



## 2021 Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program

### Call for Applications

*Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2020*

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#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the Kinder Scholars D.C. Program sends up to 22 rising MU juniors and seniors to the nation's capital for ten weeks each summer to explore the intersection of the theory, history, and practice of constitutional democracy. Since its inception in 2015, the program has woven together the following three components to create a truly immersive, interdisciplinary, and experiential educational opportunity for participants.

**Internships:** All participants in the Kinder Scholars Program intern Monday-Thursday each week (min. 30 hours per week) at an organization in D.C. whose mission dovetails with students' scholarly and professional interests. Please note that while faculty are there to help every step of the way during the internship search, students are ultimately responsible for securing their own internships.

In terms of where participants might have the opportunity to intern, D.C. is rich with options. From Capitol Hill, to museums on the National Mall, to media outlets, to the many non-profits and NGOs in and around the city, there is something for everyone. Though not at all a complete list, past Kinder Scholars have interned at sites including the U.S. Supreme Court, NBC D.C., NPR, Victory Fund, the Federalist Society, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, the National Archives, the Urban Institute, the Potomac Institute, the Federal Reserve, and numerous congressional offices.

**Coursework:** All Kinder Scholars will also co-enroll in HIST/POL SC 4900: Beltway History & Politics, a three-credit hour course that follows MU's eight-week summer calendar and explores U.S. political history and constitutional theory from the days of Washington into the present. The class meets on Thursday evenings and is team taught by a new faculty member each week from the Kinder Institute, Truman School, and Departments of History and Political Science.

**Field Trips:** Perhaps the most unique—and certainly the most popular—aspect of the Kinder Scholars Program, each session of the class is paired with a field trip that allows students to experience the sites where constitutional history unfolded. In recent summers, students have had the chance to explore Mount Vernon, Monticello, Gettysburg, Annapolis, the CIA, and the Sewall-Belmont House.

#### LIVING IN D.C.

The Kinder Institute provides housing for all participants at the Washington Student Intern Housing (WISH) facility in the vibrant Woodley Park neighborhood. Just two blocks from the Adams Morgan/

Woodley Park Metro stop, students can get to work in minutes and set out on adventures in the city with ease from the WISH complex. The facility where students spend the summer provides tenants with 24-hour, on-site staff, an assortment of modern amenities, and a community of students and interns from around the globe.

In addition to paying for housing, the Kinder Institute provides all Kinder Scholars participants with a living stipend of \$1,000 to help offset the high cost of living in D.C. and to facilitate exploring the city. A limited number of tuition and travel scholarships are available to participants on the basis of need. A separate scholarship application will be circulated once the 2021 cohort has been selected.

### **Applying to the Kinder Scholars Program**

There are three components to the Kinder Scholars application, full details about which are included on page three of these materials: (1) A cover letter and resume; (2) A series of short essay responses; (3) Two letters of recommendation. The first two components should be saved as separate MS Word documents or PDF files and sent in a single email to Dr. Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, using the following file names:

- Your Last Name\_KS Application\_Cover Letter-Resume
- Your Last Name\_KS Application\_Short Essays

The letters of recommendation should be sent by the letter writers to Dr. Kane at the email address above.

**The application deadline is Friday, October 30, 2020, at 11:59pm.**

Two additional items of note regarding applications: (1) Due to the cancelation of the 2020 Kinder Scholars Program, space in the 2021 cohort will be limited in order to allow students who were admitted last year to still take part; (2) A series of group interviews will be held via Zoom in mid-November with all Kinder Scholars finalists.

Dr. Kane will hold a Zoom information session about the Kinder Scholars Program on Wednesday, October 14, at 5:30pm. RSVP at KaneTC@missouri.edu, and a Zoom link will be sent on the day of the info session.

## 2021 Kinder Scholars Application Instructions

**Eligibility Statements:** (1) Applications are only open to rising juniors and seniors (i.e., you must be at least in your third semester of Mizzou coursework at the time your application is submitted). Seniors who are returning to Mizzou in Fall 2021 with plans to graduate in December are eligible to apply. (2) Additionally, students must be in-residence in Columbia during the Spring 2021 semester in order to be eligible to participate in the Kinder Scholars Program (i.e., students studying abroad or interning out-of-state during the Spring 2021 semester are not eligible to apply).

### COMPONENT 1: COVER LETTER & RESUME

The cover letter students submit with their Kinder Scholars application materials should address their interest in the program and why they consider themselves a good fit for it, and should be no longer than one, single-spaced page. In addition to normal fodder, students should be sure that their resume contains: their major/minors, GPA, expected graduation date, and details about clubs/organizations on campus that they participate in (and leadership positions held where applicable). The cover letter and resume should be saved as a single MS Word Doc or PDF file and submitted using the file name Your Last Name\_KS Application\_Cover Letter-Resume

### COMPONENT 2: SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

You are to respond to the following three prompts in 350-500 words each. Please start each response on a new page and save all responses as a single MS Word document or PDF file using the file name Your Last Name\_KS Application\_Short Essays.

- Prompt #1: The Kinder Scholars program is a truly communal experience. Please describe one group experience in which you think you've thrived and one in which you think you could have done more to contribute to the group's success, making sure to detail why in each case.
- Prompt #2: Describe your "dream internship" in D.C., making sure to include where, specifically, this internship would be, what kind of work you would ideally be completing while there, and how it relates to both your current studies and your post-graduation goals.
- Prompt #3: As described on page one of these materials, the course associated with the Kinder Scholars Program examines U.S. political history from roughly 1776 through the present. If you were allowed to design one week of the course, what would the topic be and why? Make sure to include information about readings you would have students do for the week, what you hope that students would get out of discussing these readings, and where you would take the field trip that is paired with each week of the Kinder Scholars course.

\*\*\*Submit Components 1 and 2 to Dr. Thomas Kane, at KaneTC@missouri.edu\*\*\*

### COMPONENT 3: RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Please arrange for two recommendation letters to be sent by recommenders to Dr. Kane at the email address above. At least one of these recommendations must be from an MU faculty member.

**Kinder Scholars Applications are due by 11:59pm on Friday, October 30**