

Statement of Professional Interest

Writing a Statement to Land your Internship in Washington D.C.

The statement of professional interest is a key component of your internship application. It is a snapshot of what you are seeking for your internship: your interests, experiences, contributions, and overarching goals.

Basic Outline:

- 1) Broad interests and passions,
- 2) State overarching goals for the experience,
- 3) Emphasize *contributions* you'll make to the internship,
- 4) Share what you hope to learn,
- 5) Make connections to your career path,
- 6) Restate your interests, what you bring to the internship, and express enthusiasm to get started.

An effective statement balances broader interests with areas of focus. Don't let your statement hinder you with a highly specialized focus.

Statements should be concise, 5-7 sentences and no more than 100 words.

Example 1

Communication and advocacy are two of my passions. Particularly, I am interested in exploring the relationship between social media and its use in international advocacy. New media has bridged the gap between generations and continents. People can now connect over similar issues and find ways to support one another. My goal is to explore this venue and utilize technology to raise awareness about international issues. My experience as Editor-in-Chief of my college newspaper has provided me with communication experience and has instilled in me a duty to inform others about urgent topics. I hope to utilize my time in D.C. to explore advocacy's role in the non-profit sector.

Example 2

During my internship, I want to work for a private or governmental organization which focuses on finance or economics. I hope to pursue a doctorate in economics, and I hope to explore D.C.'s impact on the national economy. Ideally, I want to gain hands-on-experience and feel that my daily actions and work are contributing to the success of the organization. The tasks I hope to assist with include: data gathering, analysis, consulting, and collaborative research efforts. Above all, I want to work on a project that will promote the success of the organization in which I am an intern.

Example 3

Through my internship, I want to gain hands-on experience and be involved with the justice process. After graduating with a degree in criminal justice, I have aspirations of attending law school as well as working in law enforcement. I want to grow as a law enforcement professional and develop relationships that will help me have a career in the justice field. My interests in law enforcement lie within investigating, public service, and white collar crime. I also want to gain a better understanding of the justice system as a whole.

Tips...

Do

- Share your interests and passions.
- State your goals and what you want to learn.
- Promote yourself and your contributions.
- Be concise and thorough.
- Run spellcheck and eliminate any errors.

Don't

- Limit your scope or interests.
- Neglect to mention your strengths.
- Assume you know all or will not benefit.
- Be too brief or too lengthy.
- Name specific internship site names.