OSU Office of Government Affairs: Government Internship

About the Office

The Ohio State Office of Government Affairs works to build and maintain productive relationships with public officials and their staffs. The team works regularly with members of Congress, Governor's Office, Mayor's Office, Ohio General Assembly, Columbus City Council, and other federal, state and local agencies regarding legislative, regulatory, and budget actions impacting the University and the higher education community.

About the Internship

The Government Internship Program provides sophomores, juniors and seniors an unpaid, semester-long internship with the Ohio General Assembly. Students selected for the program will be placed in the office of a State Representative, State Senator or caucus policy office in downtown Columbus and have the option of earning 3 hours of credit for their work. The program also offers 3 on-campus sessions focusing on different aspects of working in state government.

Assignments will vary from office to office, but students can expect to work on things like assisting with the resolution of constituent issues, identifying constituent and community achievements for recognition, conducting research, drafting letters and memos, and attending committee hearings and session. In addition, the program provides the opportunity for exposure to policymaking in action and the chance to interact with public officials and government staff. Transportation is not provided; however, the Ohio Statehouse is a stop on several COTA bus lines, which requires only an active student BuckID.

Students selected for the program will be notified by Friday, September 4 and can expect to begin their internship the week of September 14. A mandatory on-campus orientation session will be held the week of September 7.

Gluck-Asher Fellowship

All students who apply to the internship program will automatically be considered for one of four Gluck-Asher Fellowship spots. This competitive fellowship is awarded to the top four applicants each semester who complete the internship for credit through the appropriate section of Political Science 4191. Fellows are selected based on the strength of their resume, application, and writing sample. Upon successfully completing all requirements of the internship, fellows are awarded a stipend of $750.

Expectations

Students will be expected to spend 10-15 hours per week at their internship in blocks of 4-5 hours. Participants are also required to attend 3 on-campus sessions that highlight different aspects of working in state government. In addition, all interns are expected to meet with the Office of Government Affairs at least once during the semester to reflect on their experiences.

Qualifications

The State Government Internship Program is open to students of any major who have attained at least a 3.0 grade point average and have completed their first year of undergraduate study.

How to Apply

Interested students should plan to attend one of the following sessions and bring a completed application form, copy of their class schedule for the semester in which they will intern, a resume, and a 3-5 page writing sample:

- Thursday, August 27 at 4:30pm
- Friday, August 28 at 12:00pm
- Tuesday, September 1 at 9:30am

All information sessions will be held in room 385 on the third floor of Bricker Hall, located on the Oval at 190 North Oval Mall, with Kristin Sutton from Government Affairs and Elizabeth Kloss from Political Science.

Please direct questions to Kristin Sutton, State Government Relations, at sutton.294@osu.edu.