

What is the QU in DC program?

The Quinnipiac University in Washington, DC, program is a semester-long experience that offers students in any major the chance to live, work and learn in the nation's capital, the hub for American politics, government, international relations and national security. With more broadcast media companies, news organizations, elite public relations firms and government agencies than anywhere else in the world, the DC area offers an excellent opportunity for aspiring communications and political science professionals to kickstart their careers.

In this immersive program, students participate in an internship, working at one of DC's top media and political organizations. They are required to give the best of themselves each day in a society-changing nonprofit, bustling newsroom, lobbying firm, national think tank or congressional office. Students are placed in an internship that matches their career ambitions.

What are the expected outcomes?

Through this unique program, students in communications, business, or arts and sciences will gain:

- An opportunity to engage in tailor-made professional internships and expert-level academic seminars
- A unique perspective on the real-world landscape of public policy, national security and media
- A greatly expanded professional network
- A deep portfolio of meaningful, professional work

Where do our students intern?

For over 25 years, Quinnipiac students have interned at scores of organizations in the DC area, including national security agencies, congressional offices and the White House as well as think tanks, legacy and digital news publications, and public affairs agencies. Students experience firsthand how QU in DC gives invaluable training to build a wide professional network and supercharge their career launch.

Advisers work closely with students to find the ideal internship that matches each student's personality, talents and career goals. Some locations where students have interned previously include:

- The White House
- Congress
- Foreign Embassies
- U.S. Marshals Service
- National Security Agency
- INTERPOL
- Department of Homeland Security
- The Pentagon
- U.S. Department of Education
- Washington Examiner
- D.C. Witness
- CNN
- NPR
- C-SPAN
- Washington Post

How many credits are earned? Will this impact my graduation date?

In addition to the internship, QU in DC scholars engage in an elective advanced seminar and a professional development program of field trips and speakers. All students also complete an independent, internship-based research inquiry project. Grades and credits earned are recorded on the student's Quinnipiac University transcript.

All the credits count toward graduation. In most cases, students complete some of their major or minor requirements while in Washington. Not every field may be covered, but students normally can count the credits toward their major or minor graduation requirements.



Which DC institutions are affiliated with the program?

QU in DC works in full partnership with the best experiential education programs in the business. The semester prior to your semester in DC, these affiliated programs help you choose and match you with the best possible internship for your professional interests and ability level. They also provide you with support and reflection during the internship and provide advanced seminars in your field while in DC. Check out:

The Washington Center (twc.edu)

Washington Media Institute (washingtonmediainstitute.com)

American University (american.edu/spexs/washingtonsemester)

Where do students live?

All the DC semester-affiliated programs supply space in apartments with roommates. The residential facilities and the services and amenities they supply are equal to, or superior to those, at Quinnipiac University. Housing is conveniently accessible to DC Metro, marketplaces and entertainment. Students are responsible for following housing, behavioral and academic regulations set by the affiliated institution and Quinnipiac.

Who is eligible?

QU in DC semesters are open to currently enrolled Quinnipiac juniors and seniors of any major who have maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA and meet their program's prerequisites for internships. Students have their choice of attending during the spring, summer or fall semesters. In exceptional cases, sophomores in programs that do not have specific internship requirements may petition to apply.

Two-week seminars in January and May are open to students in any year of college, and are a popular alternative for those who want a taste of DC before committing to a full semester of coursework and an internship. Interested students are advised to start planning and applying in their first year or sophomore year.

What is the cost?

For those attending full time in the spring or fall semester (16 credits), the cost includes QU tuition + \$1,050 fee + housing costs (varies by specific program). Financial aid applies in fall/spring, but not summer. A significant number of our students win need-based and merit-based scholarships.

Students attending in the summer semester (9 credits) pay a summer tuition rate + housing + fee. There are a few summer merit scholarships available, but QU financial aid typically does not apply.

Are there any additional costs?

Yes, a few. Students need to arrange their own transportation to Washington and pay for their own groceries, professional wardrobe, expenses and transportation within DC.

How do I apply?

Step 1: Meet with the program director, Scott McLean (scott.mclean@qu.edu | 203-582-8686).

School of Communications students also must meet with Lisa Burns (lisa.burns@qu.edu | 203-582-8548) to review their eligibility for the program.

Step 2: Discuss your intentions with your academic adviser.

Step 3: Apply to QU in DC institution by the deadline. Include goal statement, writing sample and faculty recommendations. Some internships may require earlier deadlines.

Step 4: Submit completed QU approval/registration form by mid-semester, which ensures that your selected QU course equivalents will earn credit. Must be completed by semester deadlines.

Deadlines

Applications for spring semester due **Sept. 21**

Applications for summer due **Feb. 24**

Applications for fall semester due **Feb. 24**

For more information

Scott McLean, *Program Director*
Political Science Department CAS-3, 313
scott.mclean@qu.edu
203-582-8686

Lisa Burns, *School of Communications Point Person*
Media Studies Department CCE-266
lisa.burns@qu.edu
203-582-8548

LEARN
MORE



qu.edu/quindc