Michigan in Washington Program

THE POWER

Since its inception more than ten years ago, the Michigan in Washington (MIW) Program has grown in breadth and success. Each year, 45 to 50 students are drawn from majors across the university to work while learning and engaging in public service in our nation’s capital. Recent internships have included placements in both houses of the U.S. Congress, the White House, the United Nations, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Department of Justice, Amnesty International, The American Enterprise Institute, C-SPAN, and CNN, to name just a few. Some students return to Washington to continue careers in public service while others move on to a variety of careers or higher education, better prepared because of their internships.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Michigan in Washington Program offers an extraordinary opportunity for undergraduates from any major to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. Students combine coursework with field research in internships that reflect each student’s particular area of academic interest. Classes are taught by University of Michigan faculty. Students also gain access to local Washington experts in their research area, as well as work experience and networking opportunities in a desired field.
The nation’s capital offers students opportunities to engage in cultural activities and to visit some of the nation’s significant monuments and national treasures. Students make lifelong friends, gain exposure to D.C. resources and to people living and working in the capital through connections on the MIW Board and the U-M D.C. Alumni Club. Our alumni are extraordinarily generous—from identifying internships, mentoring students, advising program staff, supporting enrichment activities, endowing scholarships, and providing operational support. They share their expertise with our students and open their homes to them too.

THE IMPACT

A great public university such as the University of Michigan should have a strong presence in our nation’s capital, where our students’ aspirations for the future come together with the vitality and diversity of Washington, D.C. Scholarship support is needed to ensure more students have access to this transformative program, regardless of their financial situation. Gifts are also needed to establish a cultural enrichment fund to help defray the cost of field excursions for students while in Washington, D.C. and to enable them to attend co-curricular activities relating to their areas of study.

Named MIW Program
$5M endowed / $225,000 annually

Funding for professional support, technological resources, and program staffing is needed to facilitate the networking and coordination that is essential to the success of the MIW Program. One essential component is a Resident Program Manager, who ensures the safety and well-being of our students and the integration of the MIW Program into the networks of expertise in Washington, D.C. This person serves as an on-site advisor and mentor, and collaborates with the instructor who teaches the core research course, as well as liaising with the residence hall manager, the U-M D.C. office and alumni club, student mentors, and internship supervisors. In addition, funding is need to support educational field trips for students, technology and equipment, and other expenses incurred during the semester.

MIW Student Aid Fund
$2.5M endowed / $150,000 annually

An important MIW objective is to ensure that qualified students from all economic backgrounds have access to the Washington experience. A student aid fund helps defray travel, housing, transportation and other expenses for those with demonstrated financial need so that students from all economic backgrounds are able to participate in the Washington, D.C. experience. Because student support is based on need, grant amounts vary, but our goal is to support 28 students at approximately $5,000 each.
MIW Graduate Assistant Support
$1M endowed / $50,000 annually

In Ann Arbor, the MIW graduate assistant plays an integral role in recruiting and program promotion. He or she conducts the prep classes in which students undertake their internship search, update resumes and cover letters, learn negotiation skills for handling internship offers, and develop an understanding of business etiquette and the Washington social scene. The graduate assistant also works with returning students on the presentation of their research for the required poster session.

Student Cultural Enrichment Fund
$200,000 endowed / $10,000 annually

The success of the MIW Program relies, in part, on the breadth of activities made available to Michigan students. Although students are primarily focused on coursework, research projects, and internships, they also benefit from exposure to the diverse cultural and intellectual offerings available in the D.C. area. Gifts provide needed resources for cultural and intellectual enrichment activities such as special field trips, engaging guest speakers, attending arts and humanities programming, and hosting debates, political discussions, and career networking events.

Faculty Teaching Fellows
$50,000 annually / $12,500 per semester

The sustained vibrancy of the MIW Program depends upon the continuous development of unique and relevant courses of great interest to our MIW students. Faculty Fellows develop and teach these elective courses that take advantage of resources in the Washington, D.C. area. Funding would support four electives per year, two each semester.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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