REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

Priority Deadline: Sunday, November 10 • Final Deadline: Tuesday, December 3

Program Structure

1. All Washington Semester Program (WSP) students will be enrolled in two seminar classes, each worth 4 American University (AU) credits. WSP seminars include frequent site visits and guest lecturers as well as traditional classroom time. Each seminar will take place one full day per week.

2. All WSP students will be enrolled in an experiential learning course, also worth 4 AU credits. As a part of this class, you will participate in academic training three days per week. In addition, the class will meet one evening approximately every other week.

3. You also have the option to take an evening elective course: a WSP elective course, a WSP research project course, or an AU elective course. Some home institutions require students to complete an elective course or research project while attending the Washington Semester Program. If this does not apply to you, taking one of these courses is optional.

Therefore, you will typically be in a seminar or at your academic training site approximately 8:00AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday each week, and you will have one or two evening classes most weeks. On the next page is a sample schedule designed to help you visualize what your weekly schedule may look like. It does not represent your actual schedule.

To sign up for classes, please review the information in the following checklist and follow each step carefully. After you have completed each step, WSP staff will formally register you for classes.
Some home institutions have certain course or credit requirements or restrictions for students attending the Washington Semester Program. Consult your on-campus WSP representative and your academic advisor at your home school about your Washington Semester Program course selection. It is your responsibility to ensure that you will be enrolled in the appropriate courses and to understand how your home institution will process your American University coursework.

Select Your Two Seminars

Students typically choose both seminars from the same concentration. If you have a second major, a minor, or otherwise diverse academic interests, however, you may consider choosing seminars from two different concentrations. For example, if you are double majoring in Communications and International Relations, you might consider choosing WSEM-427 Global Communications and WSEM-419 International Peace and Security.
Options to choose seminars from two different concentrations are contingent on scheduling, availability, and permission from your home school. If you plan to enroll in seminars from two different concentrations, please obtain explicit permission from your home school advisors before submitting the pre-registration form.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Washington Semester Program reserves the right to cancel a seminar should the number of pre-registered students not meet the minimum required to be able to offer the course.

Each of the seminar options are listed below. Click the name of the concentration to see additional information about it, such as recent guest speakers, recent academic training sites, and recent course topics.

**SEMINAR OPTIONS**

- **WSEM-415 U.S. Political Institutions** *(American Politics concentration)*
  Students examine the cycle of United States politics and institutions: how candidates get elected; how bills are proposed and passed; how bills are signed into law and executed; and how laws are adjudicated.

- **WSEM-416 U.S. Politics and Policy** *(American Politics concentration)*
  This course provides students with an empirical understanding of how Washington, DC, works on a daily basis. Students meet with political practitioners and policymakers – both elected and unelected – who influence legislation, execute decisions, resolve disputes, and help others win electoral office. Students gain understanding of the complexity of the government and “practical politics.”

- **WSEM-417 Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy** *(Foreign Policy concentration)*
  This course will help students acquire a sound conceptual and practical understanding of the foreign policy challenges that United States policymakers face, and the reasons for and implications of their decisions. The seminar consists of lectures, class discussions, and simulations, as well as briefings by public officials, policy analysts, and others who are involved in the shaping of U.S. foreign policy.

- **WSEM-418 Global Politics** *(Foreign Policy concentration)*
  This course examines important historical and contemporary themes in global politics that help us understand the key dynamics and institutions of the current international system. This analysis will include studying the role played by the foreign policies of national governments, the multilateral initiatives of inter-governmental institutions, and the advocacy campaigns of non-governmental organizations. In this context, current international challenges, both global and regional, will be used as case studies to understand and evaluate the adequacy of policy responses by national governments, inter-governmental institutions, and civic sector engagement organizations.
• **WSEM-419 International Peace and Security** *(Foreign Policy concentration)*
  The course will introduce students to the major concepts and issues currently shaping the fields of international security and international peace and conflict studies. In this course students will analyze a variety of contemporary security issues and challenges to peace to gain a better understanding of the threats that states and communities face in the 21st century. Students will explore key challenges to peace and the main strategies for responding to conflicts and learn how to recognize and critique the assumptions upon which these strategies rest. Topics will include classic security concerns ranging from causes of violent conflicts to terrorism, but also a broad range of extended challenges to human security including topics related to environmental, health, gender, and resource security.

• **WSEM-420 Economic Policy** *(Global Economics and Business concentration)*
  This course covers key topics in economic policy, including globalization, foreign direct investment, economic integration, foreign exchange markets, the international monetary system, and the global capital markets. The seminar will be augmented with lectures by guest speakers and site visits to Washington, DC, institutions and corporations.

• **WSEM-421 Global Entrepreneurship and Business** *(Global Economics and Business concentration)*
  This course provides an overview of issues associated with international business, from both a conceptual and geographical perspective. The seminar is augmented with lectures by invited speakers and visits to Washington, DC, institutions and corporations. Students understand the issues faced by multinational firms and certain regions and the resources available for studying global entrepreneurship.

• **WSEM-426 Journalism in Washington** *(Journalism and New Media concentration)*
  This course explores the many facets of print, online, and broadcast journalism as they exist and are practiced in Washington, DC. The course studies the people, institutions, and issues of Washington journalism with weekly guest speakers, field trips, readings, discussion sessions, and lectures.

• **WSEM-427 Global Communications** *(Journalism and New Media concentration)*
  This course offers an examination of the role of communications and media in an era of socio-economic and political globalization driven in large part by 24/7 information and communication technologies. It introduces students to key technological, political, socio-cultural, and economic concepts underlying the infrastructure and application of global media and communication systems.
• WSEM-422 Public Law and Society (Justice and Law concentration)
This course exposes students to various social science and legal studies frameworks that explore how the law shapes society, politics, policy, and individuals, and how various social and political institutions shape the law. The course highlights the multiple processes through which law constitutes, regulates, and promotes change in social action, identity, and institutions, as well as how scholars come to understand those processes. This course is ideal for students in the humanities and the social sciences, as well as business, journalism, and the sciences who are interested in exploring various facets of the law.

• WSEM-423 Criminology and Justice (Justice and Law concentration)
This course immerses students in the theory and practice of United States criminal justice and criminal law, through guest speakers, lectures, simulations, and class discussion. Students explore academic and professional skills relevant to U.S. criminal justice and criminal law and gain knowledge of the structure, function, and interrelationship among law enforcement, courts, the adjudicatory system, and corrections.

• WSEM-441 Human Development and Global Issues (Sustainable Development concentration)
This course explores the complexity of development challenges at local, national, and global levels. Diverse topics include key actors, best practices, inequality, poverty, gender, consumption, conflict, and success stories. Students meet and interact with practitioners who work in the field.

☐ Confirm Your Experiential Learning Course

The experiential learning course is worth 4 AU credits and will meet in the evening approximately five times throughout the semester. Your option(s) for this course are based on the concentration of your seminars. For example, if you choose WSEM-415 U.S. Political Institutions and WSEM-416 U.S. Politics and Policy, you will be in the American Politics Internship Course; or if you choose WSEM-427 Global Communications and WSEM-419 International Peace and Security, you may choose the Journalism and New Media Internship Course or the Foreign Policy Internship Course.

• WSEM-491 Washington Semester Internship
This course is composed of the academic training experience and professional development instruction. The class is designed to provide a formal means for students to analyze their academic trainings, explore issues that arise in the workplace in the course of a career, and help students to identify and achieve their long-term academic and professional goals. The course work and assignments will help students reflect analytically on their work at their academic training sites, on the training organization itself, and on issues and topics relevant to their education and career opportunities.
Experiential Learning Courses

*Your experiential course option(s) will be based on the concentration(s) of your selected seminars.*

- American Politics
- Foreign Policy
- Global Economics & Business
- Journalism & New Media
- Justice & Law

☐ Choose an Evening Elective Course

Some home institutions require students to complete an elective course or research project while attending the Washington Semester Program. Please clarify with your on-campus WSP representative whether this applies to you prior to completing the pre-registration form. If this does not apply to you, it is optional.

1) **WSP ELECTIVES**: WSP electives are created specifically for WSP students and are each worth 3 AU credits. The spring 2020 electives are:

- **WSEM-380 Political Communication in DC**
  This course focuses on political communications, including examining the role of media in launching a political campaign or public policy initiative, designing a media plan and strategy, writing press releases, drafting talking points, setting up a press conference, booking a Congressperson on a television program, preparing a Congressperson for an interview, using new media tools and techniques to convey a message, and responding to a crisis.

- **WSEM-340 The U.S. Presidency: History and Current Controversies**
  Even before Donald Trump became president, the office of the presidency was the center of the political universe. In this course, students learn why. The course begins by studying the constitutional origins and history of the presidency and then works toward a more comprehensive understanding of the institution. Students consider the chief executive from a number of angles including the history of the presidency and the contributions of individuals from George Washington to Trump; current controversies involving the “unitary executive” theory, unilateral power, and other issues; political science theories; and both classic and contemporary works on the presidency.
2) **RESEARCH PROJECT**: WSP offers rigorous research project courses in which students take advantage of the myriad resources at AU and throughout Washington, DC. Students work one-on-one with a WSP faculty member, who helps students develop a research topic of their choice and guides them in the methodology and presentation of their research.

- **WSEM-480 Washington Semester Research Project: Choose 3 or 4 AU Credits**
  This course offers a unique opportunity for students to conduct intensive analysis on a Washington-based or international topic of interest. This work should complement the knowledge students acquire in the seminar and experiential learning components of the Washington Semester Program.

3) **AU ELECTIVES**: If you would like to be enrolled in an AU elective, you may browse AU courses [here](#). Please keep the following criteria in mind when considering AU courses:

- We require you to select a course that begins after 5:00PM, as your academic training and seminars will typically take place between the usual business hours of 8:00AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday. Additionally, WSP staff will review selections to make sure they will not overlap with your experiential learning course.

- If an AU course in which you are interested has a prerequisite, you must be able to submit proof of completion of a comparable course at the university level.

- We strongly recommend that you choose from courses in the 100-499 level range. You may enroll in courses with course numbers at the 599-level or below; however, courses at the 500-level and above are graduate-level courses and will consequently be more demanding. WSP students are not eligible for courses at the 600-level and above.

- Students who are enrolled in a degree program at AU receive first priority when registering for AU courses. Therefore, **we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enroll in any specific AU course**, including courses that would fulfill a requirement for graduation from your home institution. Therefore, if you are interested in pursuing an AU elective, **we recommend that you submit the pre-registration form by the priority deadline, Sunday, November 10, and list your top 3-5 choices for an AU elective in the text box in the form.**

- If you are enrolled in an AU elective, please check your AU email and Blackboard accounts regularly, as WSP staff are not notified to changes to courses outside WSP.
Submit the Consent & Pre-Registration Form

Make your course selections by submitting the Consent and Pre-Registration Form by Tuesday, December 3. Submission of this form typically works best in the Firefox browser after you have cleared your browser history and cache.

Our staff will then enroll you in classes according to the information you enter on this form. Once your registration has been finalized, which may take a number of weeks, you will receive a registration confirmation email.

Please note: Submission of the Pre-Registration Form does not automatically enroll you in the selected courses. The Washington Semester Program reserves the right to cancel a course should the number of pre-registered students not meet the minimum required to be able to offer the course. WSP staff would contact you about alternative options if you have selected a course we determine we are not able to offer.

Classes will begin on Monday, January 13, 2020. You can request registration changes, such as adding or dropping an elective or research project course, until Monday, January 27, 2020. Classes dropped after January 27 will be recorded with a “W” (for “Withdrawn”) on your AU transcript. Email requests for registration changes to Anna Saavedra at saavedra@american.edu.

If you have any questions about courses or registration, please contact Anna Saavedra at saavedra@american.edu or +1 (202) 895-4987.