## UNM Fred Harris Congressional Internship (2022)

# Washington, DC

# Frequently Asked Questions

**How do I apply?** An application form and instructions can be found on our website, http://polisci.unm.edu/. Use the UNM Fred Harris Congressional Internship link. Completed application materials must be emailed to Ashley Banks, [asbanks@unm.edu](mailto:asbanks@unm.edu) , by **TUESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2021 AT 5PM**. Students are also welcome and invited to submit completed applications earlier than this due date if they wish.

**Is the program competitive? Yes.** There are up to five internships available for Spring 2022 and also for Fall 2022 semesters. All are to be filled in a competitive application process guided by strict admissions criteria—undergraduate status, minimum 60 earned credit hours, 3.0 GPA or higher, any major. The program is academically and professionally rigorous.

**How much does the semester in Washington, DC cost?** Regular UNM tuition fees apply toward the mandatory online internship classes (15 credit hours). Additional costs for food, travel and entertainment will be different for every person, depending on spending habits. Each intern is responsible for travel to and from DC.

**Is financial assistance from the internship program available?** The Department of Political Scienc seeks to provide each intern with some degree of financial assistance to help with the costs of living in DC. Our ability to offer financial support is dependent upon budget allocations from the larger university and these may change from semester to semester. We are fully committed to providing financial assistance, as possible. For Spring 2022 and Fall 2022, we seek to cover housing and utility costs for each Fred Harris intern. Interns are personally responsible for payment of a refundable housing security deposit, as charged by housing authorities.

**Where will I live?** To promote safety and an enjoyable academic-based community atmosphere, interns are required to live in housing that UNM has contracted for with DC-based internship housing authorities, as such housing is available. We are contracting with WISH (Washington Internship Student Housing) in 2022 in order to provide Fred Harris interns with apartments that are close not only to Congressional offices but also to public transportation stations and historic places like the Supreme Court!

**With whom will I be sharing an apartment or room?** You will be sharing an apartment with other UNM interns and, possibly, with interns from other universities. Indeed, while living in WISH apartments, you are likely to meet students from all over the country.

**In which office will I be interning?** The Fred Harris program works in partnership with the DC offices to do all that we can to place individual students in positions that will maximize their professional skill development, their future networking opportunities, and their ideal visions of public service.

**Will I need a car in Washington, DC?** No. Public transportation in Washington, DC is very convenient. In fact, driving and parking in DC can be particularly difficult and very expensive. A wide range of transportation options (e.g, the Metro, local buses, taxis, etc.) is available. In addition, Amtrak is very accessible, as are different bus companies for trips to cities like New York and Philadelphia.

**How many days during the week will I be interning?** You will be working for your office 4 days (Monday – Thursday) each week. Specific daily schedules will be announced by your office supervisor. Internship classes will be conducted on Fridays.

**How many credits can I earn for either the Spring or Fall Semester?** Interns earn a total of 15 hours for the required internship classes that are included in the Fred Harris Program. All courses are online, but, as possible, the classes will include on-site classes on Fridays and these will be led by guest speakers.

**How will the internship benefit me in the future?** The networking opportunities that you will have as a Fred Harris intern can be invaluable. Many students in our program work in Washington after their internship semester ends; other interns find that the practical and academic skills they learn as Fred Harris interns assist them in getting professional jobs or in gaining admission to law, medical, or graduate school. Moreover, after living in Washington, DC you will likely feel confident that you can live and thrive in virtually any big city.

**How is COVID-19 having an impact?** The Fred Harris Internship prioritizes the safety of all our students. We follow all recommendations and guidelines put forth by UNM and public health officials. Congressional offices also follow these guidelines and modify work routines as needed to maximize the safety of all participating students. For instance, public health measures may necessitate that interns work for their offices under remote or hybrid conditions. Our interns continue to find that the Fred Harris program is a transformative and positive opportunity even under the difficult circumstances created by COVID-19.

**What if I have questions?** Please contact Ellen Grigsby at egrigsby@unm.edu