

Comparison of Four Academically Affiliated Programs (2021)

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	Washington Semester Program (WSP)	The Fund for American Studies (TFAS)	The Washington Center (TWC)	The Washington Internship Institute (WII)
Website	https://www.american.edu/spexs/washingtonsemester/	https://www.dcinternships.org/	https://twc.edu/	http://wiidc.org/
Academic Home	American University	George Mason University	Elon University	Belmont University
Term	Fall/Spring: 15 weeks Summer: 8 weeks	Fall/Spring: 15 weeks Summer: 8 weeks	Fall/Spring: 9 weeks Summer: 9 weeks	Fall/Spring: 15 weeks Summer: 10 weeks
Eligibility	<p><u>For Fall/Spring programs:</u> 2.5 minimum college GPA At least 36 earned university credits (or home school equivalent). Dual enrollment credits count, but AP/IB credits do not.</p> <p><u>For Summer programs:</u> All of the above and must be an actively enrolled student in good standing at an accredited 2- or 4-year institution of higher education; or an actively enrolled student in good standing at an accredited graduate-level program; or a graduate of an accredited undergraduate institution in the past academic year.</p> <p>In addition, the candidate must not require visa support from AU to study in the US.¹</p>	<p>18 years or older High school graduate Must have completed at least one semester of undergraduate study at an accredited college or university. No minimum GPA required, but “applicants with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, relevant professional and volunteer experience, and well-written essays are given the highest scores.” “We are seeking well-rounded students who demonstrate ambition, strong academic performance, leadership ability, maturity, time management skills as well as campus and community involvement.”²</p>	<p>18 years or older 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. Recent college graduates and graduate students considered on case-by-case basis. Minimum 2.75 GPA. Must receive academic credit from home campus for participation in the program. Home campus liaison (or a faculty sponsor if there is no TWC campus liaison) must approve the application. *Home institution may have additional eligibility requirements³</p>	<p>Must be a sophomore or above at an accredited college or university when in DC; or have graduated with a bachelor’s degree within a year before starting the program.</p> <p>Minimum 2.75 GPA, with special consideration if the GPA is lower.</p> <p>Prior consultation with faculty adviser, Washington Internship Institute campus liaison</p>

¹ American University Washington Semester Program, “Domestic Student Admissions,” accessed June 20, 2021, <https://www.american.edu/spexs/washingtonsemester/us-student-admissions.cfm>.

² The Fund for American Studies, “Admissions,” accessed June 20, 2021, <https://www.dcinternships.org/admissions/>.

³ The Washington Center, “Eligibility,” accessed June 21, 2021, <https://twc.edu/programs/academic-internship-program>.

	Washington Semester Program (WSP)	The Fund for American Studies (TFAS)	The Washington Center (TWC)	The Washington Internship Institute (WII)
Enrollment	Students enrolled as non-degree seeking students at AU, with full student privileges including access to libraries, campus facilities and events, and student services.	Students enrolled as non-degree seeking students at GMU, with full student privileges including access to libraries, campus facilities, and student services.	In general, students retain their home campus enrollment status and their TWC experience is treated as a study away program.	In general, students retain their home campus enrollment status, and their WII experience is treated as a study away program.
Course Credit	Course credit is offered by American University and students receive an AU transcript at the end of the term.	Course credit is offered by George Mason University and students receive a GMU transcript at the end of the term.	Credit for courses is provided by Elon University. Specific university partner agreements will also articulate the course equivalencies and credit transfers.	Students can take a full load (up to 15 credits during fall/spring) through a combination of the WII internship and core courses, and other online classes. The course equivalencies and credit transfers will depend on the university partner agreements. In the <u>summer only</u> , course credit is offered through Belmont University.
Curriculum	Classes are virtual or in-person on campus at AU. Fall/Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship course (4 credits) • WSP Seminar (4 credits) – pick one of following: *Political Transitions and Policy Implications *Managing the Pandemic in Globalized Societies *Criminal Legal System: Roots of Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparity *National Conversations in Times of Crisis • AU Elective (3 credits) – choose from the catalog Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSP Seminar (3 credits) • May take additional WSP Seminars listed in summer catalog. 	Classes held at the GMU Arlington campus (accessible by metro). In the Fall/Spring, students take 3 classes: Internship Seminar (6 credits), International Economic Policy (3 credits), and a 3-credit government class, either The American Presidency (Fall) or American Political Thought (Spring). In the Summer, students are required to take one of three economics courses (3 credits each): Economics for the Citizen, Economic Problems and Public Policies, and Economies in Transition. An optional weeklong Economics Boot Camp is offered during the first week of the program to help students who have not taken any economics classes before. Students can also add one of the following 3-credit electives: US Foreign Policy, American Political Thought, Internship Seminar – Public Policy & International Affairs, Internship Seminar – Politics & the Press.	Classes held at TWC. Students take one academic course each week in addition to career readiness workshops. TWC offers courses on various topics depending on interest indicated by the students and university partners. Recent topics include: American History American Politics & Public Policy Business & Administration Communication International Affairs Law & Criminal Justice Media & Communications Research	Classes are offered in-person at the WII office. These are scheduled during the day; there are no night or weekend classes. The students are expected to intern 4 days a week. WII requires students to take an Internship Seminar and a Core Course. Additional classes may be customized at the request of the university partner.

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Program costs (As of July 1, 2021)	<p><u>Program Fees (tuition)</u> Total program cost varies depending on the credits, and the length of the term. 2021-22 tuition rates for non-degree students range from \$1,684 (for course levels 100-400) to \$1,812 (for course levels 500 and above) per credit.</p> <p>Summer program: \$3,800 (3 credits)</p> <p>About \$400 in additional fees to cover Metro university pass (U-Pass), technology, health and recreation centers, and other student activities.</p> <p><u>Housing Fees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off campus furnished apartments (provided by TurnKey): \$5500 (Fall/Spring) • On campus (variable rates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer housing (\$3080-\$3920) - Meal plan required (\$800+) <p><u>Application Fees</u> – none listed</p>	<p><u>Program Fees (includes housing)</u> Fall/Spring: \$13,495 (12 credits) Summer (3 credits): \$7,950 Summer (6 credits): \$9,150</p> <p><u>Application Fees</u> \$25 non-refundable</p>	<p><u>Program Fees</u> Fall/Spring: \$9,415 Summer: \$7,100</p> <p><u>Housing Fees</u> Fall/Spring: \$6,570 Summer: \$4,990</p> <p><u>Application Fees</u> \$60 \$125 – only for students enrolled in institutions outside the US</p>	<p><u>Program Fees</u> Fall/Spring: \$7,400 Summer: \$5,700</p> <p><u>Housing Fees</u> Fall/Spring (15 weeks): \$5300 Summer (10 weeks): \$4200</p> <p><u>Application Fees</u> \$50 non-refundable \$150 for students outside the US</p>
Housing	<p>WSP offers off-campus housing in furnished apartments managed by TurnKey (\$5500), or on-campus AU housing (summer only). Students who choose to live on-campus <i>must</i> purchase a meal plan.</p> <p>Students are <i>not</i> required to live in WSP housing whether on- or off-campus.</p>	<p>Fall/Spring term housing provided by WISH on Capitol Hill. Roommates are matched by TFAS. 2 persons per bedroom. Summer housing is at the <u>George Washington University campus in Foggy Bottom</u>.</p> <p>Students <u>are required</u> to live in TFAS housing.</p>	<p>TWC provides furnished housing in their Residential and Academic Center located in the Noma section of Washington, DC. See https://twc.edu/right-home-dc.</p> <p>Students are <i>not</i> required to live in TWC housing.</p>	<p>WII manages metro-accessible, furnished, apartment-style housing in Crystal City, VA.</p> <p>Students are <i>not</i> required to live in WII housing.</p>
Internships	<p>WSP maintains a database of internships. Students are responsible for finding their own internship but will have assistance from WSP staff as needed.</p>	<p>TFAS assigns each student their own internship coordinator who works to help place the student. TFAS guarantees an internship placement (see https://www.dcinternships.org/internships/)</p>	<p>TWC has partnership agreements with internship employers and maintains an updated database of internship opportunities. TWC staff work with students to prepare their internship application materials and to facilitate placements.</p>	<p>WII advisors help guide students through the internship search process and remain with their assigned students throughout the student's residency. Staff hold office hours before and after class. A faculty member meets weekly with students in the internship class.</p>

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University Partners	Memorandum of Agreement and Supplemental Materials are negotiated between American University and the university partner. The agreement is typically for 5 years and sets guidelines for credit transfer, billing, and application/admissions protocols. There is no cost to the university partner for entering into the agreement.	TFAS is flexible with university partnerships (informal partnerships, formal partnerships that have a memorandum of understanding), working with each partner on a case-by-case basis. Universities interested in partnering with TFAS may reach out to the TFAS Admissions Department at admissions@TFAS.org . In general, faculty and advisors are invited to nominate students, who then receive priority consideration in the admissions process.	TWC works with universities to create specific partnership agreements that articulate curriculum expectations, course equivalencies and transfers, program and housing fees, and billing procedures. There is no financial cost to the institution for enacting the agreement, and the duration of the agreement can vary. The agreements typically do not require the partner to enroll a minimum number of students.	The agreement designates a campus representative, articulates the application process, course equivalencies and credit transfers, and billing procedures. WII is also willing to customize classes to suit the partner's interests. The partnership agreement is available online (see http://wiidc.org/universities). There is no partnership fee and no requirement for a minimum number of students to be enrolled.