



Comets belong **in Washington, D.C.**

The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program at The University of Texas at Dallas

ABOUT THE ARCHER CENTER

Founded in 2001 by Congressman Bill Archer as he retired from 30 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Archer Center serves as the Washington, D.C., campus of The University of Texas System. The Archer Center seeks to educate the next generation of leaders from Texas and instill in them a love of public service. More than 2,000 alumni have graduated from the Archer Center's programs and are now making a difference in communities around the world.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: LIVE, LEARN, AND INTERN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program provides graduate and medical students from institutions across The University of Texas System with the life-changing opportunity to live, learn, and intern in our nation's capital during the summer. Home to many government, nonprofit, media, and research institutions, Washington, D.C., provides unparalleled opportunities for career growth and cultural experiences, enabling students to explore their interests in federal policy and public service.

While in Washington, D.C., students earn in-residence UT Dallas credit for their coursework and gain hands-on work experience in an internship. Through a shared cohort experience, Archer Fellows build lasting friendships and professional connections.

ELIGIBILITY

Federal policy impacts many aspects of life, both domestically and internationally. For this reason, the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program is open to graduate students from all areas of study. We believe understanding the policymaking process and becoming effective policy advocates are important for students from any discipline.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to apply:

- Applicant must be pursuing a graduate degree (master's or doctoral) at The University of Texas at Dallas
- GPA of 3.0 or greater at The University of Texas at Dallas (first-year students must meet this requirement by the end of the fall 2025 semester)
- Previous professional or internship experience
- Experience serving and/or providing leadership to campus or community

If selected for the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program, students must meet the following requirements by the beginning of the summer of their participation:

- Nine hours of in-residence credit completed at The University of Texas at Dallas
- GPA of 3.0 or greater



COURSES

UT Dallas Archer Fellows take courses housed in Public Affairs, which are taught by faculty from UT Dallas, UT Austin, and policy experts from the Washington, D.C., community. Students earn nine hours of graduate-level credit:

PA 8330: Inside Washington: Policymaking from the Ground Up

PA 8331: Archer Center Washington Independent Study and Research

PA 8332: Archer Center Washington Internship

Students are strongly encouraged to consult their academic advisors to learn how these in-residence classes will fit into their degree plans.

POLICY WORKING GROUPS

As part of their Independent Study course, Archer Fellows will participate in a specialized working group focused on their academic and professional interests. These working groups enable Archer Fellows to connect with policy leaders in their field through policy roundtables and tailored academic research projects. The working groups also foster research and policy collaboration between Archer Fellows.

INTERNSHIP

All Archer Fellows participate in a full-time internship that aligns with their academic and professional goals. Archer Fellows are responsible for researching and applying for internships, while the Archer Center staff provides guidance and assistance throughout the process. Archer Fellows have had successful internship experiences in a wide variety of fields in the nation's capital, and Archer Fellows have developed a fantastic reputation as high-quality interns.

While many internships in Washington, D.C., offer financial compensation (e.g., stipends, hourly pay, etc.), some opportunities remain unpaid. For that reason, students should not expect to earn an income while in D.C. Visit archercenter.org/internships.html for a non-exhaustive list of potential internship sites.

PROGRAM COST AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Archer Fellows pay a program fee in place of UT Dallas tuition. The current Graduate Archer Fellowship Program fee is \$3,900 and is subject to change in future years. Students typically fund their fellowship through existing financial aid, designated campus funding, Archer Center need- and merit-based scholarships, and personal resources. Students are encouraged to visit archercenter.org/funding-your-fellowship.html for more information.

The Archer Center and our supporters are committed to making the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program accessible by removing financial barriers that may prohibit a fellow from achieving their educational goals. The Archer Center's need- and merit-based scholarship provides up to \$8,000 in funding. With a variety of scholarships and funding resources, many Archer Fellows receive comprehensive funding for their fellowship. Please reach out to the Archer Center if you'd like to discuss your individual financial circumstances.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Juan González

Dean of Graduate Education and Vice Provost of Global Engagement

jgonzal@utdallas.edu

Beth Keithly

Faculty Grant & Distinguished Fellowships Advisor
Graduate Archer Fellowship Program Campus Coordinator

keithly@utdallas.edu

Archer Center Admissions

archeradmissions@utsystem.edu



ARCHER FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Brenda Lakhani, Summer 2023 Archer Fellow

MAJOR: Ph.D. Candidate in the History of Ideas

D.C. INTERNSHIP: The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress

CURRENT JOB: Research Assistant with Open U.S. History Lab

"My Summer 2023 Graduate Archer Fellowship completely transformed the trajectory of my dissertation. My new understanding of federal policy raised new questions about my research, but also helped me understand that even as a historian, there are meaningful ways that I can be of service in my community, state, and nation."

