

The Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program

In Government & Public Affairs – The City University of New York

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The mission of the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program in Government and Public Affairs is to provide “education for the public service” by bridging the gap between academic study and the practical world of government and public affairs. The Program is designed to equip its diverse student body with the appropriate skills necessary to ensure success within a dynamic and changing public sector environment.

Students and faculty from a broad range of academic disciplines are brought together with practitioners to produce the Program's internship experience. The study of public affairs requires an intergovernmental approach, and students therefore are afforded opportunities at all levels of government. They are placed in the offices of city, state and federal legislators, or in government agencies; others work in neighborhood and community organizations; and still others work in international organizations or public advocacy groups. Despite this diversity of placements, each intern comes away from the internship experience with a universal lesson: “I can make a difference.” For many, the internship becomes a springboard into a career in public service and a lifetime of active citizenry.

The **New York City Internship Program** provides interns with guided and rigorous academic course work and produces a theoretically grounded, yet practical understanding of New York City government and public affairs. Students are placed throughout the city, in governmental and non-governmental organizations. As a part of the NYC Internship Program, the Program produces the *CUNY Forum*.

The *CUNY Forum* is a monthly public affairs discussion among students, faculty, policy makers and analysts about major issues affecting New York. The CUNY Forum is taped and later broadcast throughout the City on CUNY-TV cable channel 75 (NYC TV).

The **Edward T. Rogowsky Scholarship & Internship Award** was established in 2001 in honor of its former director, the Hon. Edward T. Rogowsky. This program provides a stipend to one highly qualified CUNY student for a nine month to full year internship at a city-wide or borough-wide agency.

New York State Legislative Internships allow both graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to experience state governance first hand in the Albany offices of New York State Senators, Assembly Members, or with committee and leadership staff. Students who participate in the New York State Assembly and Senate Programs perform substantive work such as research on state legislation, assistance in drafting bills, constituent service and other legislative tasks. All of the Albany internship programs include a complete academic component (up to a full semester's credit may be arranged) and monetary stipend to offset students' living costs.

The **Caucus/CUNY Scholars Program** provides another option for CUNY students who are interested in the workings of New York State government, and its legislative session but who are unable to relocate to Albany. The Program concentrates on the work of the Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, and the service of the State Legislature to communities of color and need in and around the City of New York. A stipend is provided and credits may be arranged through the student's college.

The **CUNY Women's Public Service Internship Program** also provides highly qualified individuals the opportunity to learn by doing in the New York City offices of selected legislators working to benefit women and promote women's issues in New York. A stipend is provided and credits may be arranged through the student's college.

The **CUNY Washington, D.C. Internship Program**, an intensive eight-week summer experience, gives students the opportunity to see and be a part of the national system at work. In Washington, D.C., students intern both on Capitol Hill and in executive agencies, as well as with interest and non-governmental organizations. While in Washington, D.C. CUNY students attend weekly colloquia featuring prominent government officials and leaders of non-governmental organizations. Housing and stipend are provided by the City University to each participating student and credits may be arranged through the student's college.

Leadership skills are promoted not only through the Program's internships, but also through two model legislative projects: the **Model New York State Senate Session Project** and the **Model New York City Council Project**. Each year over 100 students are brought together for a series of intensive training sessions on the legislative process, policy formulation, representation and leadership. The Model Senate Project and the Model Council Project culminate with students debating and voting on legislation on the floor of the New York State Senate chamber in Albany and New York City Council chamber, respectively. The Model Senate Project was created in 1997 by the City University of New York and the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force of the New York State Legislature in collaboration with the State University of New York. The Model Council Project was initiated in 2002 to provide CUNY College Now participants with knowledge about the city's legislative process, along with skills in critical thinking, debate, and community service.

Internships and the projects mentioned above play an important role in encouraging students to be participants in the public sector. The Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program in Government and Public Affairs allows students to develop a real understanding of the theories underpinning public affairs, as well as the practical role that government, non-profits, advocacy organizations, and public sector institutions play in society. If you would like additional information about the Program, please contact us at the number below or visit <www.etrinternship.org>.

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