



Davidson in Washington Summer 2025

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar - either “Policymaking and Implementation Challenges,” taught by Prof. Ken Menkhaus or “US Foreign Policy in the Middle East” taught by Prof. Silvi Toska. Students also receive a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing.

When: Summer 2025, June 9 – August 1

Who: Thirty-five to fifty students. Admission is competitive. Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors may apply for the program (with preference to more senior students). 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 8, 2024 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 in DC, including summer housing in [George Washington University dorms](#) (in 2024, Davidson students reported dorm rental costs at GWU ranging from a low of \$2200 to a high of \$6000, with most reporting costs around \$4000, 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: Descriptions of the two 2025 seminar descriptions are below. Students will be asked if they have a preference, and we will try to honor your preference, but the co-directors reserve the right to assign students to a seminar to achieve rough balance in numbers.

“Policymaking and Implementation Challenges” (Menkhaus)

Why do bad ideas sometimes become policy? Why do good ideas sometimes fail to become policy, or are made into policy but then fall short when implemented? What does it take to develop good policies that actually work? This seminar explores three critical phases of policy – the crafting and role of policy analysis, the dynamics of policy-making, and challenges of policy implementation. The main focus of the course will be on policy in the federal government setting, but non-governmental organizations and the private sector will also feature in some case material. Our goal is to better understand how, whether, and why policies move from idea to reality, and why successful policy implementation is often so elusive. We will explore a set of theories that seek to explain policy making and implementation, but most of the course will be built around case studies, and will feature guest lecturers from the policy world. Case material will be drawn from different sectors, including foreign policy, defense, health, housing, education, and the environment.

“US Foreign Policy in the Middle East” (Toska)

This seminar is an introduction to the historical and contemporary relationship between the United States and the Middle East from the nineteenth century until the present, with a concentration on the period since 1945. Throughout the course, students will be asked to reflect on a number of major policy questions including: What have been the guiding concerns of US foreign policy toward the region? How have US national security interests been defined? Has US policy toward the Middle East changed over time? Which countries and regimes have been U.S. “allies” and which have been considered “adversaries,” and why? What are the implications of the continuing turmoil in the region for US national security interests? Students should leave this class with a strong understanding of the challenges that the U.S. faces in the Middle East, as well as an informed viewpoint regarding how well America is meeting those challenges.

The seminars will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for approximately 2 hours. The 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. Menkhaus or Prof. Toska. 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 and here are some [tips](#) on your internship search.

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For more information about the program, visit the Political Science [website](#) or email either Dr. Menkhaus (kemenkhaus@davidson.edu) or Dr. Toska (sitoska@davidson.edu)

Getting Started:

I. Resume writing

Meet with a career advisor in the Matthews Center to review your resume prior to applying to the program. It's recommended to schedule a meeting as soon as possible, to allow time to revise based on recommendations. **Deadline to meet with a career advisor is October 24, 2024.**

Options for meeting include:

1. Drop-in advising in the Matthews Center (2nd floor Alvarez College Union) ***Best option; no appointment necessary***
 - Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9am – 5pm; Tuesdays 1:00pm – 5:00pm
2. Schedule a resume review appointment through Handshake
 - Log in>Career Center>Appointments>Schedule new appointment

Prior to your meeting, it is recommended that you visit the Matthews Center Resume Guide to view recommended resume templates, designed to help you develop a professional resume. Visit the guide [here](#).

II. Finding An Internship

- Resources available from the Matthews Center for Career Development (including a scheduled meeting with CCD staff for accepted students by the end of 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 2025 Davidson in Washington Program
Tentative Schedule

September 24	Information Session
Sept-November	Access Career Development Office “Handshake,” acquaint yourself with it, begin weekly check-in on Handshake to look for new internship postings
October 24	submit draft resume to Matthews Career Development office, via Handshake, for review
November 8	Applications due at 5pm.
December 2	Accepted applicants notified.
Mid-December	Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.
Winter Break	Applicants begin searching for internships (but encouraged to start earlier). Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.
January 27	Non-refundable program deposit due (\$450) at 5pm. (instructions on how to submit payment will be sent out separately)
March-May	Submit by email periodic updates on your internship search to Dr. Menkhaus; alert him when you have secured an internship
April 11	Balance of tuition due at 5:00pm.
April-May	finalize internship, travel, and housing plans.
May 23	Deadline for approval of internships.