

## THE OPC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

OPC's internship program provides undergraduate, graduate, and law school students the opportunity to advance both professionally and academically by learning about and working in the growing field of police accountability and oversight.



*OPC law clerk conducting a training for investigative staff*

### AVAILABLE INTERNSHIPS

#### Investigations

Investigations interns collect and review evidence for police misconduct investigations, draft interview questions, participate in interviews, and assist with special projects.

#### Public Affairs

Public affairs interns develop communication and outreach materials, plan and participate in community outreach events, create website content, and establish media contacts.

#### Law

Law clerks conduct legal and policy research, write legal memoranda on police misconduct related issues, attend agency complaint examination hearings, and participate in meetings with government and police department officials.

## TESTIMONIALS

“My experience at OPC was great. I sat in interviews, assisted in obtaining statements, and discussed investigation strategy with investigators. In addition, the fieldtrips to police special units and ride-alongs were eye opening.”  
- Ethan Trinh, Investigations Intern, Summer 2014

“As a public affairs intern, I participated in outreach events and I drafted a variety of communication materials for OPC. I also developed a greater understanding of how to educate members of the public about their rights.” - Brianna Dance, Public Affairs Intern, Summer 2014

“The investigative and legal staff at OPC treated me like I was a member of the team, rather than merely an intern. They included me in high-level meetings and discussions and used my input when making decisions.” - Marielle Moore, Law Clerk, Spring 2014



### OFFICE OF POLICE COMPLAINTS

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## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### OFFICE OF POLICE COMPLAINTS



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## WHAT WE DO

The Office of Police Complaints (OPC) is a government agency that receives, investigates, and resolves complaints from the public alleging police misconduct, including claims of discrimination, excessive force, harassment, and unprofessional language and conduct. The agency is independent of the police departments it investigates.

OPC also issues policy recommendations that focus on reducing police misconduct through better training, supervision, and discipline of police officers, as well as improving the citizen complaint process.



*OPC intern and staff at an outreach event*

In addition, OPC conducts outreach, trainings, and presentations for a variety of audiences throughout the District of Columbia metropolitan area. OPC also participates in community forums, festivals, town hall meetings, and other events to educate the public about the agency's mission and services.

## ADVANTAGES OF THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



*OPC interns and staff participating in a "ride-along" with the Metropolitan Police Department's Harbor Patrol*

- Opportunities to develop coursework into real life work experiences
- Mentoring from OPC investigators, public affairs experts, and attorneys
- Comprehensive in-house training
- Networking opportunities with government officials, law enforcement, community groups, and nonprofit agencies



*Investigations interns conduct a field investigation by finding and interviewing a potential witness*

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Summer interns must commit to working 40 hours per week, and generally receive a stipend as the budget allows
- Spring and fall interns must commit to working at least 16 hours per week
- Spring and fall internships are unpaid, but can be done in conjunction with a course for academic credit

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a resume and a cover letter describing your interest in the program and specifying which internship you are applying for. Each internship also requires a writing sample. For specific details regarding what kind of writing sample to submit, as well as application deadlines and additional information about the internship program, visit the agency's website at [www.policecomplaints.dc.gov](http://www.policecomplaints.dc.gov), click on "About OPC," then click "Internship Program."

Application materials may be either mailed or emailed to:

**Internship Program**  
**Office of Police Complaints**  
**1400 I Street NW, Suite 700**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**[internship.dpc@dc.gov](mailto:internship.dpc@dc.gov)**