ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

AAU Internship Description—Policy

The Association of American Universities (AAU) is comprised of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. AAU advocates for research and higher education funding as well as policy and regulatory issues affecting research universities. AAU programs and projects address institutional issues facing the association’s member universities as well as government actions that affect these and other universities.

AAU offers undergraduate unpaid internships for the spring, summer, and fall semesters. The focus of the internships is on science and higher education policy. Below are some examples of AAU interns’ activities.

- Complete one or two major substantive projects relevant to AAU policy;
- Attend and report on congressional hearings and coalition meetings;
- Track legislation and congressional committee hearings and schedules;
- Draft Congressional correspondence, briefing papers, and other materials;
- Conduct research and produce analysis on policy issues; and
- Contribute to the development and implementation of AAU’s policy agenda;

Additionally, interns shadow senior policy, federal relations and public affairs staff in their daily activities. They gain exposure to Congress, higher education and scientific associations, university government relations representatives, the executive branch, and federal agencies.

AAU is confident that these responsibilities provide students with a solid understanding of the association’s federal relations activities and help them gain practical and real world work experience in Washington, D.C.

Please contact Traci Carlson, the Internship Coordinator, for additional information at traci.carlson@aau.edu or (202) 898-7844.