

Student Internships



Congressman Peter J Roskam

Illinois Sixth district

House Ways & Means Committee

Subcommittees – Oversight-chairman, Health

Select Committee on Benghazi



Internship Description

Peter Roskam's Congressional Office is looking for highly motivated college students interested in experiencing first-hand the political process as they participate in a comprehensive internship program. They will assist constituents of the 6th Congressional District of Illinois, answering their inquiries, providing resources, and advocating for them.

Interns at the District Office in Illinois have the opportunity to experience the inner-workings of a local Congressional office, assisting with fielding questions and responding with appropriate comments, performing constituent services, doing outreach event planning, becoming conversant with legislative positions, completing research projects, and aiding with administrative tasks.

Interested candidates should apply promptly as internship spaces are limited. Internships are available during your school's fall and spring semesters as well as during summer break. We can customize your internship to your school's schedule and your class hours.

All internships are unpaid. However, interns can arrange to receive academic credit by fulfilling their college \ university's requirements.

Learning Objectives

1. Learn to converse with constituents regarding their viewpoints on pending federal legislation, sharing the Congressman's voting record and political philosophy.
2. Learn to serve constituents who have issues regarding their dealings with government agencies, such as USCIS (Immigration), IRS, Medicare, Social Security, & Veterans Administration.
3. Learn to collect and organize data which enables the Congressman and his staff to reach targeted groups of people in the district and to better perform their duties.

Peter Roskam's Biography

Chicagoland native Peter Roskam is in his fifth term in the United States House of Representatives, serving the 6th District of Illinois. Roskam is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, where he chairs the Oversight Subcommittee—a key watchdog post with jurisdiction into the spending and operations of tax-writing and healthcare programs within the federal government. Roskam was at the center of the Committee investigation into the IRS after it was revealed the agency was targeting Americans for their personal, religious, and political beliefs, authoring legislation to protect against these abuses that became law.

Roskam serves on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, a group tasked with a full and complete investigation of the events leading up to, during, and after the terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya. Active on national security issues and promoting America's role in the world, Roskam leads the House Democracy Partnership, assisting legislatures in emerging democracies; and serves as a co-chair of the House Republican Israel Caucus, the largest Republican congressional organization dedicated to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Roskam co-authored the Pledge to America and played an active role in securing a landslide House majority in 2010.

Roskam graduated from the University of Illinois before spending his early career in the office of his mentor, legendary Congressman Henry Hyde. He later earned his J.D. from IIT-Chicago-Kent College of Law and began a law practice, where he developed significant experience as a litigator. Roskam has represented Chicago's western suburbs in both the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate.

Roskam lives in Wheaton with his wife of over 26 years, Elizabeth. They have four children.

Opportunities in the District Office

Located physically within the sixth district of Illinois, this office focuses on constituent services, such as help with federal agencies, immigration assistance, and dealing with local, elected officials. In addition, legislation is discussed with concerned constituents. Special events are conducted in the district such as job fairs and meetings with professional groups and commercial businesses.

Contact person = Tom Williamson 630-232-0006

tom.williamson@mail.house.gov

2700 International Drive, Suite 304, West Chicago IL 60185

Time Frames

We are happy to customize start and end dates around academic schedules. Interested candidates should apply promptly as internship spaces are limited.

Spring Semester 2016

January to Early May

Final Deadline to apply = December 15, 2015

Summertime 2016

Early or mid-May to Late August

Final Deadline to apply = April 15, 2016

Fall Semester 2016

September to Mid-December

Final Deadline to apply = August 15, 2016

Student Application Procedure

Submission of Documents: may be e-mailed; transcripts usually must be mailed

1. **Transcripts** – request to be sent from your college, or high school if a freshman.
2. **Resume** – list clubs \ service groups joined, jobs held, athletic teams played for.
3. **Brief statement of interest** – share your reasons for pursuing this internship.
4. **Writing skills sample** – submit class paper, news editorial; political or not; 1000+ words.
5. **2 letters of reference** – obtain from professors, employers, coaches, advisors, not relatives.

Other Requisites

1. **Face-to-face interview** – meet with Tom Williamson & District Office staff members.
2. **Work a 200-hour internship** – ordinarily 2 days per week for 12 ½ weeks; a college credit prerequisite. Customization is possible based on your schedule.

Congressional Office Agreement

1. **Fulfillment of requirements** – submits paperwork & reporting with your school, if necessary.
2. **Thorough training** – exposure to data bases, websites, handling people & phone protocol.
3. **Exposure to variety** – provide full-bodied learning, through experiences & events.
4. **Contact with the Congressman** – arranged whenever this is possible.
5. **Customized work schedule** – planned around your class and/or employment schedule.
6. **Letters of recommendation** – can be provided when you seek future employment.