



The University of Texas at Austin  
Lyndon B. Johnson School  
of Public Affairs

**LBJ School of Public Affairs**  
**Foreign Policy Semester in Washington, DC**  
**Spring 2024**



Call for Applications for Spring 2024  
Due: January 15, 2023  
Submit to: [lbjstudentaffairs@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lbjstudentaffairs@austin.utexas.edu)

**Program Description and Cost**

The LBJ School of Public Affairs is proud to announce that it is launching an immersive spring semester program to be based in and managed by the LBJ Washington Center. The program will concentrate on **foreign policy** and will be available to all second- or third-year MPAff and MGPS students who are not already enrolled in the MPAff- or MGPS-DC Concentration. The program of work for the semester will include 12 credit hours of coursework (see p. 3 for course details).

- PA396G: Internship for Academic Credit
- PA389: Policy Report
- PA388K: Global Policy Institutions
- PA388K: U.S. Foreign Policy

Students will apply and commit to the program during their first year prior to finalizing their registration for courses in their second year. Any course registration adjustments may be made during the August registration period. In addition to other Austin-based course requirements, students will use the fall semester to identify a sponsoring policy organization for their internship and reach agreement on an acceptable Policy Report topic and scope of work with a faculty mentor who will serve as the instructor of record for PA389.

Students who are accepted to and enroll in the Foreign Policy Semester in DC program will be able to count their two PA388K courses in Washington toward their Policy Research Project requirement for their degree program. In addition, students may use their internship to satisfy the internship requirement of their degree program.

To cover the operational aspects and the unique services of the Foreign Policy Semester in DC, students will pay a \$6,000 program fee on top of regular tuition. In the first year of the program, all students will be eligible for a \$2,000 fellowship to help cover these program fees, reducing the total fee to \$4,000. In addition, students who secure an unpaid internship will be eligible to apply for fellowship funds to offset the costs of participating in this program if they have not previously received an internship fellowship. The average internship fellowship is between \$4,000-\$6,000. Acceptance to the program will not affect any prior fellowship offers and agreements that cover



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tuition and/or living costs. Students will be responsible for finding their own housing and making travel/ relocation arrangements.

### **Application Process**

To apply to the Foreign Policy Semester in DC Program, please submit the following materials in one combined file attachment to [lbjstudentaffairs@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lbjstudentaffairs@austin.utexas.edu) by January 15, 2023. Please put “LBJ Foreign Policy Semester in DC – application” in the subject line.

1. **Cover letter** addressed to the Foreign Policy Semester in DC Selection Committee, indicating how this program will benefit your academic and professional development, what internships (in broad terms) you are interested in pursuing, and what topics you might wish to pursue for your Policy Report. Please include your full name, EID, and email address on this letter, as well as the names and email addresses of two UT professors who may serve as references for you (no full letters of recommendation are required).
2. **Professional Resume**, one to two pages in length.

We anticipate capping the program at 25 students due to space considerations at the LBJ Washington Center. The selection committee will announce decisions by the end of February 2023, to give students enough time to plan their fall semester courses in a way that allows them to meet graduation requirements. The program may be cancelled if there is insufficient interest/applications from students. If this is deemed necessary, this decision would be conveyed ahead of the registration period for the fall semester to provide ample time for students to make adjustments to their course schedules.

Please direct any questions about the Foreign Policy Semester in DC to the Assistant Dean for Academics, Dr. Lorinc Redei at [lredei@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lredei@austin.utexas.edu).

### **Curriculum**

The Foreign Policy Semester in DC consists of 12 credit hours, divided along the following four activities or courses. If a student is ahead on credit hours (for example, only needs 9 hours to graduate), they may opt out of the independent policy report.

Students who have completed the Policy Research Project requirement may simply take both PA388K courses for elective or specialization credit. Students who have not completed the PRP requirement, may use the two 388K courses list below to fulfill the 6 credit PRP requirement.

(1). **PA396G: Policy Internship** with an organization of the student’s choosing during the spring semester (approximately Jan.20-May 10). Students will spend the Fall 2022 semester working with LBJ faculty policy area mentors and the LBJ Careers Services office to identify and confirm internship opportunities. The internship will involve working 32 hours each week at the



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organization. Internships may be used to satisfy the LBJ School internship requirement, and must be approved by the student's graduate advisor using the usual [forms](#). Students who have previously satisfied the internship requirement and do not wish to pursue an additional internship in DC may instead take a conference course (PA389), if needed.

(2). **PA389: Independent Policy Report.** Students participating in the Foreign Policy Semester in DC will conduct an independent research and writing project called the Policy Report. This research project may align with the work the student is conducting as part of their internship, may be done as an independent consultancy with another DC-based institution, or be structured research project with an LBJ faculty member that utilizes primary research conducted in DC.

The Policy Report will be supervised by a faculty member based in the LBJ Washington Center or the Austin campus of LBJ. Each student should connect with these LBJ faculty members to help guide them in identifying a relevant and feasible policy topic and specific research question and designing and conducting research and analysis.

The exact topic and form of Policy Report should also be pre-approved by the faculty mentor before the student begins research or writing, and therefore the student should find a faculty mentor and agree upon a Policy Report objective and structure in the Fall semester of the second year prior to moving to DC. Policy reports should be 5,000-8,000 words in length and should include some element of primary research (e.g. interviews with policy actors in DC, novel data collection and analysis, or original text analysis). The goal of the Policy Report is to empower the student to take a deep dive into a policy issue or problem of their choice, and to take advantage of their proximity to DC institutions and actors to conduct original research on this topic.

(3). **PA388K: Global Policy Institutions in Washington, DC.** This course is designed to introduce students to the variety of institutions, agencies and committees in Washington, DC outside of Congress and the Executive Branch that focus on the making, implementation, evaluation and advocacy of global policy, broadly defined. The course is organized by the Washington Center Executive Director, and will bring in experts from, or involve site visits to, intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, think tanks and advocacy/lobbying groups that work in the global policy space. The course will unpack these organizations to understand their mandates, governance and operational structures, policies and processes, and influence, as well as how they interact with other key agencies and work to address contemporary policy challenges.

(4). **PA388K: U.S. Foreign Policy.** This course will focus on the role of U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch and various U.S. Departments in negotiating, legislating, appropriating, and implementing U.S. foreign policy across a wide array of areas including national and international security, trade, finance, development, environment, energy, immigration, and human rights.