

Are you a prospective law student? Are you trying to decide between getting a law degree and getting a masters? If these questions pertain to you, here are 4 reasons why the Washington State Legislative Internship could be a good choice.

1. CONFIRMATION

As you might imagine, an internship at the state capitol tends to attract political science students from all over the state. Almost every hand in the room would have shot up if someone polled the room on the first day of orientation and asked "who is considering going to law school?"

What's unique about this internship is that most people leave Olympia with a solid opinion about whether or not they want to actually follow through with getting a law degree. A lot of the time the work people want to do could be better achieved with an MPA or an MBA and this internship really allows students to explore the advantages to the different degrees. Aside from that, having a chance to hear from different types of lawyers, elected officials (including the Attorney General himself), and listen to Supreme Court Justices can help you make a more informed decision.

2. EXPERIENCE

Regardless of where you end up working, this internship provides every student with the skills that they will need to function in a professional work environment. You get experience with Microsoft Office, learn to work independently and in a group, and get feedback on what you can improve on.

Aside from that, being able to say that you worked a session at the Washington State capitol looks great on a resume and shows that you have the administrative skills required for any office job. Everything you learn at the Legislature will transfer to any job you may take on in the future.

3. NETWORKING

The Washington State Legislative Intern program is outstanding when it comes to networking opportunities for aspiring attorneys. There are staff, lobbyists, and senators/representatives that are all in Olympia using their law degrees to some extent, and the internship is set up in a way that allows interns to learn from these individuals. Listening to guest speakers and scheduling informational interviews provides great insight into what ways one can use a law degree within the context of public policy and these opportunities are available to every intern.

On top of that, the program also allows every intern to shadow with a government agency, which includes the Washington State Attorney General's Office. There's no better way to learn about the life of an attorney, or what law school might be like, than by spending a day with a lawyer, asking any questions you might have, and seeing what they actually do.

4. SUPPORT

If you're dead set on law school and know there's no other place you would rather be, this internship is perfect for you. There are tons of people who come into this internship with the mindset that they are going to be lawyers. There is a certain comfort in surrounding yourself with friends that understand the law school process, know what it means to study for the LSAT, and who sympathize with applying to law schools and navigating the LSAC website. This internship can help you make those connections (and remind you that you're not crazy for wanting a law degree).

