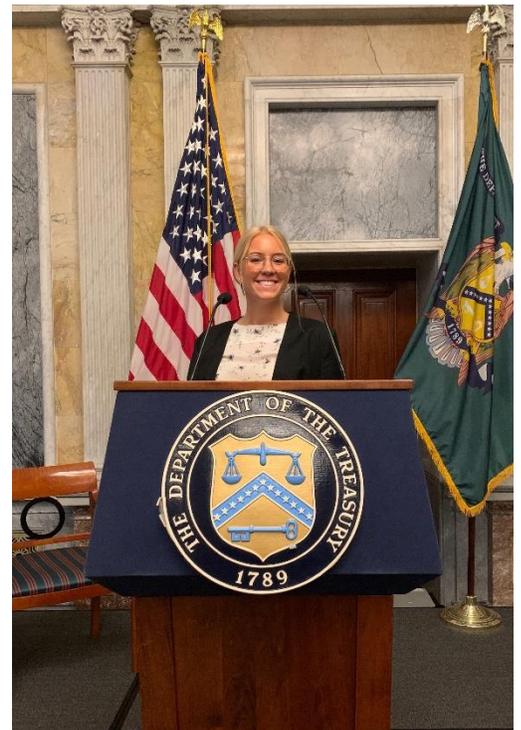


For over 40 years, the Washington Center has provided college students an opportunity to study and intern in the nation's capital, whether through semester-long programs or shorter, more intensive seminars and other immersion activities. In the summer of 2019, 15 Grand Valley students went to DC through our partnership with the Washington Center, a record high for the university. We asked three of these students to reflect on their experiences studying and interning in Washington, D.C.

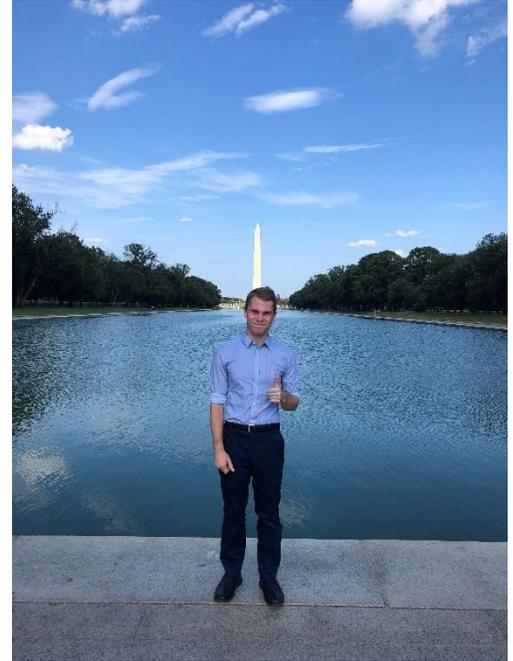
Grace Veenstra

After a lot of uncertainty entering her senior year at GVSU, Grace Veenstra decided to make a change by spending the summer studying and interning in DC. The Washington Center was able to help her secure an internship at Grant Thornton, a major tax, accounting, and consulting firm. Although she still cannot answer all her questions about her future, Grace was able to gain the professional confidence necessary for a prominent career, networking capabilities, and above all, more clarity. While falling in love with the city, she learned how to balance professionalism and authenticity, learned the importance of adaptability, and made connections that will last her a lifetime.



Henry Morris

This past internship summer was Henry's third time in the nation's capital. This summer Henry interned with the International Leadership Association, an organization dedicated to the study and development of leadership. Henry was focused upon communications and social media. He was able to speak with international scholars and hone his writing skills by creating articles. He particularly enjoyed that he was also able to connect with other students and to work with them in career exploration and professional development.



Madison Haack

Madi had an exciting summer in DC. Through the Washington Center, she was able to land an internship at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, where she worked on data analysis and wrote reports on her findings. When asked about some of the things she gained through the experience, Madi highlighted increased self-management and communication skills. Her internship helped build her confidence both as a professional and in herself as a smart and driven individual.



GVSU Political Science and International Relations Summer 2019 Internships

The Political Science Department and the DC Alumni Chapter have established a scholarship fund, GV in DC, to assist students who want to study and intern in our nation's capital. You can contribute to the fund here:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/polisci/donate-47.htm> Thank you!