

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How long does the internship last?
  - There are three internship sessions per year: summer, fall and spring. Each session lasts the length of a typical semester. If your school does not run a typical semester, please ask the Internship Coordinator if we are able to accommodate your time frame.
- Where do D.C. interns usually live?
  - We don't provide housing, but there are many different options for interns who wish to stay in D.C. There are hostels, apartments and even some cooperative programs with other Universities who have internship programs. The D.C. office will assist in answering further questions you may have about housing. State interns typically reside at their personal residence or school dormitory.
- Are the internships paid?
  - While interns serving in the Washington, D.C., office are paid; state internship positions are unpaid with the exception of the Boise office. Boise office interns will receive a small stipend.
- If I am selected to serve an internship in the Washington, D.C., office, will there be ample time to visit the many historical sites and attractions in our nation's capital?
  - D.C. interns generally work Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, leaving the rest of the time to be used at their discretion. We encourage interns to see as much as possible while in D.C.
- How does the D.C. internship differ from a state internship?
  - Interns serving in the Washington, D.C., office typically work 40 hours per week, while those serving in the regional offices throughout Idaho typically work 20 hours per week.
- Will this internship help me if I would like to get a job?
  - We have an excellent track record of job placements for interns who work with us. Chances are high that, if you excel in your role as an intern, you will gain invaluable experience and be very marketable, either in D.C. or within the state.
- How important is my GPA and major?
  - This internship is valuable to all types of students, regardless of major. There is no minimum GPA that we consider. We try to get to know those who apply during our selection process so that we can get interns who will work and interact well with the Senator's staff. A perfect knowledge of government proceedings isn't a pre-requisite, but a desire to work hard, be personable and learn is.
- What is a typical day like for a D.C. intern?
  - D.C. interns start at 9:00 AM every day, receive a one-hour lunch break and are finished working around 6:00 PM. They work hard, performing a multitude of tasks. We place a great amount of trust in our interns.
- Are interns required to adhere to a dress code?

- Dress is business professional. When the Senate is in session, suit jackets are strongly recommended. During state work periods and/or when the Senate is in a period of recess, business casual is acceptable.
- What type of work does an intern do?
  - Interns have several different areas in which they assist the Senator and his staff. Throughout the internship experience interns have different areas of responsibility. Some examples of previous intern tasks include: tracking daily news to provide updates for the senator answering phone calls, greeting guests, writing constituent letters and legislative research.
- I've graduated college. Can I still apply?
  - Yes. We are happy to accept applications from recent college graduates.
- I'm in high school; can I be an intern in Washington, D.C.?  
  - We cannot accept applications from high school students. However, you may be interested in the Idaho State Legislative Page Program. Please contact the Boise office for further information.
- I'm a married student. Can I still apply for an internship?  
  - Absolutely, all students are welcome to apply.
- I am not a U.S. citizen or resident, but am currently studying at a U.S. university; can I apply?  
  - International students have to have a pre-approved program authorized by the Senate Rules Committee. We cannot accept non-US citizens as interns or employees.
- My university requires that I take classes during the week. Can I work part-time?  
  - Interns do a lot of work in our offices. It is critical that we have the appropriate number of interns to get the work done. The Internship Coordinator will work with you to see if a part-time schedule can be accommodated.
- I'm not from Idaho. Can I apply?  
  - Yes, however, preference is given to Idaho natives and residents.
- I'm a mathematics major; do I have a chance, or do you only hire political science majors?  
  - We look for the best and brightest students. As long as you are willing to work hard, you have as good a chance as anyone else. In fact, in many situations, a particular area of expertise, such as biology, math or economics, will make you the ideal intern for completing legislative research and projects in those areas.
- Do I have to seek credit to be considered for an internship?  
  - No, the decision to seek credit is up to the student. As long as you meet the minimum application requirements, you may apply.
- When can I expect to hear from you after the application deadline?  
  - Candidates will be contacted on receipt of their completed application after the internship deadline. The Intern Coordinator will be in further communication if the office wishes to interview the candidate. Our goal is to hire all interns within approximately four weeks after the application deadline.