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](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 course as well as programming that provides meaningful leadership and civic engagement opportunities. 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 a variety of U.S. agencies and other organizations! 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?**

Dr. Shlomi Dinar (Associate Director for Academics of the School of International and Public Affairs; [dinars@fiu.edu](mailto:dinars@fiu.edu)) is the FIU liaison for The Washington Center and can answer any questions you may have. Ms. Martha Rosa (Assistant Director of Internships in the Office of Career Services; [mrosa@fiu.edu](mailto:mrosa@fiu.edu)) is also available to answer questions. Your individual departmental advisor should also be consulted given that you will need to register for credits to undertake The Washington Center opportunity. Your best bet is to communicate with all parties together, keeping everyone in the loop.

**How do I fill out an application?**

In addition to making contact with Dr. Dinar and Ms. Rosa as well as your departmental advisor, you should create an account in The Washington Center student portal ([http://portal.e.twc.edu/](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 2015?**

Priority deadline: October 15, 2014
(Students will receive priority consideration for a subset of private scholarships. More importantly, applying by this deadline 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). For regular deadline information, see below.

Regular deadline: November 19, 2014
(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 2015 and Fall 2015?**

Priority deadline: February 18, 2015 (for Summer 2015) and May 6, 2015 (for Fall 2015)

Regular deadline: March 18, 2015 (for Summer 2015) and June 10, 2015 (for Fall 2015)

**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](#) but please note that all FIU students will receive scholarships so long as funds are available. Although not part of the programmatic/housing costs invoiced by The Washington Center, students should also keep in mind living expenses while in DC, travel funds needed to reach DC and return to Miami, as well as funds needed to cover the university course credits.

**What are the sources of funding available to students?**

FIU students will receive state-based scholarships through The Washington Center. Students must be registered to receive at least six credits for their participation. Each student will receive a guaranteed total of $9,000 (additional scholarship funds may be available through FIU) per semester that will go towards covering the programmatic costs and housing costs. The scholarship is contingent upon the student's staying in The Washington Center’s housing and will be applied to the student's housing invoice. Should it be necessary, exceptions to this housing clause will be considered on an individual basis.

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. Should you have any questions in regards to FIU financial aid and how this may work with The Washington Center, please contact Ms. Susette DeCastro Palomino (decasts@fiu.edu). Additional sources of funding may be available through
the FIU Office of Scholarships and Fellowships. Please contact Dr. Rebekah Schulze for additional information (rschulze@fiu.edu).

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. Please see the following website for more information on housing, including the amenities and photos: http://www.twc.edu/internships/washington-dc-programs/housing

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 but six credits is the minimum. You will need to consult your departmental advisor before submitting the application to The Washington Center.

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.