

Implementation of the Washington Center Internship Scholarship Program Report to the General Assembly March 1, 2023

Background.

The Washington Center Internship Scholarship Program was enacted in Sec. 8A.8 of S.L. 2021-180 and amended in Sec. 8A.7 of S.L. 2022-74. The Program awards scholarship grants to students who are residents of North Carolina and who are enrolled in their second year or higher in a UNC constituent institution to attend a semester or summer term internship program or a shortened one to four week public policy and career readiness seminar at the [Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars](#) located in Washington, D.C. Students participating in the Washington Center's program are required to: 1) intern four days a week with a nonprofit corporation, private company, federal agency, or a member of the United States Congress; 2) take an academic class taught by the Washington Center's faculty; 3) participate in career readiness training programs; and 4) be responsible for a final portfolio project outlining work completed during the program. Students from all academic majors can participate and benefit from the program.

Session Law 2021-180 also appropriated \$500,000 in non-recurring funds to support the scholarship program. These funds do not revert and remain available for scholarships in subsequent years. Grants are for the following amounts:

Semester term internships	Up to \$10,000
Summer term internships	Up to \$8,000
Shortened seminar programs	Up to \$4,000

The State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) administers the scholarship program pursuant to guidelines and procedures established by SEAA consistent with its practices for administering State-funded financial aid. The guidelines and procedures include an application process and schedule, notification and disbursement procedures, standards for reporting, and standards for return of funds when a student withdraws from the program. SEAA is required to ensure that the amount of all grants and scholarship aid covering the cost of attendance not exceed the cost of attendance for the program, including program fees, housing, and incidental costs.

2022-2023 Use of Scholarship Funds.

The cost of attendance is established by SEAA in accordance with information provided by the Washington Center. For the 2022-2023 academic year, all program participants are in a shortened semester program, and the cost of attendance is \$2,095.

In November 2022, SEAA entered into a contract with the Washington Center for the administration of the program. The first funds were disbursed for the Spring 2023 semester.

Internship	Number of Students	UNC Constituent Institution	Scholarship Amount Per Student
Semester Term-Spring 2023	0	N/A	N/A
Summer Term Internships	0	N/A	N/A
Shortened Semester Programs	9	UNC-Charlotte	\$2,095
Totals	9		\$18,855