

Urban Semester FAQs

What is Urban Semester?

Urban Semester is a semester-long, 15-credit public service internship experience. If accepted into the program, students will earn 9 credits from a 27 hour/week public service internship. These are typically at a government agency or non-profit in Hartford. The remaining 6 credits are earned through two seminars.

Who can participate in Urban Semester?

Any undergraduate student can take Urban Semester, regardless of major or campus.

How is Urban Semester different from a regular internship?

Urban Semester can help participants in the ways that an internship usually does: by providing real-world work experiences. However, students in Urban Semester work 27 hours/week and earn 9 internship credits compared to the typical 9 hours/week associated with a 3-credit internship. Students are therefore more heavily involved in work projects. Two seminar courses help students contextualize work experiences and connect to previous coursework.

How can Urban Semester help a student get a job?

All students need to make sure their resume stands out from the rest. Urban Semester can help with that since most college students aren't able to complete a 27 hour/week professional internship. Participants in Urban Semester develop an excellent professional network. When on the job market later, students can use their supervisor as a reference. Some Urban Semester students get hired to stay on after the internship is over. Even those who don't get hired at the internship site often get hired at a similar agency.

Urban Semester also helps students with their future work or graduate school plans. Some participants know what they want to do and Urban Semester solidifies their ideas. Other participants find a career path they hadn't thought about. Less frequently, but often just as importantly, sometimes students think they want to go into a field, but after their internship realize it's not the best choice for them. In all cases: Urban Semester is a low-stakes opportunity to try a field or employment type.

What university, college, or departmental requirements does Urban Semester fulfill?

Urban Semester provides 15 UConn credits. These can automatically apply to majors in Geography, GIS, and Urban and Community Studies. With advanced arrangements, Urban Semester may also be used to fulfill your major's internship course.

Can I take additional classes?

Many students take an additional 3-credit course. We strongly recommend that this course be online or at the Hartford campus.

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More UConn Urban Semester Information: <http://urbansemester.uconn.edu>

Email the director, Dr. Mary Donegan, with any questions: mary.donegan@uconn.edu