Association of American Universities
Intern Program

Key Issue Areas, Regular Activities, and Examples of Past and Ongoing Intern Projects

Standard Intern Projects/Regular Activities
- Research on-demand.
- Monitor hearings based on AAU interest and staff portfolios
- Attend hearings – provide hearing summaries and analysis
- Assist appropriate staff with the development of advocacy documents
- Attend meetings – internal staff, coalitions, task forces, Council on Federal Relations, etc.

Education Policy (primary focus on policy affecting higher education)
- Agencies we engage
  - Department of Education (DoEd)
- Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects
  - Monitoring reauthorization of Higher Education Act
  - Compiling information on the cost-drivers for AAU institutions
  - Researching how AAU institutions control costs and tuition growth
  - Developing an inventory of AAU universities’ partnerships with K-12 schools
  - Assessing undergraduate research programs
  - Researching AAU National Defense Education Act project
  - Examining the uses of university endowments
  - Planning and coordinating Student Aid Alliance event
  - Researching new approaches to student aid
  - Collecting data on federal student aid programs at each AAU university (annual data)
  - Collecting data for annual Facts and Figures info sheet on AAU institutions

Science Policy (focus will be on federal policies affecting health, other basic science and engineering research)
- Agencies we engage
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  - National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - Department of Energy (DOE)
  - Department of Defense (DOD)
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects
  - Monitoring and analyzing funding for key research agencies
  - Helping collect, compile AAU research success stories (current and historical) by federal agency and societal need (e.g. Health, Defense, Energy, etc)
Examining societal benefits that resulted from basic research projects with funny sounding names that received Senator William Proxmire’s Golden Fleece Award

Helping to develop and update one-page documents that show the value of federal investments in research

Compiling energy innovations made possible by energy research conducted at AAU universities and examining what government structures could best harness university research talent

Researching science policy metrics

Tracking and comparing authorization bills introduced in Congress on innovation and competitiveness

Compiling list of contributions of social science to U.S. competitiveness and innovation

Working on projects for the Task Force on American Innovation (http://www.futureofinnovation.org). Past interns have played a significant role in helping conduct research for and to prepare Task Force reports

Researching history of the Internet and Sputnik; creating Sputnik anniversary graph and document for AAU web

Creating database for federally funded university research examples

Developing interactive maps on products created through research: iPod, pharmaceuticals

Examining policy issues surrounding stem cell research

Researching conflict of interest policies at AAU schools

Creating bibliography of materials related to economic returns on biomedical research

Examining correlation between federal energy R&D spending and price of crude oil

Developing medical advancements timeline

Creating infographics on societal benefits of NIH research

Research, writing and layout for Scientific Enquirer newsletter series on basic research and “funny-sounding science.”

Assisting with the annual Golden Goose Awards ceremony (http://www.goldengooseaward.org/)

### International

- **Agencies we engage**
  - Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
  - Department of State

- **Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects**
  - Researching immigration issues related to student visas and comprehensive immigration reform
  - Examining the status of higher education in other countries
  - Reviewing State Department and university efforts to engage in partnerships with non-U.S. universities
  - Compiling list of AAU universities with campuses and research activities overseas
  - Researching foreign/Chinese competitiveness in biotechnology
  - Compiling data on export controls
Humanities

- Agencies we engage
  - National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects
  - Developing a brochure highlighting the value of funding the social and behavioral sciences
  - Analyzing funding trends of core NEH programs
  - Analyzing the membership of the House Humanities Caucus and the Senate Cultural Caucus
  - Compiling 1994/95 funding cuts in NEH programs

Public Affairs and Communications

- Past Intern Tasks/Projects
  - 2008 Campaign – Creating database on Presidential candidates and their views on AAU priorities, including monitoring candidate statements and speeches for mention of higher education and research-related statements
  - Developing a Prezi presentation on the value of research universities

Intellectual Property

- Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects in the areas of
  - Technology Transfer
    - Updating AAU's issue brief on the Bayh-Dole Act
  - Patent Reform
  - Peer-2-Peer File Sharing

Other

- Past and Ongoing Intern Tasks/Projects
  - Updating congressional alumni database
  - Updating database of boards of trustees of AAU institutions