Advice on Choosing an Internship for the Women in Government Fellowship

The Women in Government Fellowship provides funding for internships, but students are responsible for securing internships. The Fellowship application is due in early March, so many students will be applying to internships separately. Here are some tips to help you choose qualifying internships.

The Women in Government Fellowship is designed to encourage Yale undergraduates to explore political careers by participating in challenging internships with elected representatives in Congress or with elected or appointed officials. Proposed internships must include primary activities where students can see government and policy-making first-hand. Most internships will involve legislative and/or policy work. Most internships focus on the executive and legislative branches of government (for example, many students intern with senators, federal agencies, and governors, but students will not receive funding to work at the Department of Justice or to engage in campaign work).

The Women in Government Fellowship is nonpartisan, so organizations with partisan agendas (such as Emily's List) often will not receive funding. The Fellowship only rarely approves funding for internships with think tanks or advocacy groups.

Please note that internship start and end dates will be negotiated with each employer, but the internship must be at least 8 weeks in length. Fellowship recipients will be required to attend the Women's Campaign School for a week in June 2017.

The Women in Government Fellowship Committee reserves the right to use their discretion in approving proposed internships. The Committee may approve some, but not all, of a student's proposed internships.

Here are some resources to help you find potential internships:

- **Federal Government** - Under this Explore Careers page, you'll find advice on how to obtain a job or internship with the federal government along with a listing of websites that house these house types of opportunities.
- **State, Local, and Tribal Government** - Under this Explore Careers page, you'll find advice on how to obtain a job or internship with local, state, or tribal governments along with a listing of websites that house these types of opportunities.
- **Congressional Internships** - Students interested in pursuing internships with members of congress can explore to find the names, contact information, and websites for the collective body of legislators. Yale alumni who serve as members of congress have also been highlighted on this page.
- **U.S. Senators Page** - allows you to search by State or Senator and you can easily link to their pages.
- **Women & Politics Institute** - American University's School of Public Affairs' Women & Politics Institute Internship Bank is an online resource of opportunities including a section for Capitol Hill internships with Women in Congress
- **Opportunities in Public Affairs** - Once you log in with your NetID, you will receive a username and password. This will allow you to log in to the site and select the internships tab on the left hand side.
- **Leadership Directories** - provides personnel contact database of the institutional leadership of the United States, integrating 14 "Yellow Book" directories with information on more than
400,000 individuals leading U.S. government, business, professional, and nonprofit organizations. In looking at potential employers, the directory allows you to build lists. For example, select “build a list”, “explore people”, “explore congress and staff by legislative issues”.

- **Yale Career Network** - Connect with Yale alumni who are interested in networking with fellow alumni and students and may be working at your target organizations.
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation’s Summer Internships** - FCNL interns work at the FCNL office in Washington, D.C. for six weeks over the summer to advance our witness for peace on Capitol Hill. FCNL offers several unpaid summer internships that provide a broad introduction to federal policy, grassroots organizing, and nonprofit management. Experiences vary depending on current projects. Interns are encouraged to seek out and attend forums at think tanks during their internship with FCNL. Flexible scheduling is available for interns with other jobs while in DC.

Below is a list of where **previous fellowship recipients** have worked. This list includes a sampling of positions from the past five summer, 2012-2016, in no particular order.

- Office of Congressman Joe Garcia
- Office of Congresswoman Napolitano & Women’s Campaign School, Washington, DC
- Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal, Washington, DC
- Office of Senator Joni Ernst, Washington, DC
- Office of Senator Kirsten Elizabeth Gillibrand, New York
- Office of Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Washington, DC
- Office of Senator Chris Murphy (Press Intern), Washington, DC
- Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, Boston, MA
- Office of Senator Ron Wyden, Washington, DC
- Office of Governor Gina Raimondo, Providence, RI
- Office of Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez, representing the 4th district of Illinois, Washington, DC
- Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Washington DC Office (Executive Chamber Intern), New York State Office of Federal Affairs
- Irv Halter for Colorado Congressional District 5, Colorado Spring, CO
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, Washington, DC
- U.S. Department of State bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Washington, DC
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, Washington, DC
- White House Council on Women and Girls, Washington, DC
- Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law (Policy Intern), Washington, DC
- The Bridging Nations Foundation (BNF), Washington, DC
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC
- National Environmental Education Foundation & Environmental Studies (Health Intern)
- National Partnership for Women and Families, Washington, DC
- New America Foundation’s Health Policy Program, Washington, DC

Questions? Email Sarah Siegel, 2016 Women in Government Fellow and Head Ambassador, at sarah.siegel@yale.edu.