



# *Muslim American Scholars Initiative*

## Summer 2015



Since 2009, The Washington Center (TWC) and the Center for Global Understanding (CFGU) have offered scholarship opportunities to support Muslim American undergraduates and recent graduates as they spend a summer interning, studying and living in Washington, D.C. This year, the El Hibri Charitable Foundation has joined us as a partner and sponsor, as well.

The Muslim American Scholars Initiative introduces selected students to leading professionals and public servants and provides an experience that launches its alumni on successful career paths. TWC is now accepting applications for summer 2015 and encourages eligible students to submit their materials before **March 18, 2015**.

## *Program Components*

**Internship (4 days/week):** Students receive assistance in securing a substantive position related to their field of interest with a nonprofit, business, government agency, or international organization in the D.C. area.

**Academic Course (3 hrs./week):** Each participant selects a course from among 30 offered ranging across disciplines.

**Leadership Forum:** On a weekly basis, students attend site visits, speakers, panel discussions, and other activities. They are also involved in civic engagement and visit a member of Congress or their senior staff on Capitol Hill.

**Portfolio:** Throughout the summer, students complete a number of assignments that are compiled into a final product.

## *Public Affairs Series*

Students in the initiative will have access to special programming. Past Public Affairs Series events have included small-group meetings at Microsoft, eBay, USAID, The White House, and the Offices of Senator Harry Reid, Rep. André Carson, and Rep. Keith Ellison. Participants have also had the opportunity to network informally with young Muslim American professionals.

## *Alumni Successes*

Former participants in the initiative have gone on to intern or work for the following organizations after their summers in D.C.: The White House, USAID, The Aspen Institute, Department of State, Peace Corps, Meridian International Center, and The Brookings Institution, among others. Many have also pursued graduate or professional degrees.

## *Application Instructions*

Interested applicants should first submit an online application to The Washington Center at <http://portal.e.twc.edu>. Components include a resume, 2 letters of recommendation, official transcripts, a statement of professional interest (100 words), and an issues essay (500 words). Undergraduates must receive the approval of a campus liaison or sponsor. Students must also pay a \$60 application fee (or \$250 deposit for postgraduates). A supplemental statement will be required post-acceptance for financial aid consideration.

Please visit our website at [www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu)



## About The Washington Center

For more than 35 years, The Washington Center has played a crucial role in connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Founded in 1975, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is the largest, independent, nonprofit experiential education organization in the United States, with a full-time staff of 80 people.

The Washington Center has more than 50,000 alumni who agree that their TWC experience helped them develop job skills, discover their passion, make invaluable professional and personal connections, gain access, set a plan for the future, and strengthen their desire to give back to their communities. Many of the alumni are in leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of the U.S. and around the world.

## Important Deadlines and Dates

### Priority Deadline

February 18, 2015

### Regular Deadline

March 18, 2015

### Summer Term

May 27–August 8, 2015  
(Check-in and check-out)

### Summer Quarter

June 7–August 15, 2015  
(Check-in and check-out)

## Scholarship Details

Students will be provided with a minimum \$5,000 scholarship to help offset TWC program and housing fees. Past participants have also been able to access funding from various sources, including other TWC private awards, state grants, and institutional aid. Contact [cfgu@twc.edu](mailto:cfgu@twc.edu) if you would like to learn more about funding sources and your college or university arrangements.

## Testimonials



### Fatimeh Shamseddine '09 University of South Florida

“This summer changed my life. Coming to D.C. to intern was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I encourage students from any major to look into an internship in the nation’s capital; you won’t regret it.”

To learn more about Fatimeh’s TWC Experience:

[www.twc.edu/fatimeh](http://www.twc.edu/fatimeh)



### Muhammad Siddiqui '13 Wake Forest University

“I will be forever grateful to CFGU making it possible for me to spend the summer in D.C. and establish a solid professional foundation. I had the ability to meet some of the leading Muslim American professionals in D.C. and develop an invaluable network of friends and mentors. Most importantly, I have learned how imperative it is for young Muslim professional such as ourselves, to enrich the civic discourse in this country.”



### Esha Mahmood '11, Trinity University

“The opportunity provided to me by the Center for Global Understanding has been an invaluable experience that I will cherish forever. From conversations with prominent leaders to visits to government and developmental agencies, the program set up by CFGU offers a breadth of knowledge appealing to students of all backgrounds. My experience here in D.C. has helped me strengthen my skill sets and mature both personally and professionally.”

The Washington Center  
for Internships and Academic Seminars  
1333 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20036-2205

### For more information:

[cfgu@twc.edu](mailto:cfgu@twc.edu)  
[www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu)