The University of Chicago Institute of Politics
Summer 2015 Internship Program

Program Overview
The Institute of Politics (IOP) Summer Internship Program offers substantive internships in the political, policy, and public service sectors. The program gives UChicago undergraduate students the opportunity to have meaningful, career-oriented experiences with organizations and agencies doing important political and policy work. For the summer of 2014, the IOP offered close to 300 such internships in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York, as well as in 20 other domestic locations and 13 different countries. Since UChicago is on the quarter system, our students are available for summer internships from mid-June through mid-September. Ideally, internships are full-time, and allow students to work 40 hours per week for 10 weeks. The IOP provides pre-internship training each May in Chicago and programming for our interns in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York during the summer.

Program Impact
These internships benefit both organizations and students in several concrete ways:

- Government agencies and organizations gain essential research, data, and policy analysis in a time of limited budgets. In the summer of 2014, our students contributed over 100,000 hours of work to the employers with whom they interned.
- Organizations benefit from the exceptionally bright, hardworking, and dedicated UChicago students who often work on projects crucial to the organization's goals and mission. Eighty percent of our employers return each summer to host UChicago interns.
- UChicago students gain valuable hands-on experiences and skills to further their public service interests and careers.
- UChicago students learn essential interpersonal skills and benefit from their IOP mentor’s guidance.

Key Dates and Timing
- August-September: IOP connects with organizations and asks them to assess their internship needs.
- October-November: IOP confirms job descriptions with employers.
- December-April: Students review and apply for internship postings.
- February-April: Employers review application packets, interview candidates, and select their summer interns. IOP processes the paperwork on behalf of selected students.
- Mid- to late-June: UChicago students begin their internships at employers’ organizations.

Please note that our deadlines are rolling and are based on employers’ preferences. Internship descriptions are posted for a minimum of two weeks. The IOP then sends an applicant packet to the employer for review. The entire application process from the internship posting date to the employer’s selection of their summer intern usually takes an average of 4-6 weeks.

Next Steps
- Please distribute this IOP summer internship overview within your organization and assess your agency or organization’s internship needs.
- We will reach out in early October to confirm the number of interns you would like and your job descriptions, including a short list of summer projects and any special skills you’re seeking in your interns.

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