



Davidson in Washington Summer 2027

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar - either “World Politics in American Politics,” taught by Prof. Besir Ceka or “Contested America: Policy Problems and Political Possibilities” taught by Prof. Graham Bullock. Students also receive a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing.

When: Summer 2027, May 24 – July 16 (tentative)

Who: Thirty-five to fifty students. Admission is competitive. Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors, may apply for the program (with preference to upperclassmen). Eligibility is NOT limited to political science majors; students who have yet to declare a major and those majoring in another discipline are encouraged to apply. Participants are required to have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

How: Complete the application form. The application form and site for submission of completed application is available on Handshake (on the Matthews Center for Career Development website – if you haven’t opened up a student account, you will need to do so).

The application deadline is Friday, November 6, 2026 by 5pm.

Cost: Tuition for the program will be approximately \$4500. All living expenses & travel are the responsibility of the student. There are a wide range of housing options including summer housing in [George Washington University dorms](#) (\$2200 to \$6000 depending on the type of room). *Both merit-based and need-based financial aid are available to help – in some cases substantially – to defray these costs.*

The Seminars: The 2027 seminar descriptions are below

"World Politics in American Politics" (Ceka)

In this seminar, we will explore how world politics, foreign actors, and events in the rest of the world influence American politics and policy. The course has two overarching goals. First, we will examine the role that domestic and foreign actors play in the making of American foreign policy by looking at lobbying efforts, think tank activity and diplomacy, and by studying cases such as the US intervention in the Ukraine war, humanitarian intervention and counterterrorism, US-China relations, trade and energy diplomacy, and conflicts in the Middle East. Second, we will explore the interplay between world politics and American politics by investigating the influence of public opinion, money, and foreign affairs in US elections and in the power struggle between the President and Congress.

"Contested America: Policy Problems and Political Possibilities" (Bullock)

Americans disagree profoundly about consequential questions facing the country: abortion, guns, immigration, race, economic inequality, climate change, and more. Why are some political controversies especially difficult to resolve? How do public opinion, parties, interest groups, courts, Congress, the presidency, and federalism shape these conflicts? What possibilities exist when citizens disagree not only about policy but also about rights, values, facts, and justice? In this seminar, we will use contemporary controversies to explore concepts, theories, and practices in American politics. Students will examine the tensions that structure these debates. For each issue, we will deliberate about competing values and interests, why conflict becomes entrenched, and whether existing approaches can be creatively reframed or redesigned. We will consider when compromise is appropriate, when disagreement should persist, and when new approaches might offer promising possibilities.

Both courses will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for approximately 2 hours. Each course counts as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science major but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements.

The Internship: With the assistance of the Center for Career Development, you can apply and serve as an intern in Washington area offices. We are also open to credit being earned through remote internships, including with organizations outside the Washington area. You should

discuss internships you are considering with Prof. Ceka or Prof. Bullock. Each student is responsible for arranging their full-time internship with a government office, political party, research institute, trade or industry association, public interest non-profit organization, or similar organization. At the end of the internship, each student will write an 8-10 page analytical paper about the internship experience and the role of the organization in the political process. Participants receive a pass-fail grade for this component of the program. This course can count as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science requirements but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements. Here is a [list](#) of recent DIW internships

* * * * *

For more information about the program, visit the Political Science [website](#) or email either Dr. Ceka (beceka@davidson.edu) or Dr. Graham Bullock (grbullock@davidson.edu).

Getting Started:

I. Finding an Internship

- Resources available from the Center for Career Development (including a scheduled meeting with CCD staff for accepted students late in the fall semester)
- List of recent DIW internships available at the Davidson in Washington website, <https://www.davidson.edu/academic-departments/political-science/internships-careers-and-graduate-school/davidson-washington/davidson-washington-internships>
- Online lists of offices and think tanks in DC
- Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

II. Finding Housing

- George Washington University, at <http://summerhousing.gwu.edu>
- Georgetown University, at <https://residentialliving.georgetown.edu/summer/>
- Georgetown Law, at <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/housing/summer-housing/>.
- Other local university housing offices (Catholic, Howard, etc.)
- Sublets through *Washington Post*, online roommate and apartment finder services
- Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

The 2027 Davidson in Washington Program Tentative Schedule

November 6	Applications due at 5pm.
November 20	Accepted applicants notified.
Mid-December	Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.

Winter Break	Continue parallel searches for internships and housing. Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.
January 22	Non-refundable program deposit due (\$450) at 5pm.
April 16	Balance of tuition due.
April and May	Submit internship details to Prof. Ceka and Prof. Bullock; finalize internship, travel, and housing; collect definitive syllabus.
May 7	Deadline for approval of internships.