Internships
Internships are the highlight of most students’ Washington experience. UC students have interned with members of Congress, the White House, cabinet agencies, advocacy groups, scientific organizations, public relation firms, and the news media.

Academics
All participants will be registered as full-time U.C. Berkeley students. Making extensive use of local resources, students will design a research strategy leading to a substantial term paper that incorporates knowledge gained from their internship. In addition, students will take one or two electives that emphasize a subject matter such as politics, history, public policy, the media, or arts and culture.

Opportunities
Every week a speaker presents at the UCDC center (past speakers this year have included Supreme Court Justice Scalia and Ralph Nader). Students also spend time at political events, exploring the Smithsonian Museums, and taking weekend trips to nearby East Coast cities.

A letter from your student directors

The University in California Washington program, or UCDC, opens doors and changes a student’s perspective on the nation as a whole. This year was no different. Over the course of Spring 2013 UCDC students had the opportunity to do some monumental things, from seeing the Presidential Inauguration to listening to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia speak at the center. As interns in two different industries in D.C. (Lindsay was an intern in Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi’s office while Anjuli was a politics intern at ABC News), we got to experience how policy is formed and how the media then reacts to that policy.

The unique thing about UCDC is that the program allows you to take classes while simultaneously gaining real world experience through a professional internship. Along with students from other UC campuses and schools like the University of Michigan and the University of Notre Dame, we took classes that covered political media and the “theatre of politics.” But the experience isn’t just limited to an office space or classroom. By paddle boating on the Tidal Basin, visiting countless historical museums like the Newseum, and watching the sunset under age-old monuments, we basked in the glory of our past and current political predecessors who run the government today.

Ultimately, UCDC is one of those professional experiences you can never fully understand unless you experience it yourself. We encourage you to apply to spend the spring semester in the nation’s capital and attend our info sessions or visit our table in the dining halls at the end of October. If you’re currently in D.C., we hope you finish off the semester strong and come back to the nation’s capital continue pursuing your career goals. Keep the dream alive!

- Lindsay and Anjuli, Fall 2013 UCDC Student Directors
Spring 2013 Q&A

Kim Barton

Q: What is something you gained from the academic experience of UCDC?

A: I enjoyed my elective courses because I had the opportunity to learn from peers of other UC schools and national universities. As a Psychology major, I had been very intimidated about taking a Political Science course at Berkeley. Through the UCDC program I was able to gain an introduction to the discipline and ask plenty of questions in a smaller classroom setting.

Lynn Yu

Q: What is a fun experience you had while in DC?

A: Getting to travel through 11 different states while I was there!

Kate Randle

Q: What did you write your research paper about?

A: My research paper was about Startup Act 3.0, a bill introduced in Spring 2013 by Senators Moran (R-KS), Warner (D-VA), and Coons (D-DE). Startup Act 3.0 aimed to make it easier for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) workers to immigrate to America. The bill garnered bipartisan support among lawmakers and was also advocated for by several major players in the tech industry. The bill was particularly interesting to track in the context of the push for comprehensive immigration reform.

Anne Buxton

Q: What did you enjoy about the experience?

A: The best part for me was meeting the variety of people and backgrounds and I believe I made life long friends. I also took away from the experience a new insight into what and where I excel in for future career opportunities.

Some of the places where we interned in 2013:

- Department of Health and Human Services
- American Psychological Association
- National Archives
- Middle East Institute
- United Nations
- Truman National Security Project
- US House of Representatives
- Department of Justice
- Center for American Progress
- Woodrow Wilson Center
- ABC News Digital
- Department of Education
- US Supreme Court
- The White House
- DCCC
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
- US Department of State
- National Geographic
- Environmental Protection Agency
- C-Span
- NAACP
- Smithsonian

Fall Semester 2013 UCDC Classes

- American Political Journalism
- Campaigns and Elections
- Lobbying, Money, and Influence in Washington
- The Theater of Politics
- US Foreign Policy Toward Africa
- Violence and Human Rights in War and Peace
- Washington Ethics: Crisis, Reform, and Reaction
- Congressional Research Seminar
- International Policy
- The Presidency and the Executive Branch
- Washington Media
- The United States Supreme Court
UCDC in action

Berkeley in Washington 2013: “An Evening with Chancellor Dirks”

Sponsored by the Cal Alumni Club of DC
September 25, 2013

The Cal Alumni Club of DC has the honor of hosting Chancellor Nicholas Dirks in the Capitol Building on the evening of Sept. 25. It will be the first time the chancellor is in the nation’s capital spending time with the alumni club. All UCDC students are able to attend and enjoy a reception during which they get to discuss current political events with the chancellor.