



# Faculty Fellows Internship Program Description

*The Faculty Fellows Internship Program is offered by the  
Washington Internship Institute in cooperation with  
the Association of American Colleges and Universities.*

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## **Introduction**

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The Faculty Fellows Internship Program enables faculty to broaden their professional, disciplinary, and personal horizons, reinvigorating their own work as scholars, teachers, and educational leaders. Through professional internship experiences, Faculty Fellows return to campus with new insights about how the aims of liberal education can be enhanced by high quality experiential learning programs.

Legislators, parents, students, college and university faculty, and the business community are calling for higher education to help students make better connections between their disciplinary learning and the professional workplace. The Faculty Fellows Program enables faculty to engage in, reflect on, and learn to utilize the benefits of experiential education. Institutions where Faculty Fellows return from their semester-long experience can narrow the gap between disciplinary learning and the professional workplace by assuring that students have opportunities to apply what they have learned in the classroom.

Sponsored by their home institutions, Faculty Fellows spend one full semester in the Washington, DC area immersed in a challenging professional environment, such as a government agency, non-profit organization, national association, museum, foundation, or other site. Faculty bring their professional skills and knowledge to the enterprise, whether in their own disciplinary field, a related area, or a new undertaking. In collaboration with local leaders, participants investigate applied areas of knowledge, develop skills, and explore the systems and policies of their host organizations or agencies.

Dynamic technological and economic forces are dramatically transforming American society. Changes of this magnitude require changes in teaching, scholarship, and the application of that scholarship. The Faculty Fellows will assume campus leadership by stepping outside of their traditional roles and locales to apply and refine their knowledge and talents in the off-campus professional workplace. By their initiative, the benefits of the Faculty Fellows program extend beyond themselves personally and professionally, to include their institutions and their students.

## **Program Advantages**

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### The Faculty Fellows Program

- bridges higher education and the professional workplace
- hones professional skills in new contexts
- provides new perspectives on one's discipline
- promotes the scholarship of engagement and reflective practice
- promotes knowledge of the scholarship of practice
- develops teaching strategies through the experience of active teaching/learning
- prepares faculty to provide insights about campus experiential learning programs in connection with the aims of liberal arts education
- fosters faculty leadership for an era of change
- builds understanding between on-campus and off-campus environments
- develops the academic leadership capacity of the Faculty Fellow for the institution
- recognizes the institution in the workplace and in the local community
- provides an alternative sabbatical experience of benefit to the academic community
- strengthens perception of the social relevance of the academic enterprise with trustees, parents, students.

## How the Faculty Fellows Program Works

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### The Work of the Faculty Fellows

Faculty Fellows spend a fall or spring semester in Washington, DC working with professionals in their own or a related field (depending on their interests). For four days each week Fellows actively contribute to the work of the sponsoring organization, performing tasks that may include research, writing, or project management. The Faculty Fellow is paired with a senior employee of the host organization who provides formal and informal support. The Faculty Fellow and the senior employee work together to plan a set of experiences that will allow them to meet their mutual goals.

One day each week, Fellows participate in a seminar designed for participants to assess their field-based learning and connect it to issues on their campuses and in their disciplines. The seminar will address such topics as: the changing workplace in a knowledge society; the development of reflective practitioners; the skills involved in reflective practice; curricular innovation that incorporates experiential and field-based learning; and ways of assessing field-based learning. Faculty Fellows will have the opportunity to engage in activities designed to enhance the overall experience of living and learning in Washington, DC.

Faculty Fellows are expected to bring to the program a set of goals they hope to accomplish that will enhance their *teaching, scholarship, and leadership in the campus community*. These goals will assure that the Faculty Fellow's work is focused both on the professional *enrichment* of the faculty member and on the *contribution to the academic community*.

Professional sites are carefully chosen from the array of public and private organizations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The Fellows work with the Director of the Program to find the best match between the Fellow's interests and a corresponding professional site. Fellows' interests from humanities, social sciences, science, and other disciplinary areas will be appropriately linked to a sponsoring agency.

### Eligibility

Accredited institutions of higher education may nominate full-time faculty as Faculty Fellows. The program is addressed specifically to mid-career faculty in good standing, either tenured or on long-term contract, at the rank of Assistant or above. It is especially recommended for faculty members who are actively involved in creating links between classroom and community for their students. The candidates should show promise of exercising a leadership function on campus after the Fellowship experience. A "class" of up to twenty faculty members will be selected for each semester.

Desirable professional qualities in candidates include their capacity for collegiality among the class of Fellows, flexibility in adapting to new situations, and demonstrated interest in helping students connect classroom and experiential learning.

## **Selection**

A committee composed of AAC&U and WII senior staff, and representatives of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors will review applications and select up to twenty Faculty Fellows each semester.

All submitted application materials become the property of the Program and will be made available to appropriate individuals including the potential host organization. Application materials will not be returned.

## **Outcomes**

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### **During the Program**

At regular intervals throughout the semester, the Faculty Fellow and the senior staff of the host organization collaborate to review the Fellow's goals. In addition, the Program Director provides ongoing feedback to the Fellows during the seminars. The focus will be on whether the work includes interactive learning, curricular application and development, and institutional usefulness.

The Faculty Fellow's self-assessment considers the range of activities and enrichment experiences of the program, their professional and potential campus impact, and the curricular planning developed and refined throughout the semester.

### **Return to Campus**

The outcomes of the Faculty Fellows Program are meant to be personal, professional, and institutional. A principal outcome is the increased collegial and academic leadership that the Faculty Fellow takes from the experience. Having had the opportunity to learn new professional skills and perspectives, the Fellow brings new insights and renewed enthusiasm to the academic community. The impact of the fellowship is meant also to appear in all aspects of classroom practice, from curricular planning to new pedagogical strategies, promoting a new understanding of the ways in which education must span the boundaries of campus and workplace.

Faculty Fellows demonstrate the effects of their fellowship for the campus and local community through a medium appropriate to the institution. Some examples of how this might be done include: a proposal for developing or changing a program of experiential learning; an article for a relevant publication on the skills of reflective practice or the scholarship of engagement; or a briefing or presentation for trustees or advisory board members, department faculty, the campus career center, a local chamber of commerce, an academic or civic group.

The personal and professional rewards of the fellowship will vary for each Fellow. The renewal that the experience affords has effects that cannot be measured in traditional terms. In short, the personal and professional rewards and their effects will depend on the individual Fellow's adventurous spirit in exploiting the many opportunities of the Program.

## **Program Collaborators**

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The Washington Internship Institute (WII) has designed the Faculty Fellows Program in cooperation with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). The program brings together two of higher education's most innovative and well-respected organizations.

WII is a recognized leader in the field of experiential education, creating Washington, DC-based learning opportunities for U.S. and international students. Its highly successful academic programs include the *Embassy and Diplomatic Scholars Program*, which arranges student internships in embassies and international organizations, and the *Capital Experience*, which places interns at sites such as the National Institutes of Health, the Smithsonian Institution, and legislative offices on Capitol Hill.

AAC&U is the leading national association devoted to advancing and strengthening liberal education. The Association serves 700 member colleges and universities, forging links among presidents, administrators, and faculty members who are engaged in institutional and curricular planning. Its mission is to reinforce the collective commitment to liberal education at both the national and local level and to help individual institutions keep the quality of student learning at the core of their work as they evolve to meet new economic and social challenges. AAC&U's current initiatives give high priority to civic engagement and community-based learning.

These two organizations are dedicated to assisting campuses with enhancing existing programs, planning curricular changes, and combining the forces of liberal learning and experiential learning.

## **Fees, Salary, and Other Costs**

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The program fee, paid by the Faculty Fellow's academic institution, is \$4,000 for AAC&U members or \$5,000 for non-members. The fee covers such things as individualized placement options, orientation materials, advising, evaluation, seminars, and planned group activities. The academic institution is expected to provide sabbatical salary and transportation to and from Washington, DC.

The Faculty Fellow is responsible for daily living expenses such as meals, local transportation, telephone, cable, and so on.

## **Housing**

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The host organization or agency compensates each Faculty Fellow \$5,000 for housing costs.

Each Faculty Fellow lives in a furnished one-bedroom apartment. Apartments are selected for location and access to Metro, the public commuter system. The residences offer relaxation, safety, comfort, and easy access to Washington, DC host sites, cultural events, and recreational activities. However, Faculty Fellows may make their own housing arrangements if other accommodations are available to them.

## **Application Deadlines**

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Fall Semester (early September to mid-December)

—application due to WII by March 30

—notification of acceptance is April 15

Spring Semester (mid-January to early May)

—application due to WII by July 31

—notification of acceptance is August 15

Early decisions on applications can be made one year prior to the normal application deadlines.

Note: Some government organizations require security clearance, which can take six to nine months to process. Those interested in a government office that requires a security clearance as a site should call the Director of the program for information about security clearance.

The application form can be downloaded from [www.wiicd.org](http://www.wiicd.org).

## **Washington, DC – An International City**

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Faculty Fellows can experience the exciting social, economic, and artistic renaissance occurring throughout Washington, DC and its surrounding area, as well as enjoying the energy of Capitol Hill, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, and the many institutions that make this city a political, economic, and cultural center.

Located in the heart of Washington, DC, both AAC&U and WII are accessible by Metro. Nearby attractions include the White House, Embassy Row, the State Department, the National Zoo, the Dumbarton Oaks gardens, State Department, the World Bank, art galleries, restaurants, and bookstores.

The Washington area is exceedingly rich in social and cultural activities. Professional and amateur sporting events abound, including football, men's and women's basketball, hockey, and world-class soccer. The city boasts sixteen Smithsonian Museums, festivals on the Mall, the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, the Shakespeare Theater, the Folger Library, Arena Stage, and numerous parks, monuments, landmarks, and the Potomac River. Washington affords an array of activities to suit many entertainment and recreational interests.

## **For Further Information Contact**

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