Why Do You Need an Internship?

The rules for life after college have changed. Your major is no longer a direct path to a career. The options are wider. The competition is tougher.

Now, more than ever, you have the power to take a proactive role in building the career that fits you best. Internships are as essential to this process as your classes and extracurriculars. They provide a gateway to meaningful employment in a fast-paced, career-oriented world.

Only one-third (34%) of students strongly agree that they will graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the job market. And just half (53%) believe their major will lead to a good job.

Strada-Gallup 2017 College Student Survey of more than 32,000 college students
I chose to intern in Washington, D.C. because it made sense to begin building my network in the place I saw myself starting a career. Being in Washington, D.C. has helped me get my foot in the door in a way I could not have achieved elsewhere.

Becca Colehower, Furman University
Interned with a U.S. Congressional Office
How Do You Find the Right Internship?

Interning is a big commitment. Just like when choosing which college to go to, there is a lot more to consider than the name above the front door. Over time, the bullet point on your resume will fade away—but the skills, experiences and connections you gain from your internship will last your entire professional life.

There are so many ways to intern, you owe it to yourself to find the option that’s right for you. Will you go abroad or stay in the U.S.? Will you intern on your own or through a university-endorsed program? Whichever path you take, the most important thing is to make sure the internship itself is worth your while.

A quality internship is a learning experience. When searching for an internship, look for some of the same qualities you would look for in a class at your school, such as:

- Projects and assignments that you can own.
- A goal-oriented approach to work that will help you grow and improve.
- Someone who is invested in your personal and professional success.
- Work that aligns with your interests, makes use of the skills you excel in and fosters those you’re hoping to improve.

While it’s possible to find a quality internship on your own, The Washington Center will not only match you to a quality internship, but will help you optimize the experience.
What’s Unique About a TWC Experience?

The Washington Center (TWC) has been propelling students of all backgrounds into the workforce for over 40 years. Our program is supported by your university and is designed to complement your learning on campus. You’ll be in D.C., but you’ll live and learn with students from all over the country and around the world. We’re here to help you make the transition from college to career by combining your academic skills, professional interests and future goals.

A Full-Time Learning Experience

During your time in D.C., you’ll be immersed in a guided test run of life as a young professional. You’ll intern at one of our partner organizations in the D.C. area, take an evening course of your choosing and learn how to take the next step in your career through our tailored professional development and career exploration programming. We guarantee housing in the heart of D.C., so in your downtime, you’ll have access to rich cultural and professional opportunities in the District (ranked by Forbes as one of the top 10 cities for young professionals).

Relax... We’ll Take Care of It

Your time is important, and we know how hard it can be to secure a quality internship and move to a new city. That’s why we’ve streamlined the entire process—working with you every step of the way to find you the best internship and give you the fullest experience. Once you’ve been accepted, you can rest easy knowing that you’ll get:

• A quality internship.
• Credit at your institution.
• A fully-furnished apartment.
• A supportive student services staff.
• In-depth professional development.

There are so many ways to intern, you owe it to yourself to find the option that’s right for you.
What Type of Work Could You Do?

Our goal is to match you with an internship that will not only enable you to do meaningful work you’re passionate about, but will also expose you to things you may not have considered.

Finding You the Best Internship

We have a dedicated team of professionals who maintain a network of 600+ internship sites in the Washington, D.C. metro area. We only match you with internships that provide a quality professional experience that aligns with your skills and interests. Our internship advisors are professional, knowledgeable and eager to get to know you and your goals, ensuring that you’ll be immersed in an internship that matches you.

Passionate About Education?

You may find yourself at an education nonprofit planning events and projects for students.

Engaged In Politics?

You may find yourself at a think-tank researching public policy.

Like To Write?

You may find yourself at a PR firm writing press releases.

Interested In Law?

You may find yourself at a law firm conducting legal research.

Not finding your interest here? Don’t sweat it. We work with students of many different backgrounds and would love to talk to you about what internship opportunities we have available for you!
I’m a political science major and very passionate about education policy, so I was glad to land an internship combining those two interests. Prior to my internship, I had never had an opportunity to work on professional projects and have it be up to me to complete the work independently. I know I’ll benefit from this experience once I enter the job market.

Samuel Santos, Florida International University
Interned with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
The LEAD professional development sessions each Friday gave me the language, strategies and skills to effectively communicate my own strengths. I also benefited from my LEAD group peers and their experiences, what they were learning and who they were meeting at their internship sites. As a result, I’m better positioned to determine what I’m looking for in a career and how to market myself as an asset to prospective employers.

Ryan Wells, Elon University
Interned with Amnesty International
What Does a Semester Look Like?

Learn on the Job
Monday through Thursday, you’ll work full time at an organization that matches your goals and interests. You’ll gain insight into the life of a working professional, learn skills that you could only acquire on the job and find out what you are (or aren’t) looking for in your professional future.

Gain the Tools You’ll Need for the Workplace
Every Friday, our LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Achievement, Development) Colloquium will help you contextualize everything you learn at your internship and turn it into a plan for life after college. Through small group sessions and one-on-one advising, you’ll learn how to optimize your strengths, make lasting connections and navigate the job market.

Continue Your Academic Development
One night a week, you’ll learn from expert faculty in a classroom of no more than 18 students. You’ll choose your course from a variety of options to suit your academic goals. You could fulfill a requirement for your major, delve deep into something you’ve always been interested in, or get a new experience with a course you could only find in D.C.

Build a Plan for Life after College
Even though your internship will end, the skills you learn last forever. You’ll leave D.C. with a great internship experience on your resume, new professional connections and a portfolio of all the work you accomplished. Your TWC experience culminates with a detailed plan of action for whatever’s next in life.

WHAT DOES A WEEK LOOK LIKE?

Internship
8 hours a day, on-the-job learning, industry insight

Course
One night per week, diverse course offerings, classes capped at 18 students

LEAD
Friday, professional development, career readiness, personalized attention, networking and career exploration opportunities

Take advantage of all that D.C. has to offer:
- World-famous monuments
- Outdoor activities, such as kayaking on the Potomac and hiking in Great Falls Park
- The Smithsonian museums, including the new National Museum of African American History and Culture
- The Newseum, International Spy Museum and many art galleries
- Nationals baseball, Wizards basketball and other sporting events
- Free concerts on the National Mall
Where Will You Live?

You’ll need a place to call home while you’re in the nation’s capital. All TWC students are guaranteed housing in either our Residential and Academic Facility in NoMa or in equivalent apartment-style housing in one of our partner buildings nearby. Our apartments are designed to give you space and independence as a young professional, while also fostering a diverse community of fellow TWC participants.

The Apartment
You’ll likely live in a two-bedroom apartment with three other interns. You’ll share a bedroom and a bathroom with one other student, and your kitchen, living and dining area with your two other roommates. Apartments are fully-furnished and include a washer/dryer and dishwasher in every unit. They also come with WiFi, cable, essential appliances and even pots, pans and cutlery already stocked in the kitchen cabinets. Our housing is managed by a dedicated student services team to ensure you have the tools and accommodations you need to live comfortably.

The Community
You’ll be living in NoMa, a walkable neighborhood with lots of local amenities and easy access to public transportation. Within our housing, you’ll be part of a community of fellow interns from all over the country and around the world. Whether it’s studying together, going out to dinner in your new neighborhood or seeing the sights, there are lots of ways to make lifelong friendships at TWC.

The City
Visitors will tell you they love D.C. for the monuments and museums. Locals will add that it’s so much more. It’s the perfect fit for someone who is looking to advance their career in a diverse city where there’s truly something for everyone. There are opportunities for networking and career development, but there’s also a vibrant arts and music culture, a world-class food scene, every kind of professional sport and plenty of festivals and community events to attend.
Don’t Just Take Our Word For It

In 2017, we partnered with Gallup to conduct a survey of over 1,800 of our alumni to help us quantify the impact that TWC had on their lives. Here are some highlights from that report:

- Recent TWC alumni are more likely to be thriving in all dimensions of well-being — purpose, social, financial, community and physical — than college graduates nationally.

- Over 80% of TWC alumni agree that TWC helped them develop critical skills for workplace success, including adaptability and communication.

- Recent TWC alumni are more likely to be engaged at their work than college graduates nationally.

- Recent TWC alumni who were liberal arts majors are more likely to be employed full time and working in a field directly related to their undergraduate study than liberal arts graduates nationally.

- First-generation college students who participated in TWC’s program are more likely to be thriving in financial and social well-being than their counterparts nationally.
The people I met were definitely the greatest benefit of my time in D.C. I now have friends from all walks of life that I really built connections with. By chatting with fellow Metro commuters, I got to know international students, Capitol Police officers and more. Through my internship, I was fortunate to interact with military commanders, an ambassador and other dignitaries. Making new connections also led me to attend special events at the White House and Pentagon. This internship was the best experience of my life.

Daisy Provost, Thomas College
Interned with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

• Be at least 18 years old.
• Be enrolled as an undergraduate student at an accredited college or university.*
• Be a sophomore or above while participating in the program and have completed at least two semesters on campus by the start of our program.
• Maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
• Demonstrate English language proficiency.
• Receive academic credit from your college or university for your participation in the program (TWC does not grant credit).
• Receive approval from your campus liaison (or a faculty sponsor if there is no TWC liaison on your campus).
• Your home institution may have additional eligibility requirements. Please contact your campus liaison before starting an application to TWC. If you need help identifying your campus liaison, email us at info@twc.edu.

* TWC also considers recent college graduates and students in master’s level programs on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us at info@twc.edu to learn more.
What’s Next

1 LEARN MORE
Visit www.twc.edu/explore.
Ask your liaison how TWC will work for you.
Choose which semester or summer you want to come.
Contact info@twc.edu or 202-238-7919 with questions.

2 GET STARTED
See if your financial aid package can be applied to TWC costs.
Work on your application documents (see checklist below).
Talk to your letter of recommendation writers.

3 APPLY
Go to www.twc.edu/apply.
Start an application for the Academic Internship Program.
Submit your application with code APPLY60 to waive the $60 fee!
Make sure TWC has received all application documents.

4 YOU’RE ALL SET
Wait while your application is reviewed by your liaison and TWC.
Receive an admissions decision two weeks after your application is complete!

PROMO CODE
APPLY60

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:
- Resume
- Issues Essay
- Transcript
- Statement of Interest
- Letters of Recommendation*

Visit www.twc.edu/app-docs to see how your application documents will be used.

*Will be submitted online directly by the recommendation writers.
My experience with The Washington Center was nothing short of amazing, from the moment I met with a representative on campus to the connections and memories I made in D.C. Being here has taught me to go for everything I desire. It has increased my confidence and I am forever grateful.

Melanie Griffin, University of Central Arkansas
Interned with The National Archives and Records Administration