

Why Participate in the Josef Korbel School of International Studies (partnered with Syracuse University and University of Pittsburgh) Program in DC?

The Value of Experiential Learning

<https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/dc/gsdg/overview/>

The “Korbel in DC Program” offers an opportunity to strengthen your knowledge, develop skills and build contacts instrumental in launching your career in international affairs. Washington, D.C. is an exciting venue for many of the world’s most influential institutions. Diverse career opportunities abound, but depend on good preparation, commitment, patience – and DC experience. Whether you intend to stay in DC or use your work here as a launching platform for work abroad, the GSDP can help you.

Advantages of the Korbel in DC program

- The program is geared to help you test the concepts and skill sets gained on campus with global institutions based in DC.
- The program emphasizes the policy process, institutional concerns and vantages as seen through the eyes of DC-based policy makers, practitioners, experts, communicators from varied camps, including different international perspectives.
- Increasingly NGOs and private sector organizations hire from their intern and temp lists; they seek individuals they have worked with. The GSDP positions participants better for such opportunities
- Experience in DC provides invaluable insights and skills that stand our participants in good stead for the PMF and FSO exams, not to mention the culture of various organizations.
- The combination of internships and courses helps you maximize your learning.
- The program offers extra assistance to help you consider your career options and plan next steps.
- Individualized assistance means more opportunities for you to meet with a variety of individuals or participate in small group meetings at organizations of interest.

The Courses and the Faculty

- Faculty are all highly respected and experienced professional practitioners with many years experience as well as teaching credentials.
- Courses are seminar-style – small group discussion, encouraging interaction among participants.
- Courses replicate the kinds of skills you will need in your career field; heavy emphasis is placed on professional memoranda and report writing, PowerPoint presentations, group projects, simulations and other exercises necessary in the contemporary work place.
- The faculty share a common interest in conveying their experiences and knowledge and fostering the careers of our participants.

Internships

- Internships are a key to finding work in an increasingly competitive work environment.
- Your work in an organization gives you the inside track for employment, helps you build the needed specialized knowledge, skills and abilities and construct a network of supportive professional colleagues who multiply your contact opportunities.
- The internships are structured, i.e. GSDP staff work closely with you to identify and obtain the best possible internship, consider and abstract lessons from the experience in a systematic way, solve any particular problems that arise, and ultimately have a successful experience.
- The class will meet on occasion to talk with each other about the internship, and share lessons learned.

Networking and Career Services

- GSDP faculty and staff are very generous in putting you in touch with professional colleagues who can counsel you about career options and paths.
- We can call on very active and supportive alumni communities from the three schools and will have at least one event to introduce you to them.

Dealing with Housing and Logistics Concerns

Undoubtedly the cost of living in DC is higher than Denver, Pittsburgh or Syracuse. Some ways to deal:

- Check the Maxwell home page for some ideas about possible housing. For example some of our participants have had good luck with a wide range of available apartments in downtown Silver Spring, a close-in suburb, on the Metro red line.
- Check Craig's List for listings.
- Network with alums, or friends and former participants to seek places with lower rent, near a Metro stop but not necessarily in Central DC. Group houses are usually lower cost.
- Plan one internship in the summer to be followed by participation in the fall GSDP. This will broaden the available rental possibilities with a longer lease, and give you greater experience.
- Plan ahead to establish a lease in Denver, Pittsburgh or Syracuse that will not encumber you during the fall you would like to come to DC, or plan to sub-lease your apartment.
- Keep in mind that costs normally applied to textbooks are far lower in DC, because most of the courses require readings available on-line or in less expensive reading packets. Use that particular budget item to offset the higher cost of living.
- Check with prospective internship organizations about any possible stipends, commuting assistance etc., not to mention looking for a paid internship.

International Students Have Opportunities in DC

We tend to see DC as only the site of the US Government for which most international students are not qualified. Yet major global and multinational institutions are based in DC, with high interest in international students, e.g.

- The World Bank Group, The International Monetary Fund, the Organization of American States, Inter-American Development Bank.
- Major regional organizations have DC offices; almost all agencies of the UN have liaison offices in DC.
- Major NGOs, think tanks, media, foundations are based, or have offices in DC.