



Baker Institute 2026 Summer in DC Policy Research Seminar

Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy is seeking applicants for the 23rd cohort of the Jesse Jones Leadership Center Summer in D.C. Policy Research Internship Program. The program will provide stipends sufficient to support a select group of ten Rice undergraduates conducting policymaking research at government agencies, public think tanks and non-profit nongovernmental organizations in Washington, D.C., in summer 2026. Those accepted must be currently enrolled as full-time undergraduates through fall 2026. Applicants from across the natural sciences, engineering, architecture, humanities, music and social science disciplines are encouraged to apply, as each cohort comprise students with diverse academic backgrounds and policy interests, including foreign and domestic policy areas. **Preference will be given to students with a demonstrable commitment to public service and policy analysis.** Those selected will attend a seminar on public policy and global affairs coterminous with their internships in D.C., write a research report for publication and presentation before Rice faculty and researchers during 2026-2027 academic year, and also organize a public policy education activity for academic year 2026-2027. Applicants are individually responsible for selecting and establishing internships and residency in D.C.

Interested students should send items 1 through 4 below as a single PDF file attachment (NOT a link to Google docs) by Jan. 24, 2026, to Dr. Steven Lewis, Washington Internship Committee, Baker Institute, at swlewis@rice.edu. Items 5 and 6 should be sent directly as noted below, also by January 24, 2026:

1. A cover letter of application with at least the following: your campus and home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, cellphone and name of recommender;
2. A short essay of no more than 1200 words describing your policy research career goals, your interest and experience (if any) in public service, your internship plans for DC (including the organizations to which you have applied or intend to apply) and how these organizations will help you attain your public policy career goals;
3. A resume;
4. An unofficial cut-and-paste version of your online academic transcript;
5. An official, sealed transcript mailed directly to Dr. Lewis at MS-40;
6. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Rice faculty member or researcher (does not need to be in policy studies) who can discuss your analytical and professional communication skills, and your potential to conduct policy research. Note that the letter should be emailed by them as an attached PDF file to swlewis@rice.edu by January 24, 2026.

Questions should be addressed to swlewis@rice.edu.

More information, including a link to a list of the 213 alumni of the program since it began in 2004, including where they interned in DC and where they are today, can be found online at: <https://bakerinstitute.org/summer-dc-internship-program>