Overview

The Washington Center (TWC) has developed partnerships with the international higher education community and government sectors since its first NAFTA Leaders Internship Program in 1996.

In this context that Canadian universities first started to partner with The Washington Center to allow their students to transfer the academic knowledge learned in the classroom into practical skills needed to enter the workforce.

Agreements and partnerships with provinces governments across Canada and more than 30 universities have helped bring more than 500 students from Canada to Washington, D.C. to participate in our internship program. Competitive scholarships from the following provinces are available for eligible students:

- Ministry of International Relations of Québec (partner since 1999)
- Business New Brunswick, Intergovernmental Affairs and SEED in New Brunswick (partner since 2005)
- Ministry of Advanced Education of Alberta (partner since 2006)
- Ministry of Education of Saskatchewan (2011)

Program Components

Students can select amongst several programs: Business & Global Trade; International Affairs; Media & Communication; Law & Criminal Justice; Science, Technology & Society; Advocacy, Service & Arts and the Postgraduate Professional Development Program.

The internship program is comprised of three major components including:

1. Internships in Washington, D.C.: Students intern four and a half days per week in organizations that help to frame the global outlook of the D.C. policy arena.

2. Academic Course: All participants in this program must complete an academic course. Classes taught by TWC 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. Leadership Forum: The hallmark of TWC’s programming is its Leadership Forum. The Leadership Forum is designed for students to engage with leaders from a variety of settings and to help them reflect on their professional leadership development and includes:
   - Alan K. Simpson-Norman Y. Mineta Leaders Series
   - Public Policy Dialogues on Capitol Hill
   - Roundtable on Civil Society and Social Responsibility
   - Career Boot Camp
   - Civic engagement project: Each student is required to complete a civic engagement project where they become informed about an issue they care about and then take civic action in partnership with others to make a positive difference at the local, national or global level.

- Portfolio: Over the course of the semester, students build a portfolio of documents that reflect their development through the learning activities described above. The portfolio is also the final artifact that demonstrates the integration of all program components and documents each student’s process of personal transformation.
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 students challenging opportunities to train and learn in Washington, D.C. The experience helps students turn theory into practice, ambition into purpose, and potential into achievement.

Program highlights

- As part of the Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series (SMLS), students had the opportunity to listen to and interact with remarkable speakers. Ambassador Gary Doer, Canadian Ambassador to the United States was the SMLS guest speaker on November 5, the day before the U.S. Presidential election. He discussed a variety of policies and issues concerning Canada-U.S. relations, including trade, energy and security. Other speakers this year included Francisco J. Sanchez, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Senator Tom Daschle; Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a Senior Adviser to the Center for Defense Information and Rodell Mollineau, president of American Bridge 21st Century who discussed Super PACs (political action committees).

- In the fall and spring, participants furthered their knowledge of corporate social responsibility during The Washington Center's Symposium on Civil Society and Social Responsibility. Presenters included Suzanne Basalla, Executive Vice President, TOMODACHI Initiative; Donna Lynn Woodall, Citizenship Director, Microsoft Corporation; Matthew Blakely, Director, Motorola Solutions Foundation; Dave Stangis, Vice President of Public Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility, Campbell’s Soup Company and President of the Campbell Soup Foundation, as well as executives from Southwest Airlines, the Ford Foundation, AT&T, Prudential Financial and Time Warner Cable.

- Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba, was the featured guest of a special Sunday Public Policy Dialogues on Capitol Hill (PPDCH) event in February. More than 60 students, both international and domestic, attended his presentation at TWC’s Residential and Academic Facility in NoMa, where the premier spoke on the topic of the role of subnational governments around the world. André Boisclair, Québec Delegate General in New York, and Peter Rose, Acting Director of the Québec Government Office in D.C., were also in attendance.

- Every semester, the students from Québec and Alberta met with their representatives in Washington at the Québec Government Office and Alberta Office, respectively, where they learned more about the bilateral relationship between their home province and the United States.

Testimonials

“Thank you for a life-changing, one-of-a-kind experience. My year here was filled with an array of opportunities to learn and grow as an individual. I now have a greater understanding of the global community and the ways that we are all interconnected.”

**Shayla Dietrich, Fall 2012**
School: University of Regina
Internship: Global Giving

“Thank you for the wonderful internship in the non-profit sector. I have developed a greater understanding of the political process and ways that one can engage in it.”

**Hannah Kellett, Spring 2014**
School: Concordia University
Internship: Amber Road

“Thank you for making my internship experience one of the most important events in my life. I believe I am an educator now that I have seen and experienced so much within the international environment.”

**Yong Kim**
School: University of Toronto
Internship: Global Giving

Important Dates and Deadlines

**Spring 2015**
Deadline: November 1st, 2014
Check-in: January 21st, 2015
Internship start: January 26th, 2015
Internship End: May 5th, 2015
Check-out: May 6th, 2015

**Summer 2015**
Deadline: March 1st, 2015
Check-in: May 27th, 2015
Internship start: June 1st, 2015
Internship End: August 7th, 2015
Check-out: August 8th, 2015

For more information, please e-mail:
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