



2024 Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program Call for Applications

Deadline: Sunday, October 15, 2023, 11:59pm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Kinder Institute, the newly expanded Kinder Scholars D.C. Program will send 30 rising MU juniors and seniors to the nation's capital for ten weeks during the 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 and interdisciplinary experiential learning opportunity for Mizzou undergrads.

Internships: All participants intern Monday-Thursday (min. 30 hours/week) at an organization whose mission dovetails with their scholarly and professional interests. **Please note** that (a) 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; (b) students are required to have an internship in D.C. secured by May 1, 2024, to be eligible for continued participation in the Kinder Scholars Program; and (c) students accepted into the program are required to hit certain rigorous internship application benchmarks beginning in December, and continuing until an internship is secured, and to also attend bimonthly all-cohort meetings from 8-8:50am throughout the Spring 2024 semester to, among other things, report back on internship searches and receive guidance on refining and/or expanding them.

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

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 taught each week by a different faculty member affiliated with the Kinder Institute.

Field Trips: Each session of the class is paired with a Friday 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, Gettysburg, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, and the CIA.

LIVING IN D.C.

The Kinder Institute provides up to ten weeks of housing (the eight weeks that the class meets plus an additional week on either end of the summer term) 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 boasts 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 covering 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 scholarships are also available to participants on the basis of need. A separate scholarship application will be circulated once the 2024 cohort has been selected.

APPLYING TO THE KINDER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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 2024 are not eligible to apply, but seniors who are returning to Mizzou in Fall 2024 with plans to graduate in December are eligible. See the “Internships” section on page 1 of the application materials for additional eligibility requirements related to searching for and securing a summer internship in D.C.

There are three components to the Kinder Scholars application, full details about which are included on page 3 of these materials: (1) A cover letter and resume; (2) A series of short essay responses; and (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.

You should arrange for your letters of recommendation to be sent separately by the letter writers to Dr. Kane at the email address above.

The 2024 Kinder Scholars application deadline is Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 11:59pm

A series of group interviews will be conducted in early November with all Kinder Scholars finalists, with the goal of hosting a welcome reception for the 2024 cohort on November 10.

An optional information session about the Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program will be held on Wednesday, September 27, at 5:30pm in Jesse 410. No RSVP necessary.

2024 Kinder Scholars Application Instructions

COMPONENT 1: COVER LETTER and RESUME

First, identify and research a site in D.C. where you would love to intern. Once you have done this, compose a one-page cover letter as if you are applying to this internship, followed by a general resume that you would send to prospective employers.

Use the links below for guidance regarding the art of composing resumes and cover letters:

- [Click Here](#) for general resume tips (no matter how skilled at resume writing you are, make sure to read this entire tips page and edit your resume accordingly)
- [Click Here](#) for a wonderful example of a clear resume in terms of both layout and content
- [Click Here](#) for helpful hints on *what* to include in a cover letter and *where*

COMPONENT 2: SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

Following the resume, students should respond to the three essay questions below in a maximum of 350 words per response, starting each response on a separate page. Please single-space your responses and include the word count at the end of each one.

- **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:** 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).
- **Prompt #3:** As the cover letter/resume component of the application foreshadows, the internship search begins more or less the minute you are accepted into the program, so getting a head start on that isn't a bad idea. For your final essay, briefly describe three different types of internships/internship fields that you would be interested in pursuing and why. In addition, please list at least five specific sites per field (min. 15 total, does not apply to the word count) that you would anticipate applying to if accepted into the Kinder Scholars Program.

Submit Components 1 and 2 in a single MS Word Doc or PDF to KaneTC@missouri.edu, using "Your Last Name-KS Application" as a File Name

COMPONENT 3: RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

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

Kinder Scholars Applications are due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 15, 2023