

It has always been hard for me to see the point. Not in the sense of understanding the concepts or grasping its effects, but in so far as they are just that— concepts. Often I feel as though the information given is so siloed and treated as self-contained rather than lived. I am seeking this internship to strip away that alienation and bridge the gap between the conceptual and concrete, to understand how the notions I study— policy, democracy, governance— operate within the everyday, quotidian work of public offices. I want to experience how civic institutions function not just as ideas but as people, procedure, and compromise

I am currently pursuing three bachelor's degrees: political science, philosophy, and international studies. Through these fields I have gained a comprehensive understanding of the essential components, though, as noted, really only through a conceptual jurisprudence lens. . My previous experience in Kansas City's City Hall has begun to fill that gap. As a legislative intern for Councilman Kevin O'Neill, I organized community engagement events and conducted internal research on residential permitting reforms. I also worked with the Historic Preservation Department, connecting my interest in public history to questions of how cities remember and represent themselves. At the University of Missouri, I continue that into the present through my work with the university's honors college and ASH Scholars program which facilitated further research into Missouri history, and importantly how that history is disseminated and remembered.

Beyond government work, I have developed strong communication and analytic skills in my capacity as a tutor. Currently, I work at Mizzou's Writing Center; I help students refine their argumentation and develop their voices, an experience that has deepened my appreciation for clarity, empathy, and persuasion in dialogue. I have also previously tutored high school students in English, Math, and Social Sciences, and volunteered at a Chinese Day School in Columbia where I help elementary students learn the language I study. I also volunteer quite regularly in Columbia at the Chinese Day school, where I help facilitate, local elementary students learn Chinese. An interest that I continue into my education with a minor in the language.

I believe that an internship through CLIP will not only help concretize my education and bring invaluable and much needed real-world experience, it will also help me diversify my beliefs, engage with the public, and help me gain tools related to political dialogue, rather than argument or discourse. This internship will bring my classroom skillset into reality, but in doing so will give me the opportunity to engage with ideas different from my own in a professional and substantive way. Though I have already begun this process through prior experiences, I hope to continue this journey through CLIP; allowing myself to move further from the conceptual into the lived reality of politics, where understanding is measured not in theory but in its human application.