>- National Cable and Telecommunications Association</li> </ul>	<p>Working for advocacy organizations or lobbying firms is a great opportunity to improve your communications or research skills, learn about public policy and potentially make a difference on an issue you care about. Our recommendation is that you look for organizations focused on issues or industries that interest you most – you will do the best work when you really care about what you do!</p>

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<p><b>Business or Private Sector</b></p>	<p>As in any major city there are numerous opportunities in the business sector in Washington, D.C. as well. Most major companies have offices in the city. A distinctive feature of D.C., however, is that the city has large numbers of consulting agencies and government contractors, due to big business opportunities in serving the federal government—especially large agencies like the Department of Defense. Therefore, while companies in D.C. have the same opportunities as elsewhere there will be additional opportunities in areas like government relations or national security (intelligence).</p>	<p>Top Opportunities in D.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Booz Allen</li> <li>- PwC</li> <li>- Northrup Grumman</li> <li>- Halliburton</li> <li>- Lockheed Martin</li> <li>- Verizon</li> <li>- Exxon Mobil</li> <li>- JP Morgan Chase</li> <li>- APCO Worldwide</li> </ul> <p>Small Businesses (with good relations to Pepperdine):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marq Energie Consulting</li> <li>- Arcadia Energy</li> <li>- Oopower</li> </ul>	<p>Most students who come to Washington, D.C. are looking for internships in public service or public policy (including think tanks and NGOs), so there are fewer resources on business internships in D.C. Since there are so many businesses in the city we recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use “Handshake” and the Career Center to find companies interested in Pepperdine students</li> <li>- Ask the Washington, D.C. Program about recommendations for places where interns have worked in the past</li> </ul>

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<b>Capitol Hill</b>	<p>Interning with a member of Congress is one of the most popular internships in Washington, D.C. This is a tremendous opportunity to an inside view of the legislative process and the world of politics. At the same time, working on Capitol Hill is a unique experience and what you do may not relate directly to your future career. Congressional interns conduct a variety of tasks from answering phones and giving tours to visitors to attending policy hearings or drafting press releases. Many people working on the Hill or in other political careers in D.C. got their start as a congressional intern.</p>	<p>Recommended offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Your local members of Congress</li> <li>- Senator Jerry Moran</li> <li>- Senator Amy Klobuchar</li> </ul>	<p>It is important to note that Capitol Hill internships are not for everyone. The hours are highly demanding (9-6pm on Monday-Friday) and the work can often be mundane. Congress is a place where most people start on the bottom and work their way up, so your supervisor might be the intern from last year (or even last semester)! At the same time, an internship with a good office can deepen your knowledge on the issues and on the role of government, as well as greatly enhance your communication skills.</p>
<b>Government Agencies</b>	<p>Government agencies in Washington, D.C. are large and incredibly bureaucratic. This means that there are numerous internship opportunities, but many of them have application processes that take months. Working in a government agency is a great way to gain work experience and be a first-step to a public service career but you need to plan ahead carefully. Like companies they need interns in a variety of areas like communications, research, program management and finance.</p>	<p>Popular Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of State</li> <li>- US Agency for International Development</li> <li>- Peace Corps</li> <li>- Kennedy Center</li> <li>- Smithsonian</li> <li>- Federal Bureau of Investigation</li> <li>- Central Intelligence Agency</li> <li>- Housing and Urban Devt.</li> </ul>	<p>Be sure to check the website of the agency for the deadlines and requirements before. Plan to do this 9-6 months in advance for most.</p>

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<b>White House</b>	<p>The White House is one of the most high-profile internship opportunities in Washington, D.C. Many people are excited to be able to serve the President of the United States. White House internships cover numerous aspects of the Executive Branch, including areas like congressional affairs, public engagement, official correspondence and many other areas. It also includes the offices of the First Lady and the Vice President.</p>	<p>See the White House Internship page here:  <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/internships">https://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/internships</a></p>	<p>Like government agencies the White House application process is long so plan ahead. They also need people with a variety of skills.</p>
<b>International Institutions</b>	<p>As a city of global influence Washington, D.C. is also the home of many leading international institutions or multilateral organizations. These are institutions that help promote collaboration among governments on the most critical global issues, such as peace-building, trade, finance or public health. These institutions generally draw staff from all over the world so you will have the chance to work alongside people from many different cultures.</p>	<p>Top Institutions in D.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World Bank</li> <li>- International Monetary Fund</li> <li>- Pan-American Health Organization</li> <li>- Organization of American States</li> <li>- United Nations</li> </ul>	<p>Like government agencies many international institutions have long application processes, so be sure to check websites. If you have a specific interest contact the Washington, D.C. Program office and we may have references to provide.</p>