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# The Parliamentary Internship Programme

Information for 2021-22 applicants

[www.pip-psp.org](http://www.pip-psp.org)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



Canadian Political Science Association  
Association canadienne de science politique

# What is the PIP?

- Non-partisan work-study program operated by the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) in partnership with the House of Commons
- Created in 1969 by a parliamentary motion with all-party support
- Places 10 interns at the House of Commons from September to June each year
- Supported by in-kind and financial contributions from a range of government, non-profit, and private sector sponsors
- The only internship Programme that is formally recognized in the By-laws that govern the House of Commons



# Eligibility

- You are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- You will have completed at least one university degree by September 1, 2021
- You can relocate to Ottawa
- During the Programme you can commit to:
  - Work full-time plus travel and some extra work on evenings and weekends
  - **NOT** undertake other program of study or work obligations
  - Refrain from any partisan activity
  - Work with MPs from any political party represented in Parliament



# Language skills

- PIP operates using “**passive bilingualism**” - each intern is free to speak in the language of their choice and expect that the others will understand
- Language skills are an asset, but you do not need to be bilingual to apply
- Otherwise qualified candidates who lack second language skills will be offered training before the internship begins
- Interns can access language training from the House of Commons throughout the Programme



# What do Interns do?

- **Orientation** – Interns receive extensive training in parliamentary procedure and operations
- **Placements** – Each intern works with both a government and an opposition MP
- **Travel** – Interns visit other legislatures in Canada and abroad
- **Research** – Interns conduct original research about Parliament and present their findings at an annual seminar
- **Learn** – Interns take part in weekly academic seminars. They also meet leading Canadian newsmakers and scholars through our speaker series
- **Train** – Interns receive practical skill training in a range of areas

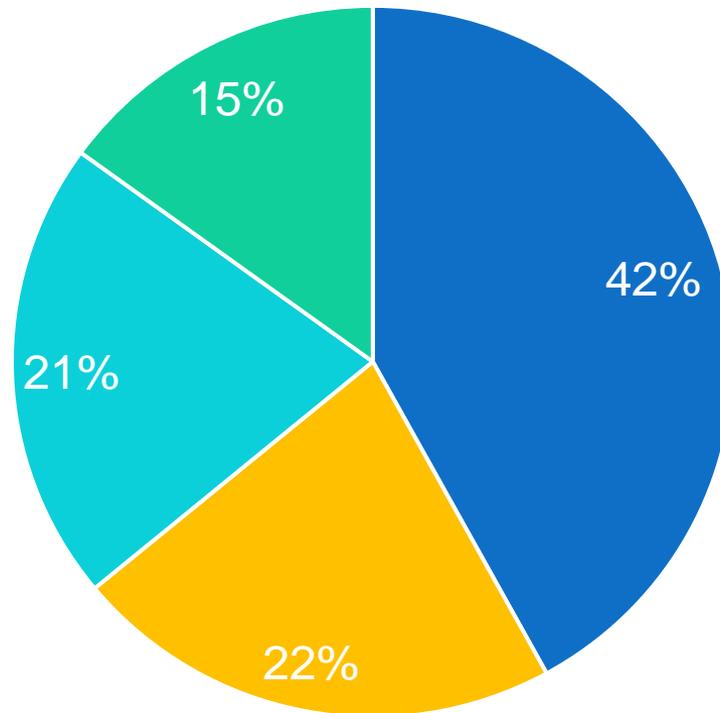


# Compensation and benefits

- Interns are CPSA employees and receive:
  - A salary of at least \$25,000 for the 10-month Programme
  - Support for moving costs
  - Per diems and reimbursement for travel expenses
  - Language training
  - Access to parliamentary gym facilities
  - Other allowances as necessary



# Employment Outcomes



■ Public sector ■ Academia ■ Private sector ■ Not for profit



# How do I apply?

- Visit <https://pip-psp.org/apply/> to apply online
- Write two short statements:
  - Anticipated contributions to PIP and personal benefits from your participation
  - Approach to teamwork
- Describe your education, work, and volunteer experience
- Provide details for **at least two** references
  - Academic reference
  - Employment reference
  - Third reference of your choice (optional)
- Deadlines
  - Application: January 31st, 2021
  - Reference letters: February 10th, 2021



# Selection process

- Selection committee composed of Director and representatives of the CPSA, House of Commons staff, and PIP alumni
- Timeline:
  - February – review of applications
  - Late February – selection of 25 candidate shortlist
  - Early March – Zoom interviews with shortlist
  - Late March – final selection of 2021-22 interns
- The PIP is committed improving the participation of candidates from previously under-represented groups, and encourages candidates to identify as racialized, indigenous, or as persons with a visible or invisible disability



# Selection criteria

- **Personal characteristics:**
  - Maturity (self awareness/respect for others)
  - Teamwork (ability to work with others)
  - Motivation
  - Leadership
- **Skills / competencies:**
  - Academic achievement and/or potential
  - Research and writing abilities
  - Critical thinking skills
  - Organizational skills
  - Knowledge of Parliament and Canadian politics (*not necessary to have studied political science*)
  - Second language skills



# Key considerations

- ✓ Can you balance between contributing the skills and knowledge you have while also recognizing that you have more to learn?
- ✓ Do you work well in teams?
- ✓ Can you multi-task and conduct innovative research while working full-time?
- ✓ Can you be non-partisan for ten months – and see people as people, not parties?



# Connect

- Web: [pip-ppsp.org](http://pip-ppsp.org)
- Twitter: [@PIP\\_PSP](https://twitter.com/PIP_PSP)
- Instagram: [@pip\\_ppsp](https://www.instagram.com/pip_ppsp)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParlInternship/>

# Questions?

- General questions: [pip-ppsp@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pip-ppsp@parl.gc.ca)
- Alumni mentorship: [alumni-anciens@pip-ppsp.org](mailto:alumni-anciens@pip-ppsp.org)

