



2025 Summer in Washington, D.C. Policy Research Internship



Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy is accepting applications for the 22nd cohort of the Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in D.C. Policy Research Internship Program. Supported by Rice's School of Social Sciences, the program provides stipends to support 10 undergraduates conducting policymaking research at government agencies, think tanks, and nonprofit organizations in Washington, D.C., during summer 2025.

Applicants must be full-time Rice undergraduates through fall 2025. Students from all disciplines—including natural sciences, engineering, architecture, humanities, music, and social sciences—are encouraged to apply. The program seeks students with diverse academic backgrounds and policy interests, including both domestic and foreign policy. Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated commitment to public service and policy analysis.

Selected students will participate in a seminar on public policy and global affairs concurrent with their internships, write a research report for publication and presentation before Rice faculty during the 2025–26 academic year, and organize a public policy education activity. Applicants are responsible for securing their internships and housing in Washington.

Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file by Jan. 24, 2025, to Dr. Steven Lewis at swlewis@rice.edu, with the subject line "Washington Internship Committee."

Required materials include:

1. **Cover letter:** Include your campus and home addresses, phone numbers, email, cellphone, and the name of your recommender.
2. **Essay:** A statement of no more than 1,200 words outlining your policy research career goals, interest and experience in public service, plans for D.C. internships (including organizations you have applied to or intend to apply to), and how these align with your career objectives.
3. **Resume.**
4. **Unofficial transcript:** A copy of your online academic transcript.
5. **Official transcript:** Mailed directly to Dr. Lewis at MS-40, Baker Institute.
6. **Letter of recommendation:** Preferably from a Rice faculty member or researcher familiar with your analytical and professional communication skills. The letter should be emailed directly by the recommender as a PDF attachment to swlewis@rice.edu by Jan. 24, 2025.

More information, including a list of program alumni and their internship placements, is available at bakerinstitute.org/summer-dc-internship-program.

For questions, contact Dr. Lewis at swlewis@rice.edu.

Pictured: 2024 Cohort

(Front row, left to right) Ayra Matondang (Jones 2026), Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University; Karma Elbadawy (Martel 2026), Middle East Institute; Sarah Cinco (Brown 2025), Environmental Protection Agency; Quinn Healy (Martel 2025), School of Public Affairs, American University; Roselyn Ovalle (Wiess 2025), Esperanza United; Jessaly Chavez (Brown 2026), The Sentencing Project.

(Back row, left to right): Jasir Rahman (McMurtry 2025), Team Enough Brady; Andrew Kim (Lovett 2025), Department of Political Science, George Washington University; Ian Wright (McMurtry 2026), Institute for Policy Studies; Jae Kim (Brown 2025), Metropolitan Housing and Community Policy Center, Urban Institute; Sara Davidson (Brown 2025), Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, State Department; Sure Ibukun (Sid Rich 2025), Rocky Mountain Institute.