

Departmental Independent Research Project in Washington, D.C. (4 unit research project)

The UC Washington Academic Internship Program provides students with the opportunity to use their creativity in order to design a research project with the guidance of a UCR faculty member. The goal of this course is to allow students to tap into the unique resources available in our nation's capital and produce a piece of research.

Getting started:

- Think about possible ideas for areas of research (based on your interests and experiences in class).
- Seek out a faculty member whose expertise is in these areas (a faculty member you have taken a course from or by speaking to the student affairs advisor in your department).
- Set up an appointment with the faculty member to discuss your ideas and ask if he/she is willing to assist you with a research project to be produced while you are in D.C. This faculty member will work with you to determine the total requirements for the project and be responsible for assigning the final grade.
- If the faculty member agrees to work with you, complete the Departmental Independent Research form, including the necessary signatures. The proposed program of study should include your thesis statement and all requirements as stipulated by the faculty member.
- Meet with the student affairs officer in your department to determine what course number will be assigned to your research project. Most departments have a course numbered 197 (POSC 197, for example) named *Research for Undergraduates*, but your advisor may want you to earn credit under another course number. Once a course number is decided upon, make sure to fill it in on the Departmental Independent Research form.
- The research course requires weekly meetings in D.C. with the UCR Teaching Assistant. The TA will assist you through the entire writing process by assigning incremental deadlines for the rough draft, final draft, and oral presentation. The TA will also be in contact with your supervising faculty member regarding your participation in the seminar course.
- During your stay in D.C., maintain contact with your instructor, discussing any changes or questions that you have toward the success of your research project.
- The Departmental Independent Research form must be completed and submitted at the final workshop meeting before you leave for D.C. (see your Timeline for calendar details). The UCDC Program Coordinator will enroll you in the course and distribute copies of your proposal to the supervising faculty member, department advisor, and the UCDC TA.
- The grade for the course will be assigned according to catalog regulations. Some departments may require a letter grade while others require S/NC credit. Catalog regulations must be followed with no exceptions.