

# Davidson in Washington Summer 2026

**What**: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar - either "Judicial Power and Democratic Governance," taught by Prof. Andrew O'Geen, or "International Institutions and Global Governance" taught by Prof. Britta Crandall. Students also receive a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student's choosing.

When: Summer 2026, June 1 - July 24

**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 7, 2025 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 <u>George Washington University dorms</u> (\$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 2026 seminar descriptions are below

#### "Judicial Power and Democratic Governance" (O'Geen)

This course examines the complex and evolving relationship between the American judicial system and democratic governance, exploring how courts both protect and potentially threaten democratic principles. Students will analyze landmark Supreme Court cases, investigate the role of federal and state courts in shaping policy, and examine contemporary debates over judicial activism versus restraint. Through case studies, guest lectures from legal practitioners and policy experts in Washington DC, and hands-on analysis of current court decisions, students will explore how judicial interpretation affects voting rights, civil liberties, executive power, and the balance between majority rule and minority protection. The course will also address pressing questions about judicial legitimacy, court reform proposals, and the courts' role in addressing democratic backsliding, providing students with critical tools to understand how legal institutions function within America's democratic framework.

#### "International Institutions and Global Governance" (Crandall)

This seminar introduces the concept of "global governance" - the rules, procedures, and institutions, both formal and informal, which facilitate coordination on transnational challenges. These borderless issues encompass those that can be best addressed through collective action, including economic development, human rights, peace and security, public health, and environmental protection. The course will cover both traditional international organizations (such as the United Nations), as well as non-state entities including non-profits, multinational corporations, public-private partnerships, and philanthropies. Throughout the course, students will be asked to reflect on a number of major questions including: What is the current relevance and efficacy of formal international organizations? How are collective interests and pursuit of the common good defined? How does the freerider problem limit collective action? Through an overview of the major theoretical perspectives on the creation and function of international organizations, comparative case studies, and class visits by academics, policymakers and practitioners, students will gain both a theoretical foundation and practical insight into the challenges and opportunities of global governance.

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 Matthews 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. O'Geen or Prof. Crandall. 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

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For more information about the program, visit the Political Science <u>website</u> or email either Dr. O'Geen (<u>anogeen@davidson.edu</u>) or Dr. Crandall (<u>brcrandall@davidson.edu</u>).

#### **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 <a href="https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/housing/summer-housing/">https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/housing/summer-housing/</a>.
- 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 2026 Davidson in Washington Program Tentative Schedule

November 7 Applications due at 5pm.

November 21 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 21 Non-refundable program deposit due (\$200) at 5pm.

April 15 Balance of tuition due.

April and May Submit internship details to Prof. O'Geen and Prof. Crandall; finalize

internship, travel, and housing; collect definitive syllabus.

May 5 Deadline for approval of internships.