

Brittney Vevaina
Class of 2013
Major: Political Science
Internship: United Nations Information Center

Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement: UC in Washington DC Fellowship

I decided to apply for the UCDC program to further explore my interests in international relations, while experiencing the rich history and politics of Washington, D.C.

This past semester, I interned for the United Nations Information Center. As a part of the UN Secretariat, the United Nations Information Center of Washington, D.C. serves as the primary liaison between the UN and the U.S. government and as a resource to the public. As an intern, I attended and reported on Congressional hearings, think tank events, and UN-related news. In addition, I worked on a budget project analyzing the U.S. contributions to the UN, assessing the potential cuts to the UN budgets due to sequestration. I also worked on UN Washington's social media team, developing posts for Facebook and Twitter. I really enjoyed learning how to manage an organization's social media presence and interact with our followers. One of the highlights of my semester at the UN was meeting UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon--not just once, but twice! My internship experience helped me grow both as a student and as a young professional.

In addition, I took courses at the UC Washington Center that connected my experience in my internship to my academics. I also greatly enjoyed visiting the monuments and museums, exploring the city, and feeling the excitement of our nation's capital. From witnessing President Barack Obama's second inauguration to taking in the breathtaking sights of the Cherry Blossoms in peak bloom, my time in DC was unforgettable. I'm very grateful for the support of the Center for Civility and Democratic Engagement. My experience in DC truly shaped my undergraduate career at Berkeley!