California State University, Fresno

Department of Political Science

**Internship Opportunities**

This is a sample of places you may wish to contact to inquire about internships. Political Science Department students have interned at most of the local offices and many others. Internship announcements are also shared throughout the year through the Department’s student email listserv, Facebook page, and other social media.

You may intern with an elected official, political campaign or party, government office or agency, or non-profit organization (e.g. in a government relations/affairs role, advocacy or activist role, or conducting research on political or policy issues). You will need to [get approval of your specific internship](http://www.fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/polisci/students/internships.html) site, activities, and learning objectives before accepting the position if you wish to earn academic credit in Political Science. (Depending on the type of work you will be doing, not every office below may qualify). In most cases, you will need to register for PLSI 158I during the same semester of your internship in order to earn credit. Your internship may be paid or unpaid. It should provide you with hands-on supervised work experience relevant to a career in your chosen field.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS (local offices) & GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

City Council

* [Fresno](https://www.fresno.gov/citycouncil/)
* Clovis
* Kerman
* Visalia
* etc.

County Board of Supervisors

* [Fresno](https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/board-of-supervisors)
* Tulare
* Madera
* Kings

[Fresno Unified Board of Trustees](https://board.fresnounified.org/)

Clovis Unified Board of Trustees

Mayor

* [City of Fresno](https://www.fresno.gov/mayor/)
* other cities

CA State Assembly

* Joaquin Arambula
* Jim Patterson
* etc.

CA State Senate

Fresno:

* Andrea Borgeas
* Melissa Hurtado

CA Governor

* Fresno office

[California Water Boards Internship program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/employment/student_programs.html)

US House of Representatives (local offices)

* Devin Nunes
* Jim Costa
* David Valadao

US Senate (local offices)

* [Diane Feinstein](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/intern-program)
* [Alex Padilla](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/)

Campaigns for public office

* [look for announcements]

**POLITICAL PARTY OFFICES**

[Fresno County Democratic Party](https://fresnocountydemocrats.org/)

[Fresno County Republican Party](https://www.fresnogop.org/)

**LAW/LEGAL OFFICES**

City Attorney’s Office

District Attorney’s Office

* [Fresno County](https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/district-attorney/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities)
* Madera County

Public Defender’s Office

* Fresno County

law firms

[California Rural Legal Assistance](https://www.crla.org/)

CRLA serves low-income individuals residing in over 22 California counties. CRLA clients include individuals with disabilities, immigrant populations, school children, lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgender populations, seniors and individuals with limited English proficiency.

**INTEREST GROUPS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS** (local or regional)

[California Coalition for Rural Housing](https://www.calruralhousing.org/)

Through advocacy, organizing, research, and technical assistance, the CCRH’s goal is to make the case for rural housing improvement and strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit and public sectors to provide affordable housing and related facilities.

[California Citrus Mutual](https://www.cacitrusmutual.com/)

As the industry’s primary advocate, CCM promotes and creates beneficial policies that protect growers from escalating costs and regulations. Much of our work is subjective in nature, but there is a tangible return on investment for membership in CCM. CCM engages in matters ranging from trade, to air quality regulations, pest and disease issues, pesticide regulation, labor, water, and federal and state legislation on behalf of the California citrus industry.

[California Cotton Ginners and Growers](https://ccgga.org/)

California Cotton Ginners and Growers represents the cotton growers and ginners of California in legal, legislative, and regulatory affairs of their respective businesses.

[California Farm Water Coalition](https://www.farmwater.org/)

The California Farm Water Coalition is a non-profit, educational organization committed to sharing fact-based information about the important role water plays in the food, fiber and nursery products grown in California.

[California Fresh Fruit Association](https://www.cafreshfruit.org/)

The California Fresh Fruit Association is a voluntary, nonprofit agricultural trade association that represents California’s fresh fruit industry. CFFA is the key public policy organization that represents the needs and interests of its members by advocating on behalf of its members on legislative and regulatory issues, at state, federal and international levels.

[California Labor Federation](https://calaborfed.org/tag/central-valley/)

[California Teaching Fellows Foundation](http://www.ctff.us/)

[Central Valley Partnership](https://centralvalleypartnership.org/)

The Central Valley Partnership is a regional progressive network that is inter-generational, multi-racial and gender inclusive. We bring together a diverse set of organizations, backgrounds and perspectives: labor unions and worker organizations; conservation, planning and environmental groups; women’s rights and LGBTQ advocates; political and community partners involved in health and human services, education, immigration, and civil rights; and individuals involved in public service.

[Centro La Familia](http://www.centrolafamilia.org/)

Multi-service agency that offers social service and education programs in both rural and urban areas of Fresno County.

[Citizens’ Climate Lobby](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/)

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

[Clovis Economic Development Department](https://www.clovis4business.com/)

The City of Clovis Economic Development Department is committed to supporting a thriving business community. Their mission is to promote the city as an attractive location for new, expanding and relocating businesses, develop commercial and industrial infrastructure to increase job opportunities and attract new business, support the continued growth and success of the city’s existing businesses, and promote Clovis as an exciting tourist destination.

[Community Water Center](https://www.communitywatercenter.org/), Visalia

The Community Water Center acts as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy in California.

[Dolores Huerta Foundation](https://doloreshuerta.org/)

DHF is a tax-exempt organization on a mission to inspire and organize communities to build volunteer organizations empowered to pursue social justice by recruiting, training and empowering grassroots leaders in low-income communities to pursue social justice through systemic and structural transformation.

[Fresno Chamber of Commerce](https://www.fresnochamber.com/)

The Chamber of Commerce has a mission to promote and support the success of the regional business community through effective advocacy, education and relationship building.

[Fresno Housing Authority](http://fresnohousing.org/home2/)

Fresno Housing Authority is a public agency that supports families and individuals to access quality housing, to become engaged in their neighborhoods, and to build vibrant communities throughout Fresno County.

[Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission](http://www.fresnolafco.org/)

Fresno County’s Local Agency Formation Commission is a governmental agency responsible for encouraging the orderly formation of local governmental agencies, preserving agricultural land resources, and discouraging urban sprawl.

[Fresno Teachers Association](http://www.fresnoteachers.org/)

The FTA is a union that represents members in the fourth largest district in the state of California and is affiliated with CTA and NEA. They work to provide Fresno teachers with the resources and supplies they need to have a successful teaching career.

[Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](http://leadershipcounsel.org/)

Leadership Counsel fundamentally shifts the dynamics that have created the stark inequality that impacts California’s low income, rural regions. Based in the San Joaquin and Eastern Coachella Valleys, we work alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place. Through community organizing, research, legal representation, and policy advocacy, we impact land use and transportation planning, shift public investment priorities, guide environmental policy, and promote the provision of basic infrastructure and services.

[League of Women Voters](https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-fresno)

The League of Women Voters of Fresno is a nonprofit, nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. We influence public policy through education and advocacy.

[Madera Chamber of Commerce](http://maderachamber.com/)

The Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization representing all segments of the business community with the potential for marshaling the energies and efforts of its membership toward the accomplishment of common goals for a better community.

[MEH Global](https://mehglobal.com) runs all aspects of both political and commercial campaigns, from strategy to messaging to field operations. Contact: Krystal Hernandez, CFO

[Mi Familia Vota Education Fund](https://www.mifamiliavota.org/)

Mi Familia Vota is a national civic engagement organization that unites Latino, immigrant, and allied communities to promote social and economic justice through citizenship workshops, voter registration, and voter participation.

[Sanger District Chamber of Commerce](https://www.sanger.org/)

The Sanger District Chamber of Commerce provides the community with a strong, well-implemented program of action – a package of services, activities and projects that directly and indirectly meet the special needs and challenges of the business community and the city of Sanger as a whole.

[San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District](https://www.valleyair.org/Home.htm)

The San Joaquin Valley Air District is a public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies. Our Core Values have been designed to ensure that our mission is accomplished through commonsense, feasible measures that are based on sound science.

[Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS)](https://vsfs.state.gov/)

The Virtual Student Federal Service is an eight-month remote internship program for U.S. citizen students, college-level and above, who would like to make a real difference in the work of the U.S. government. Since 2009, thousands of eInterns have expanded the efforts of the U.S. government, working remotely from their school, dorm room, apartment, local library or coffee shop – wherever they happen to be! Virtual interns work only on unclassified projects. They report to their mentors at the Department of State and other federal government agencies in the U.S. and around the world by email, phone, or video chat. VSFS is managed by the Office of eDiplomacy in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Information Resource Management. VSFS collaborates with federal agencies across government on this program.

* The VSFS vacancy announcement is open July 1 – 31 on the [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov/) website.
* eInternships run from September through May of each year.
* Students contribute ten hours of work a week on their projects.
* VSFS eInternships are **not** paid.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS** (application required, usually one semester prior)

VARIOUS LOCATIONS:

[Maddy Institute Legislative Intern Scholar Program](https://www.maddyinstitute.com/scholar-internship-program/) (San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, & Washington, DC)

[Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) National Internship Program](https://www.hacu.net/hacu/hnip.asp)\*

This program offers internships to Hispanic students who attend institutions that enroll significant numbers of Hispanic students. Internships are offered in Washington D.C. as well as other locations throughout the country.

[Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) Junior Summer Institutes\*](http://www.ppiaprogram.org/programs/jsi.php)

The PPIA Junior Summer Institutes (JSI) have been the hallmark of the PPIA Fellowship Program for over 20 years. JSI is an intensive seven-week summer program that focuses on preparing students for graduate programs in public and international affairs and careers as policy professionals, public administrators and other leadership roles in public service.

[US Department of State internships](https://careers.state.gov/intern/student-programs)

[United Nations Internship Program](https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=ip)

[Sacramento Semester Program](https://www.csus.edu/college/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/political-science/sacramento-semester.html) (Sacramento State)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (summer & semester programs):

[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Summer Internships\*](https://www.cbpp.org/careers/internships/internship-descriptions-and-requirements)

The Center seeks highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students (including law), as well as recent graduates, in the following areas for full-and occasionally part-time paid internships: Media, Federal Legislation, Health Policy, Housing Policy, Food Assistance, National Budget and Tax Policy, Outreach Campaigns, State Fiscal Project and Welfare Reform and Income Support Division (see internship descriptions).

[Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Internships](http://www.cbcfinc.org/internships/)\*

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Internship programs bring the policy making process to life. The nation's capital serves as the backdrop for our internship programs that offer personal, educational, and leadership development.

[Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Summer Internship](http://www.chci.org/internships/)\*

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Program focuses on increasing Hispanic Students' awareness of the U.S. political system and enhancing their leadership skills.

[The Fund for American Studies](http://www.dcinternships.org/)\*

The Fund for American Studies runs several internship programs both in Washington DC and abroad throughout the year. During the DC programs, each student takes a class through George Mason University in addition to interning 30-35 hours per week at a government agency, Congressional office, policy group, think tank, media outlet or nonprofit organization.

[Ford Motor Company/Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) Leadership Program](https://www.chli.org/global-leaders-program)\*

This program offers a unique internship experience for students to develop their personal, educational, and leadership skills. Opportunities for students to gain exposure to the inner workings of the United States Congress, Federal Government, and Washington, D.C.-based think tanks and international institutions.

[Morris K. Udall Foundation Native American Summer Congressional Internship Program\*](https://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/Internship/AboutInternship.aspx)

This program is designed to provide Native American college students with experience in the legislative process, congressional matters, and governmental proceedings.

[Panetta Institute Congressional Intern Program](http://www.panettainstitute.org/programs/study-with-us/congressional-intern-training/)

Each intern is assigned to work for two and one-half months in the Capitol Hill office of a member of the California congressional delegation. In addition to their work in congressional offices, participants attend weekly seminars on policy issues and different aspects of government. The Institute covers program costs including college course registration fees, campus services during orientation, air travel and housing in Washington, D.C. As a result, the Panetta Institute makes the program available to interns from all socioeconomic levels. Interns also receive twenty semester credits.

[European Parliament, Liaison Office, Washington, DC](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedstates/en/internships) (B.A. required)

\*Links and descriptions taken from the [American Political Science Association’s Internship Directory](https://www.apsanet.org/RESOURCES/For-Students/Internship-Resources)

INTERNSHIP DATABASES[[1]](#footnote-0)

* [**The House of Representatives Employment Bulletin**](http://www.house.gov/content/jobs/hvaps_subscribe.php)**:**Full listing of all open positions, including internships, in the U.S. House of Representatives. Open positions in committees are also included in the bulletin.
* [**Idealist**](http://www.idealist.org/)**:**A resource for finding internships in non-profits, both in the U.S. and internationally.
* [**Internships.com**](http://www.internships.com/student)**:**A student-focused internship marketplace, bringing students, employers and higher education institutions together in one place.
* [**Global Jobs**](http://www.globaljobs.org/)**:**A job listing site, including internships, for foreign affairs positions in NGOs, think tanks, government and the private sector.
* [**The Senate Employment Bulletin**](http://www.senate.gov/employment/po/positions.htm)**:**Full list of all open positions open positions, including internships, in the U.S. Senate. Open positions in committees are also included in the bulletin.
* **State Job Boards:**Nearly every state job board lists internship available in state agencies, museums, and other institutions. A quick google search can point you to the appropriate state resource.
* [**USAJobs**](http://www.usajobs.gov/)**:**The resource for job postings in all departments and agencies of the federal government. Includes links to the [**Pathways Program**](http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads), which offers internships, fellowships and careers for students and recent graduates. [**Virtual Student Foreign Service**](http://vsfs.state.gov/) projects are also posted through USAJobs.
* **Other Federal Government Institutes and Agencies:**For select other federal government institutes and agencies--including the [Smithsonian](https://www.smithsonianofi.com/internship-opportunities/), [FBI](https://www.fbijobs.gov/students/undergrad), [CIA](https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/undergraduate-students.html), and the [Commission on International Religious Freedom](http://www.uscirf.gov/about-uscirf/employment-internship-opportunities)--internships are posted on their respective websites.

OTHERS:

https://www.volunteermatch.org/

https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/volunteer

<https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/>

VIRTUAL:

<https://www.internships.com/political-science/virtual>

<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/?geoId=92000001&keywords=political%20intern&location=Remote>

<https://www.wayup.com/s/internships/political-science/remote/>

1. Links and descriptions taken from the [American Political Science Association’s Internship Directory](https://www.apsanet.org/RESOURCES/For-Students/Internship-Resources)  [↑](#footnote-ref-0)