

Victoria Pardini
Class of 2014
Major: History and Political Science
Internship: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

My experience at UCDC far exceeded my already high expectations for a fulfilling and exciting semester away from UC Berkeley. I applied to the program because I loved the energy of the city, and UCDC offered a unique way to develop both professionally and academically.

I interned as a research assistant at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The Wilson Center was a wonderful environment that provided me the opportunity to work alongside policymakers and academics alike. Specifically, I assisted a history professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a former deputy assistant Secretary of State for Europe in two separate projects over the course of two months. Because I was in Washington, DC, I was able to easily marry both of my interests in history and political science in one organization. My work with these two scholars has been incredibly fruitful. I was able to receive guidance from them on my intention to work in Washington, DC upon graduation and receive a masters in public policy, and I have even continued to work with one of my scholars in co-authoring a report on diversity and immigration in the United States and Europe.

Through our research seminar course, I was also able to pursue research on a topic that has always been one of my passions, the engagement and inclusion of women in public service. Because class sizes in the UCDC program are small, I was able to have close interaction with my professor and careful assistance on my project. My location in Washington, DC made my research all the more thrilling — I was able to interview women's rights groups in the area, and the Library of Congress was my location of choice for researching after work and on weekends.

My experience in Washington was truly incredible, and it has only fueled my passion to return after graduation and pursue my interest in politics. I am so grateful to the Center on Civility & Democratic Engagement for providing funding to make this experience possible.