



## 2025 Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program

### Call for Applications

*Deadline: Sunday, October 13, 2024, at Midnight*

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#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Kinder Institute, the recently expanded Kinder Scholars D.C. Program will send up to 40 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 (~30 hours/week) at an organization or organizations whose mission dovetails with their scholarly and professional interests. **Please note** that while faculty and staff at the Kinder Institute are there to help during the search, students are ultimately responsible for securing their own internships. Experience has also shown that the D.C. internship landscape is highly competitive and that identifying and securing a summer position requires significant work from the students. In order to put students in the best position to succeed, the following conditions apply to everyone admitted to the program:

- Students are required to hit certain rigorous internship application benchmarks beginning in November, before Thanksgiving Break, and continuing throughout the spring semester until an internship is secured. Failure to hit these benchmarks will result in dismissal from the program;
- We will also host weekly all-cohort meetings during the Spring 2025 semester that program participants are **required** to attend. These meetings will be organized as a for-credit class that all Kinder Scholars participants must enroll in. More than one unexcused absence from these meetings can result in dismissal from the program;
- Students **must** have an internship secured by May 2, 2025, to be eligible to travel to D.C. to participate in the Kinder Scholars Program.

In terms of where participants might intern, D.C. abounds with options. From Capitol Hill, to museums and archives, to media outlets, 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, the Alliance for Health Policy, and numerous congressional offices.

**Summer Coursework:** The Kinder Scholars program is first and foremost an academic endeavor, and, as such, all participants are required to co-enroll in 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. With each session led by an MU or visiting faculty member, the class is structured in the style of a graduate seminar in that it meets once per week for two hours during the eight-week summer term and emphasizes active participation in class discussion from all students. Once accepted into the program, students will be assigned to *either* the Wednesday or Thursday evening meeting of the class and issued

a permission number to enroll. Note that this course can apply to the BAs in History and Political Science, even though students will enroll under the CNST\_DEM course designator.

**Field Trips:** Most, if not all, weeks, 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 will provide 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 a centrally located living facility that offers easy access to all corners of the city, whether by Metro or foot. 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. 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 2025 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 2025 **are not eligible** to apply, but seniors who are returning to Mizzou in Fall 2025 with plans to graduate in December **are eligible**. See the "Internships" section on page 1 of the call-for-applications 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 composed as if you were submitting them as part of an internship application; (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 Kinder Scholars Program Director Jordan Pellerito, pelleritoj@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 the email address above.

**Application Timeline:** Application review will begin immediately after the **Sunday, October 13 deadline**. Students who advance to the interview stage will be notified by **Tuesday, October 29**, with interviews scheduled to be held on **Wednesday-Friday, November 6-8**. Final decisions will be made in advance of a **November 15** welcome reception and orientation for all students admitted into the program.

An optional info session about the Kinder Scholars D.C. Summer Program will be held on **Tuesday, September 24** at 5:00pm in Jesse Hall 410. No RSVP necessary. Additional information sessions covering specific aspects of the program may be held throughout the application window.

## 2024 Kinder Scholars Application Instructions

**NOTE:** Read application instructions carefully to ensure that you are satisfying all requirements for each of the three components. **Incomplete applications will not be considered by the review committee.**

### COMPONENT 1: COVER LETTER and RESUME

Draft a cover letter and resume that you would submit if you were applying for an internship at **either** (A) a congressional office on Capitol Hill; or (B) a Smithsonian museum.

Note: We understand that Capitol Hill or the Smithsonian might not be your first choices of internship site, but each year, we encourage students to apply to a range of opportunities that may seem only adjacent to their studies at Mizzou. This component will thus enable us to assess candidates' adaptability as well as the professional skills of resume and cover letter writing. Use the links below for helpful tips:

- [Click Here](#) for general resume tips
- [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 prompts in 300-350 words per response, starting each one on a separate page. Single-space responses and include a word count for each at the end.

- **Prompt #1:** Monuments and statues are one of the most popular ways people engage with the country's past, values, and ideals. If you had to design 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? 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? Address how the city is relevant to the study of constitutional democracy, as well as other experiential aspects that a trip there might include (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 process is imperative. For your final essay, describe what fields, **plural**, you intend to look for internships in and why. After that, provide a list of at least 20 D.C. sites in these fields that accept undergraduate interns and the contact information (website and, where applicable, email address of internship coordinator) for each site. 20 sites total, not per field, at least eight of which must sponsor in-person internships, and this list doesn't count toward the word count.

\*\*\*Submit Components 1 and 2 in a single MS Word Doc or PDF to [pelleritoj@missouri.edu](mailto:pelleritoj@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 Program Director Jordan Pellerito at the email address above. At least one of these letters must be from a college-level faculty member at MU or an institution where you previously studied. We don't want this requirement to hinder people from applying, so if you're having difficulty identifying a faculty member to provide a reference, contact us about possible alternatives. Please make sure that names and email addresses for your letter writers are included as references in the resume that you submit in Component 1 of the Kinder Scholars application.

**Applications are due Sunday, October 13, 2024, by Midnight**