Ottawa Internship Program  
May 9 - June 10, 2016  

UMAINE STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY  

President Obama and Prime Minister Harper at the G-20 Summit in St. Petersburg, September 2013  

WHY AN INTERNSHIP IN OTTAWA?  

University of Michigan interns have been going to Canada since 1977. The first interns went to Queen’s Park in Toronto, Ontario’s provincial capital, where they worked in the offices of provincial lawmakers. In 1984 the program’s founder, Dr. Helen Graves, decided that the experience of living and working in Ottawa, Canada’s capital city, would be even more enriching for American students. Since then the University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Ottawa Internship Program has sent students to Ottawa each year. It is the oldest American internship program to operate in Canada and is highly regarded by parliamentarians in that country.  

The program annually places 20-25 University of Michigan undergraduates (students from other American universities are welcome to apply) in the offices of Members of Parliament from all the political parties represented in Canada’s House of Commons. You will be expected to work on a variety of projects and duties as assigned by your MP and his or her staff. In addition, you will participate in 10-12 talks and presentations during your five-week internship. These include meetings with the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House, the United States Ambassador to Canada, various MPs speaking about their respective parties, the Auditor-General, the Clerk of the House of Commons and the Supreme Court. University of Michigan interns are also expected to conduct three interviews as part of their internship requirements: one with a staff person in his/her office, a second with a Member of Parliament, and a third with an ambassador or other high-ranking official in the Ottawa diplomatic corps.
In short, this is a very intensive, hands-on experience in the heart of Canada’s system of government. Since the program's inception its objectives have remained constant. First, it aims to provide an opportunity for American students to acquire firsthand knowledge of the Canadian political system and the practical and conceptual skills that come from working in a politician’s office. Second, the internship experience is expected to contribute in its modest but important way to better understanding between the world’s two largest trading partners. A significant number of our internship alumni go on to use their knowledge of Canada in their careers, becoming the Canada expert at their law firm, working in the State Department, or being the “go to” person in their company or lobbying firm when it comes to Canadian matters. All of our alumni become unofficial goodwill ambassadors for Canada-U.S. relations.

SHOULD YOU APPLY AND HOW WILL YOUR PLACEMENT BE DETERMINED?

Over the past three decades about 550 Michigan students have been placed with close to 100 different members of Parliament from all major Canadian political parties (Liberal, New Democrat, Conservative, and Bloc Québéçois). Roughly one-fifth of our interns have been placed with francophone members from both Ontario and Quebec. We strongly encourage French-speaking students to apply for this program and we will endeavor to provide you with the opportunity to work in an environment where your French language skills will thrive.

The director of the Ottawa Program will determine each intern’s placement, taking into consideration the answers that you provide to a number of questions about your academic background, your political leanings, and your policy interests. In other words, we try to find a reasonably good fit between you and the MP’s office in which you will spend five weeks. Of course this fit may not be perfect. But learning is also about adaptability and being willing to broaden your horizons.

We do not expect that you will have taken courses on Canadian politics, history, society or any other aspect of life in Canada. A solid GPA, good writing skills, maturity and the ability to work with others, and the motivation to benefit from what a study abroad opportunity can offer are the qualities that we seek in our interns. At the same time, however, we want you to arrive in Ottawa and at your MP’s office ready to hit the ground running. To this end we require that all students who are selected for this program participate in a series of three briefings on Canada's political system. These briefings, which will be held in the spring term before you travel to Ottawa, will be organized at UMaine at the Canadian-American Center, and will include some online material.

Our students have been placed with MPs from virtually every province and some of Canada’s territories. About 60 percent of Canada’s population is in Ontario and Quebec and at least half of our placements, on average, are with MPs from these provinces.
BEYOND THE OFFICE

To augment and enhance the Canadian experience, the program also includes cultural activities intended to broaden and deepen your understanding of Canada. These include tours of the city of Ottawa, the Museum of Civilization, the War Museum, and the National Gallery. Ottawa is a beautiful, safe and interesting city that is regularly included in lists of the world’s most livable cities (http://ottawa.ca/en/immigration/why-choose-ottawa/portrait-ottawa). It is, in addition, a bilingual city in which those who are searching for an opportunity to improve their French will find abundant opportunities.

The Rideau Canal runs for several miles through Ottawa. It rivals such famous river walks as San Antonio’s for ambience and as a place to unwind in the evening or go for a jog. Interns stay on the campus of the University of Ottawa, a five minute walk from this scene.

WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THIS PROGRAM?

Our interns receive three credit hours for their time in Ottawa. More importantly, they receive an experience and insight into Canadian politics that cannot be matched in any other way. Alumni of our internship program regularly comment on how the Ottawa internship was the highlight of their academic years at University. Read what they have to say at our latest newsletter: http://www.umd.edu/ottawainternship, click on the 2015 newsletter.

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM COST?

The cost of accommodation, museum entry fees, and tuition came to roughly U.S.$3,000 in 2015. The cost for 2016 has not yet been finalized, but it will not be more than this. These costs do not include your meals or transportation to and from Ottawa.

You will stay in residence at the University of Ottawa, about a 15 minute walk from your office on Parliament Hill. In order to offer you the most reasonable price possible we book shared accommodations, generally two students to a unit. Shared kitchen facilities are available for your use as well as laundry facilities. You may view the residence at http://www.residence.uottawa.ca/en/90univ.html
President Obama buying maple leaf-shaped “Canada cookies” during his 2009 visit. The bakery had to hire additional employees to keep up with the demand for what are now marketed as “Obama cookies.”

HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact Betsy Arntzen at the Canadian-American Center, UMaine (barntzen@umit.maine.edu) for a briefing and to ask any questions. Fill out the application form below and the Canadian-American Center will send it with a cover letter to the program director at UMichigan – Dearborn.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 15, 2015.

Information on the preparatory meetings will be sent to you by the second week of January, 2016. A deposit of $250 will be required by the first week of March. This is to reserve rooms at the University of Ottawa. You will be informed of your placement by the first week of February. The balance of your program fee and your tuition are due two weeks before the program begins.

We have had a waiting list the past few years and so your deposit should be considered non-refundable. This is in fairness to the students who would like to get into the program but who, for whatever reason, apply after we’ve offered placements to 25 students.

NOTE: It is very inconvenient not to mention unprofessional, to inform an MP that an intern who has been promised for his or her office will not be arriving in May. So, make sure that you are committed to participating in the program once you are accepted and pay your deposit.

Most interns work in this building, the Center Block of Parliament, or one of buildings that are within a couple hundred yards of this one, the West Block and the Justice and Confederation buildings.
APPLICATION FOR THE OTTAWA INTERNSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN, OTTAWA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS FORM, COMPLETE IT

1. Name: ___________________________________________ UMaine I.D.#________________________
   last                                    first

2. Current Residence: ____________________________ ____________________________
   number street City or Town State abbr. zip code

3. Permanent Address (if different from above): ____________________________

4. Date of Birth ____________________________ Male_______ Female_______

5. Telephone (___) _____________________ (___) __________________
   Home Cell

6. Email address: ____________________________ ____________________________
   preferred alternate

7. Emergency contact ____________________________ ____________________________
   name relationship phone number

8. Emergency contact #2 ____________________________ ____________________________
   name relationship phone number

   □

10. Major Concentration ____________________________ Overall GPA: _____ Major Field GPA: _____

11. Current University/College _____________________________________________

12. Are you a French major or do you have this as a minor? yes □ no

13. Have you ever had a course in statistics? yes □ no

14. Do you know a second language? yes □ no Which one(s) __________________

Do you consider yourself fluent? yes □ no
15. Extra-curricular/community activities and/or major interests:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

16. List any special skills that might be applicable:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

17. Most recent work history (last three years), including volunteer work, military service, and other experiences:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

18. University honors/scholastic achievements:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

19. In placing you with a particular party and MP it is useful for us to know something about your ideological leanings. Where would you place yourself on the scale below? (Circle the label that comes closest to where you think you are)

Very liberal   Somewhat liberal   Moderate   Somewhat conservative   Very conservative

N.B. We do not guarantee that you will be placed with an ideological soul mate and we even believe that it is often a good thing for students to work in a partisan and ideological setting that is different from what they might have preferred. That said, we endeavor to avoid serious mismatches.
20. Interests: There are no absolutely no guarantees, but where possible we attempt to place you with a Member of Parliament who has policy interests similar to yours and perhaps even committee responsibilities in this/these areas. If you wish, please check up to three of the following areas:

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