DUKE ENGAGE IN WASHINGTON, DC
Contributing to national science policy

Program Dates: May 31-July 28
(Dates subject to change up until the point of departure.)

Service Themes
- Public Policy
- Science & Engineering
- Technology & Media
- Environment & Conservation
- Health & Human Services

Program Focus
Addressing national policy-making in, and related to, the sciences.

Curricular Connections: While all students are welcome to apply, this program may be of particular interest to students studying public policy, the sciences, or completing the Science & Society certificate program. (See below for additional details about connecting this program to your academic work.)

Program Leaders
- Nita Farahany, Ph.D./J.D., Director of the Initiative for Science & Society, Professor of Law & Philosophy is a leading scholar on the ethical, legal, and social implications of biosciences and emerging technologies, particularly those related to neuroscience and behavioral genetics. From 2010-2017, she served on the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

Program Overview
During their eight weeks in Washington, students will intern with governmental agencies, think tanks, or nonprofit organizations, where they will assist with analysis of policy questions and formulation of policy options regarding science and technology policy and ethics.

The purpose of the program is to draw on what you have learned at Duke and elsewhere to contribute to and engage in the process of creating national science policy. We expect students to bring knowledge gained back to Duke in order to inform and enrich their academic and service commitments. The Duke Initiative for Science & Society has a longstanding commitment to exploring the connections between science and technology and the policy-making process. The DukeEngage Washington program complements their undergraduate offerings at Duke, which includes the prestigious Huang Fellows program and Science & Society Certificate.
Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
The goal of the program is to engage Duke undergraduates with opportunities to participate in experiential learning in the federal policy making process, with a specific focus on the sciences and the unique challenges that work in this niche presents, including effective science communication. During the eight weeks in Washington, the program hopes to foster an ethic of service and civic participation in students.

By the program’s end, students should be able to:
- Communicate science concepts in an accessible way
- Understand the structure of policymaking, with a more specific understanding of how science is impacted by and can impact policymaking
- Generate alternative solutions to policy problems they have worked on over the summer
- Believe they can achieve a thorough understanding on social problems on a local level, and that they have the tools to impact those problems
- See the connections between their academic work and their internship experiences
- Engage effectively with those of differing points of view, working towards creating effective solutions together

Partnership Opportunities
Organizations that might host DukeEngage students include:
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
- National Institutes of Health (National Human Genome Research Institute, National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Child Health and Human Development)
- Conservation International
- Center for the Study of Social Policy
- The Niskanen Center
- Department of Agriculture
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Disease-oriented advocacy organizations (AIDS, breast/ovarian cancer, general cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, etc.)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- The BROAD Institute
- The International Neuroethics Society

Examples of projects that student groups have carried out include:
- Created a database for the Cancer Genome Atlas, a project for accessibility of information within the NCI
- Explored an agency’s research question: How do we create a more collective global workforce to alleviate the cancer burden?
- Wrote items for several newsletters and online information resources disseminated by an agency policy office
- Tracked and followed bills that would impact scientific funding, enabling the American Association for the Advancement of Science to respond promptly and appropriately
- Prepared a presentation and background papers for staff about the Bayh-Dole Act and university indirect costs reimbursement. Students also prepared case studies of nonprofit disease research advocacy organizations that described their modes of operation in preparation for a 60-expert workshop.
- Developed projects focused on the experiences of children in foster care systems, including children of color, LGBT youth and immigrant children, folding in the work of neuroscience as applicable

The program directors work with community partners to arrange student placements after students are notified of their acceptance into this program. Students with specific placement ideas should raise those in their DukeEngage interview. In applying for this program, students must understand that placement could be at any one of the community partner organizations, or others that later become available. In sum, we will work hard to match student interest to placement site need; it is a complicated process and students need to be aware that: (1) some placements may require a separate application process or further interviews, and (2) final decisions will be made by the program directors, not by students.
Program Requirements
Language: None.

Coursework: It would be helpful but not essential to have taken courses in the science, political science and public policy, bioethics, science communication.

Other Skills: Policy research; oral and written communication.

Personal Qualities:
- Willingness to help others—be willing to engage in research, writing or other policy related work to help government or nonprofit organizations to analyze or formulate their policy platforms. Examples of work include background research, writing policy documents and memorandums, and engaging in social networks associated with policy change. This requires acute listening skills, being willing to take direction from supervisors, and seeking out guidance when uncertain.
- Awareness of what you know and what you do not know—take initiative to track down information, but also be willing to ask for help.
- Ability to work productively as a junior member on a supervised team that is collectively committed to solving a policy problem. This requires maturity and openness to criticism, and responding with patience and perseverance to new or unanticipated situations and obstacles.
- Using good judgment in handling relationships and information—students must operate appropriately in a highly political environment. Students must be conscious of what information can and should be shared publicly and exercise discretion with respect to information not yet appropriate to be made public. Washington, DC, is distinctively focused on politics and policy; because of this, maturity and common sense are vital assets while working in this environment.
- Self-reliance and self-confidence—understand your role and ability to contribute ideas in new environments with an appropriate mixture of optimism and realism. Be sensitive to rank, hierarchy, and expertise and yet be willing to speak truth to power when appropriate.
- Problem solving and goal orientation—use strong analytical and research skills in producing deliverable end-projects for a team trying to address policies in the sciences. Contribute to complex policy reports. Listen and contribute at meetings. Be creative in thinking through policy solutions.

Curricular Connections
This DukeEngage program is connected to the Undergraduate Certificate in Science and Society coursework and class offerings. For more information about Science & Society visit https://scienceandsociety.duke.edu and http://sciencepolicy.duke.edu.

Related courses and experiences students can explore include:
- Genome 498S Certificate Capstone
- Bioethic 502 Communicating Science & Bioethics
- Biology 255 Philosophy of Biology
- Bioethic 591 Topics in Science Policy
- AAAS 261D Race, Genomics and Society
- Science, Law and Policy Lab (SLAP Lab)
- Duke SciPol

Program Details
Description of Community: Washington, DC is a vibrant city, filled with a diversity of people, ideas and cultures. At the same time, the city is also undergoing an unprecedented set of changes, including population shifts. Students will be encouraged to engage in the diverse set of communities that make Washington home, while also becoming aware of how a number of factors at play are changing it.
Housing and Meals: Students will live together at the New York University facility on L Street, NW, between 13th and 14th Streets, NW. This is a lively, safe part of the city, with excellent public transportation access. The facility is an apartment-like setting, with kitchen facilities. Pairs of students will share a room, with four students sharing kitchen, common room and bathroom facilities. There will be Internet access. DukeEngage students may reside with other Duke students or with students from another college.

The Duke in Washington office, at 12th and New York Avenue, NW, will be used for some activities, including orientation, and is a block from the Metro Center subway station, and two blocks from the NYU residential facility.

Students will have a meal allowance. This meal allowance will cover groceries to cook in temporary housing, with occasional meals out. Washington is an expensive city in which to eat out, and the DukeEngage meal stipend is not intended to cover numerous meals outside of your apartment.

If you do not eat certain types of food for cultural, religious or personal reasons, please contact the DukeEngage office, dukeengage@duke.edu, to discuss whether or not your dietary needs can be reasonably accommodated at this program site.

Transportation: Students will get a SmarTrip card, which can be used on Metro trains and buses for transportation to and from their placement sites. Cars are not permitted.

Communication: Students will be expected to provide their own cell phone. Internet will be available through the internship site and the residential facility. Internship sites will have their own computing networks, but students should bring a laptop. Each internship site will have policies and procedures regarding what information can be stored on personal computers and taken away from the site, and students will be expected to learn and abide by those policies. A laptop or iPad/slate computer will be essential for communication and personal work, and some placements may require use of the student’s laptop.

Opportunities for Reflection: We will meet weekly as a group for dinner to discuss how placements are going and hot topics. Outside speakers will be selected in an effort to address student interests, host social events (with some emphasis on health policy, science, and human rights), and cultivate a strong emphasis on laughter punctuated by insight.

Other Opportunities: Students in the Washington program will be expected to work full-time Monday through Friday at their partner organizations. One night a week they will be expected to take part in a speaker series with a professional working at the intersection of science and policy and a second night each week will be devoted to group reflection sessions. Students should expect to devote 5 to 7 of their weekend days over the summer to volunteer opportunities in the Washington community, and enrichment programming in the Washington metropolitan area. Additionally, students should expect to spend 3-4 workdays over the course of the summer engaged in enrichment programming. Students will in most cases have at least one day per week to themselves, as well as 3-4 weekday evenings to themselves in any given week. Ocean swimming will not be allowed in any DukeEngage program.

This summer will introduce an end-of-summer science policy mixer with alumni, partner organizations and students celebrating their hard work and collaboration.

More Information
To learn more about the topical area and to consider the ethical and policy dimensions at hand, consider watching one of the following films:

Documentaries: Merchants of Doubt, How to Survive a Plague or Twitch
Films: GATTACA or Project X