



Creating Opportunity Internship Program (COIN Program)

Senator Wyden offers a competitive, full-time paid internship three times a year for college students, recent college graduates, and any person with an interest in government and the political process. The purpose of this program is to provide the experience of life on Capitol Hill to individuals from underrepresented groups and communities who otherwise might not be able to afford the opportunity. Interns gain firsthand knowledge of the legislative process at the federal level, observe the day-to-day operations of a Senate office, and develop research skills related to public policy, amongst other activities. Preference is given to those with Oregon residency or strong ties to Oregon.

Program details:

- **Pairing and placement:** Interns are paired with legislative or press staff according to their interest, experience, and demonstrated skill.
- **Day-to-day operations:** Interns assist staff in responding to various constituent requests, updating computer records, and drafting general correspondence.
- **Observing the legislative process:** Interns aid staff in the preparation of briefing summaries; attend briefings and draft memos; observe floor proceedings and attend meetings related to specific legislation.
- **Research:** Interns utilize a variety of primary and secondary research sources, including the Library of Congress, federal agencies and affiliated organizations, to help staff draft detailed responses to constituent concerns and answer policy questions.
- **Individually assigned projects:** Interns will often be given the opportunity to assist with a special project. The projects will vary according to the intern's interest and the needs of the office.
- **End of program presentation:** Interns will have the option to develop a Capstone presentation on a specific policy area and present the final product to the Senator and staff.

Program logistics:

- Offered in three sessions (flexibility to start and end dates)
Fall session: September—December
Winter/Spring session: January—April
Summer Session: May—August
- Washington, D.C. office location
- 12 weeks full-time
- \$5,000 Stipend
- Housing and transportation are not provided

Deadlines to apply: Select one or more of the below session dates

- ☐ Fall term: August 15
- ☐ Winter/Spring term: November 15
- ☐ **Summer Term: March 30**

How to apply:

Submit the following materials directly to Zarinah_Mustafa@wyden.senate.gov. Please include “Candidate for the Creating Opportunity Internship Program” in the subject line of the email.

- Resume
- Cover letter
- (2) letters of recommendation
- Writing sample

WRITING SAMPLE

Please answer **parts 1 and 2** of the writing sample in 2-4 pages (4-page maximum).

Part 1: Briefly examine both sides of a topical issue of concern (for example: climate change, immigration, gun control) and explain why you find one argument more persuasive. This is not intended to be a research paper; instead, it is meant to be your exploration of an issue of current interest.

Part 2: Pick an experience from your own life and explain how it has influenced your understanding of advocacy and social justice. How will your internship in Senator Wyden’s office contribute to your immediate or long range career plans? Why are you a good candidate to receive this opportunity?

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the **D.C. COIN Program Coordinator Zarinah Mustafa at (202) 224-5244 or Zarinah_Mustafa@wyden.senate.gov**. You may also contact the **State Internship Coordinator Karen Nootenboom at (202) 326-7525 or Karen_Nootenboom@wyden.senate.gov**. Please include “Creating Opportunity Internship Program question” in the subject line).