



2023 Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program Call for Applications

Deadline: Friday, October 21, 2022, 11:59pm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the Kinder Scholars D.C. Program sends 20 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 (min. 30 hours/week) at an organization whose mission dovetails with students' scholarly and professional interests. Please note that while faculty and staff at the Kinder Institute are there to help during the internship search, students are ultimately responsible for securing their own internships.

In terms of where participants might intern, D.C. is teeming with options. From Capitol Hill, to museums and archives, to media outlets, to the non-profits and NGOs in and around the city, there is something for everyone. For context, past Kinder Scholars have interned at sites including the U.S. Supreme Court, NPR, Victory Fund, the National Zoo, the Federalist Society, the National Archives, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Urban and Potomac Institutes, the Fed, the NEH, the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, the Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, and numerous congressional offices.

Coursework: Kinder Scholars participants co-enroll in HIST/POL_SC/CNST_DEM 4900: Beltway History & Politics, a three-credit hour, eight-week summer course that explores U.S. political history and constitutional theory from the era of the founding all the way into the present. The class meets on Thursday evenings and is team taught by a different faculty member affiliated with the Kinder Institute each week.

Field Trips: Each session of the class is paired with a Friday or Saturday field trip that allows students to experience sites where constitutional history unfolded. In recent summers, students have had the chance to explore Frederick Douglass' home at Cedar Hill, the Sewall-Belmont House, Monticello, Harper's Ferry, the Supreme Court, Gettysburg, Annapolis, and the CIA.

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. Living a mere 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 also provides tenants with 24-hour, on-site staff, an assortment of modern amenities, and a chance to connect with a community of undergrads from around the globe who are spending the summer in D.C.

In addition to paying for housing, the Kinder Institute provides all Kinder Scholars participants with a stipend of \$1,000 (min.) to help offset the cost of living in D.C. and to facilitate exploring the city. A limited number of tuition and travel scholarships are also available to participants on the basis of need. A separate scholarship application will be circulated once the 2023 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 a single MS Word document or PDF file and submitted to Dr. Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, using “Your Last Name_KS Application” as a file name.

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

The 2023 Kinder Scholars application deadline is Friday, October 21, 2022, at 11:59pm.

A series of group interviews will be conducted in mid-November with all Kinder Scholars finalists.

Dr. Kane will hold an information session about the Kinder Scholars Program on Monday, October 10, at 5:30pm in Jesse 410.

2023 Kinder Scholars Application Instructions

Eligibility Statement: Unless you are a transfer student, you must be at least in your third semester of coursework at Mizzou at the time your application is submitted to be eligible for the program. Students graduating in Spring or Summer 2023 are not eligible to apply, but seniors who are returning to Mizzou in Fall 2023 with plans to graduate in December are eligible.

COMPONENT 1: COVER LETTER and RESUME

All applications should begin with a one-page cover letter detailing why you believe you are a good fit for this particular program. Following the cover letter, applicants should provide a resume that, at a minimum, contains the following: your major(s)/minor(s)/certificate(s), GPA, semester and year you entered Mizzou, expected graduation date, work experience, and details about clubs/organizations on campus that you participate in (and leadership positions held where applicable).

COMPONENT 2: SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

Following the resume, students should respond to all three essay questions below (~350-500 words per response), starting each response on a separate page.

- **Prompt #1:** Monuments and statues are one of the most popular ways people engage with the country's past, values, and ideals. If you were given the task of choosing a monument for Mizzou's campus, who/what would the monument be for, where would it be, and how would you hope the public engages with it? Similarly, how would you answer this question if you were placing a monument on the National Mall in D.C.
- **Prompt #2:** The Kinder Institute intentionally approaches the study of constitutional democracy broadly, because we believe it encompasses a wide variety of academic majors, interests, and conversations. What does constitutional democracy mean to you? And in defining constitutional democracy, describe two or three experiences—it could be an experience with a book or movie; it could be with a body of water or stretch of highway; anything really—that have shaped your understanding of it.
- **Prompt #3:** If the Scholars program visited another city for a week, what city should it be and why? Consider how the city weaves the theory, history, and practice of constitutional democracy together, as well as other experiential aspects that a trip there might include (e.g., tours, historic places and natural landscapes, public institutions).

Submit Components 1 and 2 in a single MS Word Doc or PDF to 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.

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