Introducing MSW students to the intersection of government and child development policy in our nation’s capitol.

Students are required to attend 3 “virtual” class sessions prior to and 1 class after the 1 week immersion in D.C., totaling 15 hours of class time. These online classes will focus on the processes of developing and implementing social policy affecting children.

Site visits to Congress, government agencies and policy/advocacy organizations.

Seminars in USC’s Washington office with guests from government agencies and nonprofit policy organizations.

Learn first-hand from top-level professionals about their work on behalf of children and families.
Who can participate?
The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a rolling admissions basis. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have completed all foundation/generalist practice requirements.

Will I get credit for the program?
If you are enrolled in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, you will receive 3-elective unit credits for completing the program.

What if I am taking 15 units of credit during the spring semester?
If you are a student in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and are enrolled in 15 units during the spring semester, you will not need to pay additional tuition for the required 3-elective unit course.

Will this program help my chances of finding a job?
The program will expose students to training opportunities and career pathways in government service and policy advocacy at local, state, and federal levels.

Is financial aid available?
If you are receiving or are eligible for financial aid, you may be able to apply it toward this program. For details, contact the School’s Scholarship Programs Office.

Where will we stay?
USC will arrange housing at a hotel in Washington, D.C.

How much will the program cost?
Program costs include seven nights of accommodations, daily breakfast, weekday lunches, local transportation during program hours and field excursions during the Washington portion, and a program administrative fee. Additional fees include tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health insurance plan.

All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from their home to Washington, dinners, weekend lunches, non-program-related transportation, and other incidentals.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Hester
Office of Global and Community Initiatives
letcher@usc.edu | 213.740.3939

"During our National Immersion, we met with various federal departments that influence the lives of every American. This sparked my interest in politics, and inspired me to apply my social work training to a government role representing underserved communities. In my current position, my responsibilities include establishing relationships with elected officials, advocating for social and healthcare rights, and analyzing the impact of existing local, state and federal legislation on the organization and the individuals that we serve."

Jazmin Diego
Manager of Legislative and Advocacy Affairs in the Government Relations Department at AltaMed Health Services

"The D.C. Immersion program exposed me to the role a Social Worker could play in the realms of policy and government. After the program, I gained the opportunity to intern in D.C. for Molina Healthcare’s Office of Government Affairs. This internship gave me the work experience I needed to apply for the position I have today. I’m truly passionate about this career, and feel that I am making a difference."

Daniela Ojeda
Policy Analyst in the Government Relations Department at AltaMed Health Services

Apply online and attend an info session to learn more: dworakpeck.usc.edu/global/national-immersion-programs