



## Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program 2010

### Information for University of Wollongong students

The University of Wollongong is one of eight Australian universities participating in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship program (UCWIP) coordinated by Eric Federing, a Washington DC based Resident Director. The program offers an opportunity for suitably qualified UOW students to participate in an unpaid internship program on Capitol Hill in Washington DC for 8 weeks commencing in early January 2010. There are only twelve places available for Australian students so UOW students will compete with students from other Australian universities for these places.

- ❑ Interns will be placed in US Congressional offices. This provides a unique opportunity to understand how the US political system operates and to observe the workings of Congress. Students will also have the opportunity to consider how Australia is perceived from afar and also to learn more about a country whose policies, laws and culture impact Australia so significantly.
- ❑ The internship will count towards the University of Wollongong degree as participating students **must** enrol in POL 301 in Summer Session.

Possible Congressional placements:

- ❑ Rep. Mike Castle (Republican of Delaware)
- ❑ Rep. James Clyburn (Democrat of South Carolina)/House Majority Whip's office
- ❑ Rep. Joe Courtney (Democrat of Connecticut)
- ❑ Sen. Mike Crapo (Republican of Idaho)
- ❑ Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Republican of Florida)
- ❑ Sen. Chris Dodd (Democrat of Connecticut)
- ❑ Del. Eni Faleomavaega (Democrat of American Samoa)
- ❑ Rep. Sam Farr (Democrat of California)
- ❑ Sen. Charles Grassley (Republican of Iowa)
- ❑ Rep. Alcee Hastings (Democrat of Florida)
- ❑ Rep. Jerrold Nadler (Democrat of New York)
- ❑ Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican of Florida)
- ❑ Rep. Loretta Sanchez (Democrat of California)
- ❑ Rep. John Tierney (Democrat of Massachusetts)
- ❑ Rep. Zach Wamp (Republican of Tennessee)
- ❑ House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (Majority office)
- ❑ Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs committee (Majority Office)
- ❑ Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe

#### Requirements:

Applicants must be currently enrolled at UOW. Whilst the program may be of special interest to Arts, Law and Commerce students, other students are also eligible to apply. All applicants must be Australian citizens (or dual nationals) and must have:

- A strong academic record and be able to demonstrate an excellent understanding for and appreciation of the American political process;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, a mature approach and the ability to be an effective ambassador for the University of Wollongong and Australia;
- The ability to cover airfare and living expenses (total cost approx A\$13,000-15,000)

Any relevant paid or voluntary work experience and extra-curricular activities are also important criteria in the selection process.

Previous Australian participants have come from many academic disciplines including international relations, politics, law, political communications, economics, science and American studies.

#### 2010 Program dates: to be confirmed

All participants must arrive in Washington DC by 30 December, 2009. Internships will commence during the first week of January and will conclude the last week of February. Interns normally work 40 hours per week for the 8 week program.

**Housing:**

Accommodation will be arranged for the group of interns in shared, serviced apartments in Arlington, Virginia, very close to Pentagon City. It is a self-catering arrangement with twin share rooms.

**The Application process:****Step 1:**

Applicants are required to submit an **Expression of Interest Form** to register for a **compulsory** information session to be conducted by teleconference at 11.30 am on **30 April, 2009** - *location to be confirmed*. The Expression of Interest Form is available from the Study Abroad Office, Student Central, Building 17. **Due: 22 April, 2009**

**Step 2:** After attending the teleconference, applicants will be required to complete an application form including a free-style essay about their generic interest in the internship program and how they will benefit from it academically, personally and professionally. (*This short essay is a critical part of the selection process*). The application process also requires students to specify four placement preferences and to provide a one page summary outlining their reasons for ranking **each** particular congressional office from the list of prospective host offices as a placement preference. An academic transcript must also be attached.

The University of Wollongong must nominate all UOW applicants; the Study Abroad Office will coordinate the nominations in conjunction with the staff in the History and Politics program in the Faculty of Arts. The selection process is very competitive and acceptance will be subject to availability of suitable places. All applicants will be required to attend a selection interview at UOW before the successful nominations are forwarded to Washington.

**Costs:**

Airfare A\$3,000 estimate

Accommodation US\$3,500 estimate- full amount to be paid by early February, 2010.

Food and other expenses \$1,500 ++

Work visa application fee A\$850

Total: A\$10,000+ (2009 participants recommend a budget of A\$15,000+ –assuming exchange rate of A\$1=US\$0.65)

***Applicants will be eligible to apply for a \$1000 University of Wollongong International Exchange Program short-term travel grant.***

**Timeline for 2010 program:**

- April 22, 2008: Expression of Interest forms due in the Study Abroad Office, Bldg 17
- Teleconference/information session: 11.30 am, 30 April, 2009; attendance is **compulsory**
- May 8: due date for applications to be submitted to the Study Abroad Office;
- Interviews and final selection at UOW during week commencing 11 May. Successful applicants will be notified and may be required to complete additional paperwork by the end of May.
- June 15 – hard copies of applications and supporting materials are due in Washington DC via UOW Study Abroad Office.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – tentative office approvals, subject to student acceptance.
- By September 1<sup>st</sup> – apply to Sydney based company for J1 visa paperwork and apply for US visa at the US consulate in Sydney (request appointment time on-line well in advance)
- Complete travel logistics
- 28, 29 or 30 Dec 2009; arrive in Washington DC (tbc)
- 4 January 2008- internship commences (tbc)
- 2 January and early February: accommodation installments due- the Metropolitan Apartments in Arlington, Virginia (tbc)
- 26 February 2010 internship concludes (tbc)

Application forms are available from the Study Abroad Office, Student Central, Building 17. Further information: Email [studyabroad@uow.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@uow.edu.au) or telephone 42 215404 during office hours. [www.uow.edu.au/student/exchange/](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/exchange/)