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# U.S. Foreign Service Internship

## A two-summer international affairs experiential-learning program.

[Apply on USAJOBS.GOV](https://www.usajobs.gov)

**Background:** Established in 2014, the U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program (USFSIP) is a **merit** and **need-based** opportunity that offers two paid summer internships to expose undergraduate students to U.S. diplomacy and the work of the U.S. Department of State.

**Overview:** USFSIP consists of participation in two consecutive summer internships between June and August. The first summer participants come to Washington, D.C. for three weeks of orientation and professional development training. Following the training, interns work for seven weeks on policy desks in regional and functional bureaus at the U.S. Department of State. The second summer students are placed in ten week assignments at a U.S. embassy or consulate overseas. In the intervening year, USFSIP interns take the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) to gain a better understanding of the Foreign Service assessment process.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be U.S. citizens and currently enrolled as degree-seeking undergraduate students in an accredited academic institution at least half time with a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or above. Students must be rising juniors or seniors when they start the program (having applied in their sophomore or junior year). Participants must maintain their student status and GPA for the duration of the program and must be able to obtain and maintain a Secret security clearance.

**Selection:** Merit and demonstrated financial need are key factors in the selection process. Selection criteria are tied to skills sought in Foreign Service candidates: Cultural Adaptability; Information Integration and Analysis; Initiative and Leadership; Judgment; Oral Communication; Written Communication; Planning and Organizing and Working with Others.

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**Benefits:** Students are paid at a GS-4 equivalent rate. The U.S. Department of State provides travel reimbursement and housing assistance for both summers. Students also receive training and mentorship from experienced U.S. Department of State personnel.

**How to apply:** Students must submit an online application via USAJOBS. The application announcement opens in late August for the following summer. The application includes a personal statement, a short essay, current academic transcripts, and a PDF copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report, if applicable.

**The U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program is not a job program.  
It consists of two temporary appointments for experiential learning.  
USFSIP is NOT a Pathways program for paid students  
and recent graduate trainees.**

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