

Sample Personal Statement for the Washington, D.C. Semester Intern Program
Annie Applicant

I visited Washington, D.C. for the first time on a class trip during the 6th grade, and instantly fell in love with the place. Cars were not necessary here, which at the age of 12 meant I could go somewhere even if I did not have a ride. The physical layout of the city encourages an outdoor social life, which meant there would be other things to do on the weekend besides going to the mall. And, most importantly for a future astronaut, there was a museum full of planes and rockets and spacesuits I could visit every day if I wanted-and it was free!

Much to my own dismay, I decided not to pursue my dream to become an astronaut after I accepted the fact that I am claustrophobic, suffer from vertigo, and could never pass the eye exam. However, that first visit to the Air and Space Museum made a strong impact on me, and it sparked an interest in museums that has continually grown over the years. I am currently a double major in Anthropology and History, with a focus on museum studies in the former, and Civil War history in the latter. After I graduate from Butler, I plan on entering a graduate program in museum studies, and I hope to become a civil war history curator.

Participating in Butler's Washington, D.C. Semester Intern Program would be an invaluable experience for me, considering my academic interests and career goals. Some major battles of the Civil War--Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Chancellorsville, Manassas--took place in Virginia, and aren't too far from D.C. Gettysburg is only two hours north of the city. Living in D.C. for four months would grant me the opportunity to visit these battlefields, interview some of the curators, take photographs, and collect maps, all of which are important to my Honor's thesis research.

The Smithsonian Institution makes D.C. one of the most attractive places to be for someone pursuing museum studies. Interning at a museum, whether it be the Holocaust Museum, the Natural History Museum, or the American History Museum, would allow me to gain experience in such areas as conservation techniques, cataloguing, and exhibit design; practices I would use in any future curatorial position. Although I would prefer a museum internship that focuses on American History, I can still access the Smithsonian museums and research centers simply because I will be in D.C.

D.C. is a unique city, cherished by some, and avoided by others. I cherish it and will take full advantage of everything the city has to offer-- museums, historians, Moroccan cuisine, and FBI tours, to name a few. I hope to network with people that I may keep in touch with even after I leave. Considering my fondness for the past, once in a while I will probably sneak into the Air and Space Museum to watch future astronauts as they stare at the planes and rockets and spacesuits.