Below you can find answers to a number of Frequently Asked Questions. A comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.twc.edu/internships/frequently-asked-questions

What’s The Washington Center in a nutshell?

The Washington Center helps students from around the world find internships related to their field of interest, no matter the major. In addition to an internship, students complete an academic seminar as well as leadership training. This for-credit opportunity will help you build your resume, expand your network, and gain experience that will make you stand apart when you enter the job market or apply to graduate school. Many FIU alumni of the program have received coveted job offers from U.S. agencies! FIU is a partner university with The Washington Center and working with liaisons at FIU and in Washington, D.C., you can begin the application process immediately.

Who at FIU can I consult with regarding The Washington Center?

Anita Smith (Assistant Director of Internships, FIU Office of Career Services; anitsmit@fiu.edu; 305-348-2423) is the main FIU-wide contact person. Anita can advise you on the application process and answer any questions you may have. Anita will also assist with any FIU-related matters associated with this program, coordinate with other relevant individuals at FIU, as well as liaise with The Washington Center as necessary. Dr. Shlomi Dinar (Associate Director for Academics of the School of International and Public Affairs; dinars@fiu.edu) will be available to assist SIPA students should they have questions. Individual departments also have academic advisors that you may be able to consult with.

How do I fill out an application?

In addition to making contact with Anita, you should also create an account in The Washington Center student portal (http://portal.e.twc.edu). This will allow you to fill out the application at your own pace. Be sure to save your information as you go so that nothing is lost when you log out. Before starting an application, be sure to review the information provided, so that you know exactly what is required.
What are the deadlines for Spring 2013?

Competitive deadline: October 12, 2012
(Students will receive priority consideration for a subset of private scholarships. Also, you will position yourself well for internships, as your application materials will be passed along to The Washington Internship Management Team and will be ready for referral before the majority of sites begin reviewing candidates). Please note that you can still be awarded other forms of financial assistance if you apply after the competitive deadline (see below).

Regular Deadline: November 16, 2012
(The date by which it is recommended that you apply for a given semester, quarter or term. The Washington Center is sometimes able to accept students on a space-available basis after this deadline has passed.) Please note that you can still be awarded other forms of financial assistance if you apply by the regular deadline (see below).

What are the deadlines for Summer 2013 and Fall 2013?

Competitive deadline: February 15, 2013 (for Summer 2013) and May 3, 2013 (for Fall 2013)

Regular deadline: March 15, 2013 (for Summer 2013) and June 14, 2013 (for Fall 2013)

How much does this program cost?

The goal is to make the cost of the program, including the program and housing fees, as comparable as possible to the cost of attending FIU for the same semester or summer term. View the base fees for the program.

What are the sources of funding available to students?

FIU students will receive state-based scholarships from The Washington Center. Students must be registered to receive at least six credits for their participation. Part of this financial assistance ($1,500 for Fall/Spring and $1,000 for Summer) is contingent upon the student's staying in The Washington Center’s housing and will be applied to the student's housing invoice.

In addition to the above assistance, the anticipated award amounts for 2013:
- Spring semester: $5,500
- Summer term: $5,500
- Fall semester: TBD

In addition to the above funding assistance, students may be considered for private scholarships from The Washington Center. There are awards for civic engagement, professional achievement, diversity, and membership in honors programs or societies, among many others. Review the website or contact The Washington Center for more information, and if at all possible, apply by the competitive deadline (see above).
Since you remain enrolled for credit at FIU, most students (on university financial aid) continue to receive their regular financial assistance at FIU (in fact, sometimes it can be recalculated to account for increased need). The Washington Center will gladly work with FIU’s financial aid office once you are accepted into the program.

If I’m accepted to the program will housing be provided?

All students that are accepted into the program are guaranteed a spot in one of our housing facilities, provided that they complete the housing contract and submit the housing deposit by the deadline.

Can first year students participate?

In order to participate, students must have achieved at least sophomore status at FIU by the term for which you are applying. Review all of the eligibility requirements.

How many academic credits will I receive for this program?

The amount of academic credits you receive will depend on each individual department. Departments will be consulted should you be interested in pursuing this opportunity.

How does the process of finding an internship work?

The process of selecting an internship placement is driven by the student. Upon being accepted into the program, students begin working with a staff member in The Washington Center’s Internship Management Team. Though The Washington Center is involved throughout the entire process, it is ultimately the student’s decision to either accept or decline any internship offer.

What types of internships are available?


Am I allowed to find my own internship?

Students are allowed to pursue their own internship opportunities while still participating in the program. If you are interested in doing this, it is important that you speak with your advisor on the Internship Management Team. You will be required to participate in all components of the program, so The Washington Center will need to speak with any internship placement with
which we do not have an agreement to ensure that they will allow you to participate in all program components.

**What does the program offer besides internships?**

In addition to interning, the program also includes an academic course, and other programmatic activities, such as guest speakers, panel discussions, tours and site visits, and workshops (so-called “Leadership Forum”).

**Where will I take classes and who is teaching them?**

Students take their courses in one of two locations – in classrooms located in the basement of the Residential and Academic Facility or in the annex building of TWC’s Headquarters building. The instructors for these courses are either adjunct professors from one of D.C.’s many universities or professionals in the fields associated with the courses being taught.

**What assignments would I be required to complete?**

Students are required to complete two separate sets of assignments. First, you must submit the required assignments for your academic course to your evening course instructor. Then, under the guidance of your TWC program advisor, you will complete a series of assignments, many of which will contribute towards developing your professional portfolio. Individual FIU departments may require additional assignments.

**Are recent graduates eligible to apply?**

Recent graduates that have graduated within the last eighteen months are eligible to apply to The Washington Center’s Postgraduate Professional Development Program, for which students are not required to receive academic credit.

**Can graduate students apply? What about law students?**

Graduate and law students are allowed to participate in The Washington Center programs. However, the program for which you are eligible will depend on whether or not you want and/or are able to receive academic credit. You should speak with someone in your department or school to determine whether or not you will be able to receive credit.