

# FLINDERS WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**SUPERCHARGE YOUR DEGREE** – Enrol for work experience on  
Capitol Hill as part of a Flinders undergraduate or Honours degree



# INTRODUCTION

The Flinders Washington Internship programs are unique among the course offerings of Australian Universities.

There are two Washington Internship programs available for Flinders students: An eight week program (the Washington Internship Program – WIP), and a seventeen week program (the Washington Internship Program/Capital Semester Program – WIPCASP) which includes two topics offered by George Mason university: *International Economic Policy and American Political Thought*.

For the WIPCASP Program see also **[dcinternships.org](http://dcinternships.org)**

Successful applicants to the WIP and WIPCASP are placed as interns in offices of United States senators and members of the US House of Representatives and on congressional standing committees. The WIPCASP students also attend George Mason University to complete their two topics.

Since its founding year in 2000,

the program has sent 127 students to work in the US Congress; this Flinders program represents the greatest presence in Washington achieved by any university outside the United States. Its alumni share the organisers' enthusiasm for the Washington Internship Program as a 'life-changing experience'. Interns return to Australia with a deep knowledge of political life in a global centre of power. This program provides an opportunity to be an Australian 'ambassador' par excellence.

The aim of both programs is to allow students already knowledgeable about American society, politics, history and culture to experience the reality of political life in the central institutions of American national government. The requirements for the programs, and its careful selection procedure, reflect the level of professionalism and knowledge expected of its participants. These are small, selective and highly visible programs. However, any student with motivation and determination who meets the pre-requisites can succeed as a Washington intern.

The programs enjoy the enthusiastic support of the US Embassy in Canberra and the Australian Embassy in Washington, US consulates in Australia and Australian consulates in the US, as well as the South Australian Government.

No amount of news-viewing or textbook reading can match the reality of working in the office of a member of the United States Senate or the House of Representatives, observing at firsthand political decision-making in the United States.

Interns return with a letter from their Congressman or Senator or a senior staff member in their office attesting to their internship performance. That letter will form an important part of the intern's professional resume.

Both WIP and WIPCASP students begin their internships in early January.

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**AMST3016: Washington Internship Program (9 units)**

**AMST3016 / XOTH2190A: Combined Washington Internship Program/ Capital Semester Program (13.5 units)**

**AMST7016: Honours: Washington Internship Program (9 units)**





# HOW TO APPLY

There are three topics that can be selected to undertake the Washington Internship Program as follows:

1. AMST3016 Internship Program: Washington DC, which is a 9 unit topic for the 8-week program; or
2. AMST3016 combined with XOTH2190A WIPCASP, which is a 13.5 unit topic when combined, both undergraduate topics, 9 units for AMST3016 and 4.5 units for XOTH2190 WIPCASP, for the 17-week program ; or
3. AMST7016 Honours Internship Program: Washington DC, which is a 9 unit topic for students enrolled in an Honours program for the 8-week program.

Please note that AMST3016/ XOTH2190A WIPCASP is not available in an Honours level topic as we cannot transfer honours grades from other universities into a Flinders Honours program..

Students applying to either program must have completed, before they depart for Washington, **18 units of pre-requisite topics.**

Admission is by application only and is competitive. Applications are submitted in hard copy and electronically, usually in early August.

Find further information at [flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program](http://flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program)

**The pre-requisite topics include:\*\***

1. **AMST2002 American Politics**
2. **at least two of the following topics:**
  - AMST1002 America and the World
  - POLI1003 An Introduction to Democracy and Government
  - HIST 2076 The Divided States of America
  - AMST3013 The Alliance and the Rise of China
3. **one topic chosen from:**
  - INTR1006 International Relations
  - GOVT2003 The International Political System
  - INTR3001 Australian Foreign Policy
  - AMST3015 Melbourne Consulate Internship.

The requirements for students undertaking the Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice, Bachelor of International Relations and Political Science vary slightly and students in this degree can email Professor Don DeBats re their pre-requisites. The prerequisite topic requirement reflects the level of background knowledge required to perform successfully in the Washington Internship programs. We strongly recommend that you complete AMST1002 to ensure a US foreign policy background. Flinders students accepted into one of the Washington programs will be sent to work as political professionals and colleagues in an intense atmosphere of partisan, and bi-partisan, decision-making. A Capitol Hill office is no place for a neophyte in American political life.

*\*\* Please contact Professor Don DeBats if you have any queries regarding pre-requisites ([don.debats@flinders.edu.au](mailto:don.debats@flinders.edu.au))*



# HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS



*The Washington Internship Program gave me an unique opportunity to immensely expand my knowledge of American politics while working in the very heart of the United States' political system. Washington is the place to be if you want to learn how to shape the world, and this opportunity galvanised my interest in further study and travel in the United States.*

*Jesse Barker Gale (2012, Rep Mike Ross, D-Arkansas)*



*The experience was life changing, two months was too short! The best way to learn about American politics is to live it. The internship permitted me to make a host of invaluable connections and gain once-in-a-lifetime experiences. I would do it again in a heart beat.*

*Sarah Flynn (2016, Rep Billy Long, R-Missouri)*



*In all my job interviews after graduating the first question was always "so tell me about this Washington program?". It was an incredible help. Jordan Gifford-Moore (2014, Rep Lynn Westmoreland R-Georgia)*



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*The two months I spent in Washington D.C. were transformative in more than a purely professional sense - lifelong friends were made as well as a deep love for the city itself. Interning on Capitol Hill is a unique opportunity to network, develop practical skills that complement your degree in Australia, and learn about the American political system in a hands-on environment s... my only regret was that I could not stay longer.*

*Sarah Jenkin-Hall (2016, Sen Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York)*



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*The opportunity to gain international work experience made Flinders a natural choice for me. I undertook the Washington Internship Program which was incredible. I also did an internship with the United States Consulate General in Melbourne last year and found learning about diplomacy really fascinating.*

*Molly Stephens (2018, Sen Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York)*



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*Now, as TFAS alumni, and emerging leaders for free societies, it is our responsibility to never forget the legacies of those who came before us, nor lose sight of the responsibilities we have to those who will come after us.*

*Jack Naismith (Spring 2019 Capital Semester Closing Ceremony)*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is the selection committee looking for?

The internship is a position of trust and significant responsibility. The selection committee takes particular account of the applicant's statement of interest, resume, and letters of recommendation. The committee looks for evidence that you will succeed in the internship - that is, that you are highly committed to it and have the background knowledge and personal attributes and skills necessary to succeed in a congressional office.

Washington works on the basis of information and it is important that anyone applying for the program is well-informed about American politics and political culture. The selection committee will also look for evidence that you will function as a supportive member of the Flinders Internship group, assisting and supporting any member who encounters a problem or difficulty. The committee is interested in how the internship fits in with your career plans and will look for evidence of your relevant experience and maturity.

## What will I be doing in Washington?

Successful applicants to the Washington Internship programs work as political professionals. Students applying for admission to the programs list three preferred areas of policy or partisan interest; every effort is made to match student interest with the interest of the offices offering placement. But prospective interns are not permitted to reject placements. The WIP and WIPCASP are about a congressional experience, not about a personal political preference.

Offices of members of the US Senate and the US House of Representatives designate a staff member to be responsible for all interns in that office. Intern supervisors are made aware of the unique features of the Flinders University Washington Internship Program, particularly the requirement to produce a major research paper arising from the internship. The subject of the major paper will be worked out by the intern, Professor DeBats and the intern's congressional office supervisor.

The congressional office intern supervisor sets the daily tasks for the Flinders intern. The goal of the internship is to provide an experience of political life in an influential congressional office and the many tasks, priorities, and pressures of that office. It follows that not all tasks set will be relevant to the major paper, but that is the nature of the internship experience. Interns participating in the programs are urged to remain in close contact with Professor DeBats to ensure that both work assignments and the development of the major paper proceed smoothly. Those accepted into the WIPCASP will receive support from Professor DeBats, Dr. Sarah John, Mr Steve Slattery and TFAS.

Intern Timothy Lopez



# PREPARATION

A set of background briefings will be organised for students accepted into the WIP and the WIPCASP, culminating in a formal briefing session late November or early December, to which parents and partners are invited.

This session is a live video conference involving diplomatic representatives of the Australian and United States governments, the South Australian state government, and Flinders University. All organizers are available during this video conference to answer questions from interns, partners and parents.

## **What will my office expect of me?**

Sometimes the tasks assigned to you will be routine and mundane. Much of the success of your internship will depend on how you respond to these situations and what you make of opportunities that arise. You will be expected to show, often quite suddenly, a high standard of initiative, enthusiasm, knowledge and professionalism, as well as a respect for confidentiality.

You will be expected to seek out and take advantage of any professional opportunity available to you. The internship will not be a success if you wait for things to happen or invitations to be extended to you.

Program organisers are available for discussion should, over a significant period, the tasks set not align with the overall objectives of the Washington Internship programs.

You will be expected to be in the office all working days during the internship, and your conduct must at all times be professional, in terms of both dress code and attitude. Punctuality and courtesy are abiding rules of Capitol Hill.

As an intern, you will also be expected to respect all matters of security and confidentiality established by your office.

You must go to Washington fully informed. On Capitol Hill, knowledge is power. This necessity is reflected in the specific topic prerequisites established for participation in the Washington Internship programs.

A meaningful measure of the success of past interns in upholding these standards is that the Australian Embassy in Washington organises a formal reception in honour of the Flinders University interns each year. This type of recognition is vital to the continued success of the program.

## **Assessment**

WIP and WIPCASP students will be engaged full-time in their host office in Washington for the entire period of the internship. WIPCASP students will have reduced time in their congressional office to allow participation in their George Mason University coursework.

While in Washington, both groups of interns will conduct research on a project of interest to their congressional office and to themselves; the resulting 7,000 -8,000 word paper forms the core assessment for the Flinders Internship topic.

This paper makes up 60% of the final grade with preliminary planning assignments contributing 30% of the final grade. When interns return from Washington they will give a formal oral presentation on their experiences in the program. The oral presentation will constitute 10% of the final grade and will be video-recorded.

## **Mid-Program review**

Several review meetings will be held during the internship to progress the major paper and to address any problems which may have arisen.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What do I need to know about preparing my major paper?

It is important to remain focused on the fact that the internship is a university topic and that assessment is as central to this topic as to any other. The excitement of being in Washington as part of this program may be distracting and the Flinders intern needs to retain a focus on the paper. The paper will be assessed in both Washington and at Flinders. A copy of each paper is provided to Congressional Liaison Section of the Australian Embassy in Washington on a confidential basis, and to the South Australian Parliamentary Library as part of the state government placement program for returning WIP interns.

The subject of the major paper will emerge as a result of consultations involving the intern, the supervisor of the student in the host office and Professor Don DeBats. The paper should explore a substantive matter of mutual interest to the intern and the host congressional office.

In preparing the paper, the intern should convey their unique perspective on the research topic provided by the Washington Internship programs. The paper should reflect scholarship and knowledge. It should also make clear how the issue became a matter of importance to the office and how it was dealt with by their member of the House or Senate. Interns will have access to an enormous range of information in Washington including the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress.

Students should approach their paper as if it were an honours thesis (albeit on a smaller scale). Examples of successful past papers will be available to the students accepted into the Washington Internship programs.

## What Washington offices are available to me?

The selection of Congressional offices varies from year to year because the placements are individually negotiated by the program organisers.

## Costs

A good estimate of the minimum cost of the Washington Internship Program is A\$11,000 and the combined WIP Capital Semester Program is estimated to cost about A\$19,000. These cost estimates vary according to the exchange rate of the Australian dollar.

Currently interns need approximately US\$2,500 for their share of accommodation costs while in Washington. Airlines and travel agents can provide estimates of travel costs, but a figure of A\$3,000 is a reasonable estimate. Per diem expenses include food, laundry and incidentals and it is prudent to budget at least A\$30 per day. Interns will be able to walk to work; public transport should be used for all other travel and car rental is strongly discouraged. The J1 Visa costs approximately A\$2,200.

## How do I secure financial support?

The organisers actively seek financial support from institutions, companies and organisations for the students involved in the Washington Internship Program.

The Fund for American Studies has generously offered a scholarship of US\$6,791 to successful WIPCASP applicants to assist with financing the extended program. This scholarship reduces the cost of the WIPCASP to US\$7,000.

Past interns have been resourceful in approaching local service organisations such as Rotary International, Zonta and Lions to secure individual support for their participation in the Washington Internship programs.

Students accepted into the programs are encouraged to approach employers and unions for support. Many local councils offer leadership bursaries.

OS-HELP is a loan that assists eligible students to undertake some of their study overseas. Students may receive funds for a six-month period for one or two overseas study periods, to assist with a range of expenses. Currently the maximum for the United States is \$7,037.

See [students.flinders.edu.au/finances-and-admin/fees/domestic-student-financial-assistance/os-help-loan-scheme](https://students.flinders.edu.au/finances-and-admin/fees/domestic-student-financial-assistance/os-help-loan-scheme) for more details and how to apply.



## Visas

Securing the proper documentation for entry into the United States is the responsibility of the students accepted into the Washington Internship programs.

The J1 visa is the required document for students participating in this Program. The organisers work with the American Australian Association (AAA) of New York City in issuing the document for J1 visas. AAA is recognised by the US Department of State for this purpose; AAA will charge a fee to facilitate your visa application. The total J1 visa costs run to approximately A\$2,200 (subject to exchange rates), including a trip to Melbourne for an interview at the US Consulate.

Student applications for J1 visas follow the confirmation of the intern placement. However, acceptance into the Washington Internship programs does not guarantee being issued an entry visa by the US government. If your visa application is rejected, you will not be able to participate in the program.

## Travel

Students are responsible for the cost of air travel to and from Washington. Flinders University interns are encouraged to fly together to Washington but may travel independently on their return.

## Insurance

Medical attention in the US can be extremely expensive. All students participating in the Washington Internship programs must carry full health and accident insurance. As an enrolled student at Flinders University, you will receive free insurance appropriate for the US for the period of your internship.

## Accommodation

In recent years the Flinders Washington interns have lived in 'The Congressional' apartment building or in townhouses on Capitol Hill. The Congressional and the townhouses are owned and operated by Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH): [internsdc.com/about-wish](http://internsdc.com/about-wish)

Those accepted into the Washington Program must live harmoniously with others involved in the programs. This means, in particular, that overnight guests will not be permitted in the shared accommodation. Rent must be paid in advance and each student is entirely responsible for his or her equal share of the total rent. Find further information at [flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program](http://flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program)

## Support in Washington

In the event of any difficulty, the initial contact should be with the Program organisers in Washington, Sarah John, Charles Mahtesian and Steve Slattery.

The Flinders University insurance program provides emergency 24 hour phone contacts. The Australian Embassy located in Washington: Sarah John is always available to assist with any serious incidents.

## Further information

The Washington Internships are University topics (AMST3016 or AMST7016) and admission is by application only. Students interested in the programs are advised to contact Professor Don DeBats well before the application deadline in early August.

Professor DeBats can be contacted at: College of Business, Government and Law  
(08) 8201 2358  
[don.debats@flinders.edu.au](mailto:don.debats@flinders.edu.au)

**Application form and further information are available at:**  
[flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program](http://flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program)



# THE SELECTION COMMITTEE



## Don DeBats

Don DeBats is Professor of American Studies and Politics in the College of Business, Government and Law at Flinders University, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia. He has taught in the Department of Government at the College of William and Mary and has been a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the National Humanities Center for the United States and currently Virginia Humanities.

He comments frequently on US politics and policy issues in the Australian and international media and to political and policy groups.

Don completed his PhD and MA degrees in American history and political science at the University of Wisconsin and a BA degree in mathematics at Michigan State University. He teaches American politics and comparative politics at Flinders University. He is the Director of the Jeff Bleich Centre for the US Alliance in Digital Technology, Security and Governance.



## Sarah John

Sarah John is a former Washington Internship Program intern who worked on the Almanac of American Politics and now lives and works in Washington D.C. She holds a PhD in American political history from Flinders University. She is Director of the Web Integrity Project for the Sunlight Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization in Washington DC that advocates for open government. She previously was the Research Project Coordinator and Data Analyst at Legal Services Corporation, the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. Sarah previously served as Research Director at FairVote, a non-profit organisation that advocates for Australian-style preferential voting in America.

Sarah currently has a research position at the University of Virginia and has held teaching and research positions at the University of California, Irvine, California State University, Fullerton, and the University of Adelaide.



## Charles Mahtesian

Charles Mahtesian is POLITICO's Senior Politics Editor. He returned to POLITICO in 2015 after two years with America's premier radio news network: National Public Radio (NPR) where he was Politics Editor and Deputy Washington Desk Chief. Prior to that, he served five years directing POLITICO's national political coverage. Charlie has been instrumental in the emergence of POLITICO as an authoritative voice in US political journalism.

Charlie has also served as the Editor of *The Almanac of American Politics*; the biennial book of Congressional profiles and data which is the indispensable reference for anyone with a serious interest in the US Congress. Earlier he worked as a national correspondent for *Governing* magazine, covering state legislatures, governors, and big-city politics. He began his career reporting on elections and congressional redistricting for *Congressional Quarterly*.

Charlie earned his bachelor's degree in politics from Catholic University in Washington DC and his law degree from American University.



## Steve Slattery

Steve Slattery is Executive Vice President for The Fund for American Studies (TFAS). In this position, he oversees 12 academic programs that employ 35 faculty members and enrol more than 800 students each year in courses on US politics and economics in Washington, DC, the Czech Republic, Chile, and Hong Kong.

Steve is closely involved with the Congressional placements for the Flinders University Washington Internship Program. Mr Slattery joined The Fund for American Studies in 1992, and previously worked for business and political organisations, including Citizens for a Sound Economy, a national public policy organisation.

He graduated with a BA, *cum laude*, in economics from Tulane University and obtained an MBA in public policy from George Washington University.



# WHAT WASHINGTON OFFICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

The selection of Congressional offices varies from year to year because the placements are individually negotiated by the Program organisers. Since the Washington Program began, Flinders University students have been accepted for the following Washington offices:

PLACEMENT	NAME/YEAR	PARTY	STATE
Almanac of American Politics	Sarah John (2005) McRae Dunbar (2009)		
Channel One News	Matt Davis (2001) Patrick Armitage (2002)		
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	Kristina Otello (2004) Erin Watkins (2004) Christos Tsonis (2006) Yasmin Szabados (2007)		
House Committee on Transport and Infrastructure	Narelle Hards (2000)		
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transport	Anthony Stoks (2018)		
Rep Melissa Bean	Andrew Laidlaw (2007)	Democrat	Illinois
Rep Brian Bilbray	Thabeetha Devasagayam (2007)	Republican	California
Rep Gus Bilirakis	Jonah Wewer (2020) Samuel Cookson-Butler (2022)	Republican	Florida
Sen John Boozman	Josh Zwar (2009) Charlotte Edmunds (2012) Adam Hall (2019)	Republican	Arkansas
Rep Larry Bucshon	Jack Harrison (2018)	Republican	Indiana
Rep Bill Cassidy	Victoria Knight (2013)	Republican	Louisiana
Rep James Clyburn	Alison Cupper (2003)	Democrat	Sth Carolina
Rep Mike Conaway	Tim Lopez (2015)	Republican	Texas
Rep Susan Davis	Sarah Steele (2005)	Democrat	California
Rep Mike DeWine	Connor Stubbs (2005)	Republican	Ohio
Sen Christopher Dodd	Jacqui Williams (2001) Toula Skiadas (2002) Briony Whitehouse (2003)	Democrat	Connecticut
Rep Sam Farr	Megan Wells (2002)	Democrat	California
Rep Vita Fossella	Anna MacFarlane (2005)	Republican	New York
Rep Mike Gallagher	Jack Naismith (2019)	Republican	Wisconsin
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	Ajsa Bajraktarevic (2014) Eleanor Holmes (2014) Geoff Milani (2015) Sarah Jenkin-Hall (2016) Chloe Waterhouse (2017) Molly Stephens (2018) Amy Hueppauff (2020)	Democrat	New York
Rep Sam Graves	Hannah Schioldann (2007) Chris Hanna (2008) Joel Shepherd (2009)	Republican	Missouri
Rep Raul M Grijalva	Ashleigh Crees (2010)	Democrat	Arizona
Rep Michelle Lujan Grisham	Bianca Geppa (2014) Kate Murphy (2015) George Precaj (2016) Isabella Stocco Bradley (2018)	Democrat	New Mexico



PLACEMENT	NAME/YEAR	PARTY	STATE
Rep Glen Grothman	Taylor Ey (2018)	Republican	Wisconsin
Sen Chuck Hagel	Grant Harvey (2003)	Republican	Nebraska
Rep Vicky Harzler	Jack Goldsmith (2020)	Republican	Missouri
Rep Alcee Hastings	Justine Morgan (2001) Tamera Gale (2003)	Democrat	Florida
Rep Eddie Johnson	Meaghan King (2017) Georgia Hicks (2018)	Democrat	Texas
Rep Mike Kelly	Eleanor Kellett (2012) Hannah Gobbett (2013) Christine Bennetts (2014) Victoria Christopher (2015) Olivia Hanna (2016) Clinton Donald (2017) Miriam Fietz (2018) Georgia Stock (2019)	Republican	Pennsylvania
Rep Paul E Kanjorski	George Lukic (2010) Poppy Matters (2010)	Democrat	Pennsylvania
Rep Barbara Lee	Rachael Ratican (2004) Lilia Bednarek (2005)	Democrat	California
Rep Daniel Lipinski	Ronan O'Brien (2008)	Republican	Illinois
Rep Billy Long	Stanislav Kotchkine (2015) Sarah Flynn (2016) Jack Lewis (2017) Corey Watchman (2020) Mariah Spronk (2022)	Republican	Missouri
Rep Blaine Luetkemeyer	Josephine Wilkins (2011) Nicholas Mitchell (2013)	Republican	Missouri
Rep Jim McDermott	Angela Conroy (2010) Aneta Peretko (2012) Kelly Stephenson (2016)	Democrat	Washington
Rep Denise Majette	Kevin Kenny (2004)	Democrat	Georgia
Rep Tom McClintock	Shannon McSkimming (2020)	Republican	Missouri
Sen Mel Martinez	Hannah Armitage (2006)	Republican	Florida
Rep Juanita Millender-MacDonald	Sunshine Elmore (2000)	Democrat	California
Rep Jerrold Nadler	Joshua Balfour (2003)	Democrat	New York
Rep Ralph Norman	Benjamin Krieg (2018)	Republican	South Carolina
Rep Alan Nunnelee	Drew Evers (2011)	Republican	Mississippi
Rep Chellie Pingree	Anton van Bavel (2009)	Democrat	Maine
Rep Dana Rohrabacher	Prindon Sadriu (2006)	Republican	California
Rep Tom Rooney	Brett Colmer (2017)	Republican	Florida
Rep Mike Ross	Marie Berridge (2008) Nicholas Harris (2010) Andrew Gryzbowski (2011) Jesse Barker Gale (2012)	Democrat	Arkansas

# WHAT WASHINGTON OFFICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

PLACEMENT	NAME/YEAR	PARTY	STATE
Rep Tim Ryan	Nicholas Williams (2007) Bree Willsmore (2008) William Evans (2011) Alex O'Keeffe (2012) Jamie Cauchi (2013) Annika Beaty (2014) Kate Wilkinson (2016) Joshua Sunman (2017) David Hopkins (2018) Lachlan Poel (2019)	Democrat	Ohio
Rep Loretta Sanchez	Estee Fiebiger (2000) Rachel Mules (2002)	Democrat	California
Sen Charles Schumer	Louise King (2000)	Democrat	New York
Rep Louise Slaughter	Kerrie Daniel (2000) Peta Smith (2001) Miranda Ramsay (2002)	Democrat	New York
Rep Pete Stauber	Anxela Zefi (2020) Amari Costello (2022)	Republican	Minnesota
Sen John Sununu	Andrew Butler (2005) Jessica Winnall (2006) Kate Melrose (2007) Aimee Winra (2008)	Republican	New Hampshire
Rep Juan Vargas	Sebastian Davis (2020)	Democrat	California
Rep Jeff Van Drew	Troy Whitmarsh (2020) Victor Zagorodnyuk (2022)	Republican	New Jersey
Rep Lynn Westmoreland	Louis Wenzel (2008) Cassie Ostle (2009) Tom Schinckel (2011) Jordan Gifford-Moore (2014)	Republican	Georgia
Sen Ron Wyden	Charissa Astley-Turner (2009) Dylan Turner (2010) Joseph Hill (2011) Henry Sutherland (2011) Julian Nuske (2012) Claudette Yazbek (2012) Martin Bailey (2013) Tom Gerrits (2015) Joe Andrew (2018) Kyle Whenan (2022)	Democrat	Oregon



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Present employment of past Flinders University Washington Interns\*:

YEAR	NAME	CURRENT POSITION
2000	Kerrie Daniel	International Policy Officer, Australian Department of Defence
2000	Sunshine Cutts (nee Elmore)	Senior Leader, Credit Policy, Consulting & Analytics
2000	Estee Fiebiger	Communications – self employed
2000	Louise King	Research Project Officer
2000	Narelle Hards	Department of Treasury, Canberra.
2001	Matt Davis	ABC, Producer, Foreign Correspondent
2001	Peta Smith	Executive Director, Strategic Policy and External Relations at Department for Education, South Australia
2001	Justine Morgan	Assistant Manager, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Adelaide.
2001	Jacqui Bramley (nee Williams)	Teacher, Gillen Primary School, Alice Springs, NT
2002	Toula Skiadas	USA Director, IDD-BHS Grants and Infrastructure Coordination Unit at Texas Health and Human Services
2002	Miranda Schuppan (nee Ramsay)	Founding Partner and Communications Director for premium menswear label Kerrin.co
2002	Patrick Armitage	Lawyer, Financial Services, Blake Dawson Waldron, Melbourne.
2002	Megan Deer (nee Wells)	Governance and Executive Support, Department for Correctional Services
2003	Tamera Gale	Policy Officer, Specialist Entry Section, Migration and Visa Policy Division, Department of Immigration and Citizenship
2003	Grant Harvey	Review Officer, Department of Justice Victoria
2003	Joshua Balfour	QA & Regulatory Manager at Austofix
2003	Briony Whitehouse	Senior Social Media Manager   Digital Strategist   Content Creator
2003	Alison Cupper	Independent Member for Mildura in the Victorian Legislative Assembly
2004	Rachael Ratican	DFAT Melbourne Victoria
2004	Erin Watkins	Accounting and Business Advisory, KPMG, Adelaide.
2004	Kevin Kenny	Executive Butler and Manager of Services, Government House, Melbourne
2004	Kristina Otello	Mental Health, Tasmania
2005	Lilia Bednarek	Global Head of People and Communications at GKN Automotive, London UK
2005	Dr Sarah John	Director of Research, Web integrity Project, Sunlight Foundation, Washington DC.
2005	Andrew Butler	Researcher, Law Research Service, Melbourne Law School. Recipient Zelman Cowen Scholarship, Law School, University of Melbourne.
2005	Dr Sarah Steele	Lecturer, Fellow and Director of Studies in Law, University of Cambridge, UK. Adjunct Research Associate for Law, Flinders University.
2005	Anna MacFarlane	Senior Legal Officer, ITSA Canberra. Graduate certificate in economic policy
2005	Connor Stubbs	Internal Sales Representative, CPS Australia
2006	Hannah Armitage	Head, Adelaide Office, Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, Parker and Partners.
2006	Prindon Sadriu	Director for Bilateral Relations and International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kosovo
2006	Christos Tsonis	Founder and Director CXT Legal   Experienced Corporate and M&A Lawyer   Board Director   Governance Advisor.
2006	Jessica Winnall	a/g Assistant Secretary International Division at Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE)
2007	Kate Dean (nee Melrose)	Senior Administration officer University of Adelaide.
2007	Andrew Laidlaw	Research. Strategy. Corporate Reputation Melbourne
2007	Yasmin Szabados	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Flinders University.



YEAR	NAME	CURRENT POSITION
2007	Thabeetha Devasagaym	Assistant Litigator, Australian Taxation Office.
2007	Hannah Schioldann	Manager, Global Knowledge Services at Deloitte
2008	Marie Berridge	Business Analyst, Australian Taxation Office.
2008	Christopher Hanna	Assistant to the Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Member for Stuart.
2008	Bree Willsmore	Senior Adviser, Office of the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth, Canberra
2008	Aimee Winra	Solicitor, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, Alice Springs NT.
2008	Ronan O'Brien	Corporate Lawyer, Flinders University.
2008	Louis Wenzel	Assessment Officer Bendigo and Adelaide Bank
2009	Joel Shepherd	Author 16 science fiction books published
2009	Charissa Astley- Turner	Head of Risk and Compliance at Iress Limited Sydney
2009	Josh Zwar	Political Specialist at US Embassy Canberra
2009	Cassie Ostle	Legal Manager, Irish Distillers, Pernod Ricard, Ireland
2009	Anton van Bavel	Parliamentary Adviser to Senator Penny Wong,
2009	McRae Dunbar	Senior Solicitor, Office of Public Prosecutions, Victoria.
2010	Angela Conroy	Co-founder and CEO at Notarum
2010	Ashleigh Crees	"Disaster Management Delegate, Red Cross based in Ethiopia"
2010	Nicholas Harris	Supporter Relations Coordinator at Heart Foundation
2010	George Lukic	Lawyer at Thomson Geer, Adelaide Office
2010	Poppy Matters	Senior Associate, Camatta Lempens Lawyers (Family Law Section).
2010	Dylan Turner	Government Relations Officer, Australian Association of Christian Schools.
2011	William Evans	Senior Lawyer, Australian Government Solicitor, ACT
2011	Drew Evers	Honours in American Studies, Flinders University 2012.
2011	Andrew Grzybowski	International Development/Partnerships
2011	Joe Hill	Team Leader – Business Operations, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing
2011	Tom Schinckel	Associate, at Weil, Gotshal and Manges LLP New York
2011	Henry Sutherland	Senior Solicitor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW
2011	Josephine Wilkins	Senior Policy Adviser at Australian Automobile Association ACT
2012	Jesse Barker Gale	Endeavour Scholar, PhD Candidate, Flinders University, Three's Company: Contextualizing the Australia-Japan-US Security Community. Research Associate, Alliances and American Leadership Project, CSIS, Washington DC
2012	Charlotte Edmunds	Senior Media and policy Adviser at Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker.
2012	Eleanor Kellett	Officer for the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C.
2012	Julian Nuske	Principal Policy Officer at Department of Education – International.
2012	Alexander O'Keeffe	Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, (South Australia) Linked in request 22/10
2012	Aneta Peretko	Senior Federal Prosecutor, Office of Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
2012	Claudette Yazbek	Assistant Manager, Dept Industry Science Energy and Resources, NSW
2013	Martin Bailey	Lecturer and Tutor at Adelaide University
2013	Jamie Cauchi	Category management Officer at SA Dept of Treasure and Finance.
2013	Hannah Gobbett	Assistant Director (Federal) Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications ACT

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Present employment of past Flinders University Washington Interns\*:

YEAR	NAME	CURRENT POSITION
2013	Victoria Church (nee Knight)	HR Advisor, The Toro Company
2013	Nicholas Mitchell	Legal Counsel at ElectraNet Pty Ltd Adelaide
2014	Ajsa Bajraktarevic	Adviser to Senator Penny Wong
2014	Annika Beaty	Associate at DMAW Lawyers, Adelaide
2014	Christine Bennetts	Student Finance and Scholarships Officer, Flinders University
2014	Bianca Geppa	Solicitor, Public Law Section Crown Solicitor's Office
2014	Jordan Gifford-Moore	Adviser, Critical Technologies, at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Rhodes Scholar
2014	Eleanor Holmes	Senior Strategic Communications Manager, Australian Consulate General, Los Angeles
2015	Victoria Christopher	Legal Counsel at Canada Life UK
2015	Tom Gerrits	Legal Counsel at Unisuper
2015	Stan Kotchkine	Project Coordinator, Air Services Australia, Canberra
2015	Tim Lopez	Policy officer in the US Alliance Policy team in International Policy Division
2015	Geoff Milani	Lawyer (Property & Development) Thomson Geer NSW, Lions Club Director, Vice Chair Young Lawyers
2015	Kate Murphy	Bachelor of International Studies/Honours in AMST. Completed.
2016	Kate Ruth (nee Wilkinson)	Correspondence Officer, Office of the Minister for Environment & Water, South Australia
2016	Olivia Hanna	Senior Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission of South Australia
2016	Kelly Stephenson	Senior Solicitor Shine Lawyers, Darwin
2016	Sara Flynn	Program officer, Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum at Dept of Education SA
2016	Sarah Jenkin-Hall	Legal Officer – Human Rights Branch, Attorney General's Department.
2017	Meaghan King	Communications Officer, Keolis Downer
2017	Chloe Waterhouse	Senior Policy officer, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria
2017	Jack Lewis	Legal officer Attorney-General's Department, ACT
2017	Clinton Donald	Email sent 22/10 last position Liberty Australia – dispatch and warehouse
2017	Joshua Sunman	Project officer, CBGL Flinders University, Post-Graduate Government course redesign
2017	Brett Colmer	A/G Assistant Director at Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources ACT
2018	Georgia Hicks	Policy Officer, Department for Innovation and Skills, Strategic Policy team
2018	Joe Andrew	Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice/Bachelor of International Relations
2018	Taylor Ey	Bachelor of Business (Economics)/Bachelor of International Relations
2018	Miriam Fietz	Bachelor of Arts Hons/Bachelor of Letters (Creative Writing)
2018	Jack Harrison	Australian Public Service
2018	David Hopkins	Clubs and Events officer, Flinders University
2018	Ben Krieg	Rotational Clerk at Crown Solicitor's Office
2018	Molly Stephens	Lawyer, Minter Ellison, SA President The Legal Forecast
2018	Isabella Stocco Bradley	Graduate/Business Support Officer at City of Mitcham, Branch Director Young Australians in International Affairs

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>
2018	Anthony Stoks	Judges Associate, District Course of South Australia
2019	Adam Hall	Master of International Relations (Advanced)
2019	Lachlan Poel	Doctor of Philosophy, Flinders University
2019	Jack Naismith	Bachelor of Cyber Security
2019	Georgia Stock	Bachelor of International Relations
2020	Sebastian Davis	Bachelor of International Relations
2020	Jack Goldsmith	Honours University of Queensland
2020	Shannon McSkimming	Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
2020	Corey Watchman	Client Services officer, Federal Circuit Court of Australia
2020	Jonah Wewer	Customer Experience Officer WA
2020	Troy Whitmarsh	Home Affairs
2020	Anxhela Zefi	Bachelor of international Relations, Bachelor of Language

\*Current at time of printing



Intern Lachlan Poel (2019) speaking at Australian Embassy reception, Washington DC



# WASHINGTON INTERN PLACEMENT WITH STATE GOVERNMENT

Since 2016, returning Washington Interns have been provided with a 15 day placement in the South Australian State Government. The placement is in a State Government agency with policy responsibilities that approximate the intern's policy experience in the US Congress as reflected in the office responsibilities and the major paper arising from the WIP Program. The placement provides sound professional development for the students and also gives South Australian agencies insight into the similarities and differences in the treatment of policy issues that face both the US Congress and the South Australian State Government.

## South Australian State Government placements, 2016 - 2019

YEAR	STUDENT	US CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE	STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY
2016	Kate Wilkinson	Rep Tim Ryan	Department of Education
2016	Kelly Stephenson	Rep Jim McDermott	Department of State Development
2016	Sarah Flynn	Rep Billy Long	DEWNR: Energy and Resources
2016	Olivia Hanna	Rep Mike Kelly	Attorney General's Department
2016	George Precaj	Rep Michelle Lujan Grisham	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2016	Sarah Jenkin-Hall	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2017	Meaghan King	Rep Eddie Johnson	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2017	Jack Lewis	Rep Billy Long	Office of the Public Sector
2017	Clinton Donald	Rep Mike Kelly	Attorney General Department
2017	Joshua Sunman	Rep Tim Ryan	Department of Transport
2017	Brett Colmer	Rep, Tom Rooney	Office of the Public Sector
2017	Chloe Waterhouse	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	Department of Health
2018	Taylor Ey	Rep Glen Grothman	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2018	Jack Harrison	Rep Larry Bucshon	Attorney-General's Department
2018	Georgia Hicks	Rep Eddie Johnson	Department for Industry and Skills
2018	David Hopkins	Rep Tim Ryan	Department of Health
2018	Benjamin Krieg	Senator Roy Blunt	Attorney-General's Department
2018	Isabella Stocco Bradley	Rep Michelle Lujan Grisham	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2018	Anthony Stocks	Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation	Defence SA
2018	Joe Andrew	Senator Ron Wyden	Department of Environment and Water
2019	Adam Hall	Senator John Boozman	Department for Trade, Tourism & Investment
2019	Georgia Stock	Rep Mike Kelly	Attorney-General's Department
2019	Lachlan Poel	Rep Tim Ryan	Department of Premier and Cabinet
2019	Jack Naismith	Rep Mike Gallagher	Defence SA

# APPENDIX 1

## Placement Schedule

ITEM	DETAILS
Placement Organisation	The Fund for American Studies (TFAS)
Placement Commencement Date	Washington Internship Program – WIP - (8 weeks) commencing January each year. Combined WIP / Capital Semester Program - WIPCASP – (17 weeks) commencing January each year
Placement Completion Date	WIP ends February each year WIPCASP ends May each year
University Course Title and component	AMST3016: Combined Washington Internship Program/Capital Semester Program: WIP/WIPCASP
Placement location and name of Facility	Washington DC: WIP and WIPCASP: Intern in a Congressional Office on Capitol Hill, as assigned to each student WIPCASP: Attend lectures and study at George Mason University, one day per week January - May.
Nature and purpose of the Placement and the work to be undertaken	<p>The Washington Internship programs both offer Congressional Internships. The WIP runs for 8 weeks and students return in late February/early March; the WIPCASP offers an opportunity for students to extend their internship for a semester workload under the Capital Semester Program managed by The Fund for American Studies. The Capital Semester Program will require the student to take 2 topics (International Economic Policy and American Political Thought) with George Mason University (one day a week attendance required) while continuing their Internship in a Congressional Office on Capitol Hill for the other four days of the week. The combination of the WIP and Capital Semester Program contributes to a semester workload under the Australian Higher Education regulations and will be reflected on the student transcript.</p> <p>Students will receive a George Mason University transcript with their grade in the two topics; those topics will display on the Flinders transcript as 4.5 units of granted credit.</p> <p>Student tasks while interning under both Programs range from answering phones, conducting tours, attending briefings and congressional sessions on behalf of the Office, to writing briefing papers and networking with constituents and Congressional staff in Washington DC and the District or State. Tasks for the 17 week program include the above, as well as attending private site briefings at key Washington institutions and attending professional development seminars; WIPCASP students are assigned a professional mentor and offer advice on career development. The WIPCASP students will also attend George Mason University to complete International Economic Policy and American Political Thought. These topics plus the 9 unit Flinders Internship Topic (AMST3016) constitute a 13.5 unit full time semester workload.</p>
Evaluation of Student Performance method	Students will comply with George Mason University (GMU) assessment criteria for the 2 topics they attend at GMU, and TFAS code of conduct. Flinders University will continue to assess the assessment for the AMST3016/AMST7016 topic. Together, Flinders and TFAS, will measure evaluation and performance based on individual attitude, cooperation, collaboration, time management and goodwill during their internship and placement. This is achieved through own observation, internship office reports and evaluation, regular meetings with the student, behaviour at shared housing facilities and GMU faculty.
Project	All WIP and WIPCASP students are required to complete a 7,000 word assignment to be handed in at the end of Semester 1. Flinders University staff will assess the written and oral work associated with AMST016/AMST7016. GMU staff will determine the assessment for International Economic Policy and American Political Thought and will assess and grade the work in those topics.
Special Conditions	<p>The WIP Selection panel (2 Flinders nominees, 1 TFAS nominee and 2 independent nominees) will nominate the students based on their written application, GPA and referees.</p> <p>Students must meet US State Department J1 visa conditions, sponsored by the American Australian Association (AAA). AAA has confirmed Flinders has 6 places available for the WIP and 4 places available for the combined WIPCASP.</p>

# APPENDIX 2

## Estimates of Washington Internship Program Costs

CATEGORY	EXPENSE	8 WEEK PROGRAM	17 WEEK PROGRAM
J1 US State Department Visa	US Consulate Fees	A\$550	A\$550
	American Australian Association Fee for Application and Processing	US\$860	US\$860
	Flight to Melbourne for interview	A\$300	A\$300
Air Ticket	International and Domestic	A\$2,500	A\$2,500
Housing	Washington Intern Student Housing	US\$2,500	US\$0.00
Food and Entertainment		A\$2,000	A\$4,000
The Fund for American Studies	Administrative Fee	US\$500	US\$0.00
The Fund for American Studies	Capital Semester Fee	US\$0.00	US\$7,000
Estimated Total Cost in \$AUD and \$US		A\$5,350 US\$3,860	A\$7,350 US\$7,860
Estimated Total Cost in \$AUD @.71		A\$10,751	A\$18,340*
Estimated Cost/Week in \$AUD		A\$1344	A\$1079

\* These are the amounts for a which a student is responsible. The total for the 17 week program takes account of the generous TFAS Scholarship of US\$6,791. Accommodation for 17 weeks is included in the \$18,340.



[flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program](https://flinders.edu.au/washington-internship-program)