

Urban Semester Program

A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

A globe is held up by several hands of different skin tones. The background is a city skyline at night with lights reflecting on water. The word "Hartford" is written in large white letters across the globe.

Hartford

Live - Learn - Intern
In the Heart of the City

University of Connecticut

Study Abroad Program

Hartford, CT



LIVE ~ LEARN ~ INTERN...In the Heart of the City

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Mahatma Gandhi

The **URBAN SEMESTER PROGRAM** offers students a tremendous opportunity for service learning and public service. For almost 45 years, students from diverse backgrounds have participated in classroom, internship, and urban living experiences, enabling them to assist Hartford in addressing its challenges. Nowhere are urban challenges any greater than Hartford, Connecticut - a city full of both need and potential, struggle and hope, rich with diversity and urban culture, poignant in its contrasts between wealth and poverty.

Student interns learn and practice in essential service agencies, government offices, and community and non-profit organizations. Students in Urban Semester involve themselves in all the issues facing the city from education, poverty, homelessness, youth issues, and crime, to the challenges of the changing economy. They intern in school-related programs, shelters, advocacy organizations, political offices, state and local government, and many other settings. Through two weekly seminars, they study and explore the issues in greater depth, taking part in thought-provoking discussions with community leaders and field trips into the city.

If you have interest in any of the following areas, then Urban Semester may be for you:

- Human Services
- Community Organizing
- Social Work
- Advocacy & Research
- Peace and Justice
- Civil Rights
- Environmental Justice
- Community Media
- Urban Problems
- The Justice System
- Welfare Rights
- Women’s Issues
- State and Local Government
- Youth Development

& more...



CITY LIVING...

Students live together in housing in Hartford rented by the University for program participants. Living in the heart of the city allows them to collectively share the experience of urban culture, from shopping at neighborhood markets to eating multi-cultural cuisine, from visiting world-class museums to taking in a performance at one of the many local theaters. Housing costs are equivalent to the standard dormitory fee. Students are responsible for their own meal and transportation arrangements.



SEMINARS ON THE CITY... (6 Credits: INTD 3594 & INTD 3584)

Students are required to participate in two weekly 3-credit seminars. The Field Seminar (INTD 3594, available for “W” credit) allows students the opportunity to consider theories and apply them to their internships. The Urban Problems Seminar (INTD 3584) focuses on specific urban issues, emphasizing contemporary problems in Hartford. These two seminars increase students’ knowledge about issues facing urban areas and how social service organizations and political bodies respond. Classes are held at the UConn Greater Hartford Campus in West Hartford.



INTERNING IN THE CITY... (9 Credits: INTD 3590)

Students have full choice in selecting their internship placement. The Internship Coordinator will assist students in understanding the scope of activities in each site and help them choose the best placement option. Students spend 3 1/2 days a week in field work and are supervised by agency staff. The Internship Coordinator in consultation with the agency staff evaluates students’ performance. Students chronicle their internship experiences through regular journal entries.

The Urban Experience



Student Quote

"[Through the Urban Semester Program] I fell in love with Hartford and I realized that you don't have to go to an international site to help people. There's so much that needs to be done in our own communities."

"I've always been concerned with finding other students who are passionate about being socially aware and creating positive change, so it's been great to meet some like-minded people that I might not have met otherwise."

*Tekowa Omara-Otunnu,
Sociology & Political Science Major*

To learn more about the Urban Semester Program through the eyes of student participants visit the UConn Today website and read a feature article on the program.

Visit today.uconn.edu
Keyword Search: Urban Semester

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional program information visit the Urban and Community Studies website at urban.uconn.edu or email urbansemester@uconn.edu.

Urban Semester is part of the Study Aboard Program at UConn. Additional information and program application are available on the Study Abroad website www.studyabroad.uconn.edu