



ROBERT T. MATSUI-UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

**Prospectus and Application Information
2009-10 Academic Year**



Sponsored by the Robert T. Matsui Foundation for Public Service,
The Robert T. Matsui Center for Politics and Public Service at UC Berkeley,
and the Office of the UC Washington Center Executive Director

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE ROBERT T. MATSUI-U.C. CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS
PROGRAM PROVIDED BY AMGEN



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
WASHINGTON CENTER**
1608 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036



**ROBERT T. MATSUI
FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**
P.O. BOX 28277
WASHINGTON, DC 20038

Dear University of California Student:

We welcome your interest in undertaking a term of study and experience in Washington, D.C., and we invite you to join a special program at the U.C. Washington Center by applying to become a Robert T. Matsui-University of California Congressional Fellow.

The Matsui-U.C. Congressional Fellowship provides a package of financial support, placement assistance, and special training and programming to excellent U.C. students who devote their term in Washington to working for the Congress. The Fellowship recognizes that congressional internships are the inspiration and launching point for the careers of some of the most distinguished public servants in the Nation. Members of Congress and their constituents depend on interns for their work. In addition, congressional interns gain an important vantage point on American public life, valuable professional networking and communications skills, and an important credential for students who later wish to return to work in Congress or elsewhere in Federal or California government.

The Fellowship honors the late Robert T. Matsui, a distinguished graduate of U.C. Berkeley and the U.C. Hastings College of Law, who represented the people of Sacramento in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than a quarter century until his passing in 2005. Mr. Matsui championed important issues including protection of our Nation's civil liberties and provision of social services to those who need them most. Throughout his work, Mr. Matsui supported open debate, meaningful discourse, and bipartisan compromise. The Fellowship seeks to embody Mr. Matsui's belief in common decency among people who choose to work in public service.

We thank you for your interest in the Matsui-U.C. Congressional Fellowship and commend your decision to learn more about our government through first-hand experience. We hope you will apply to participate in this very special program.

With best wishes,

BRUCE E. CAIN
Executive Director
U.C. Washington Center

ETHAN RARICK
Director
Matsui Center, UC Berkeley

BRIAN ROBERT MATSUI
Chair & President
Robert T. Matsui Foundation

Robert T. Matsui — University of California Congressional Fellowship 2009-10 Program Information

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

- ❖ ***Financial Support.*** The Fellowship carries a significant stipend to defray the costs of a term in Washington. Students in a semester program will receive a \$2000 stipend; students in a quarter program will receive a \$1500 stipend.
- ❖ ***Placement Assistance.*** Matsui-U.C. Fellows will be required to participate in a telephone placement consultation shortly after awards are made. Fellows are responsible for securing a placement and may apply for and commit to an internship in any congressional office or the White House. In support, the University of California provides enhanced placement counseling and a letter of introduction for submission with internship applications.
- ❖ ***Special Programming.*** Matsui-U.C. Fellows receive a full-day orientation about Congressional internships in Washington. Fellows will also be invited to an award ceremony on Capitol Hill with California Members of Congress and the staff members of Fellows' host offices. Fellows may also have the opportunity to participate in one or more special events, which in the past have included the opportunity to meet President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.
- ❖ ***Recognition.*** Recipients of the Fellowship receive the title of Robert T. Matsui-University of California Congressional Fellow in recognition of the commitment they undertake to explore public service while at the U.C. Washington Center.



APPLICATION PROCESS

- ❖ ***Download and Complete an Application.*** Applications are available on the UC Washington Center website at: http://www.ucdc.edu/students/rtm_fellow.cfm
Please ensure you download the correct application for semester/quarter.
- ❖ ***Submit an Application.*** Applications should be submitted by e-mail to fellowship@ucdc.edu. The application has several components, including a resume and transcript, a writing sample, and short essay responses. Applications will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format. Applicants are urged to ensure that they can gather all application materials in a form that can be e-mailed.
- ❖ ***Telephone Interview.*** The Matsui Center at UCB will interview Berkeley finalists and the UC Washington Center Fellowship Selection Committee, appointed by the UC Washington Center Executive Director, will interview finalists from all other campuses.
- ❖ ***Fellows Named.*** Winners will be notified by e-mail of having been named a Robert T. Matsui-U.C. Congressional Fellow.

“Any Member of Congress would be proud and pleased to take on a Robert T. Matsui – University of California Congressional Fellow in her or his office.”

--Hon. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Speaker of the House



ROBERT T. MATSUI-UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who is eligible to apply for the fellowship?

All University of California undergraduate degree candidates participating in UCDC for the fall, winter, or spring academic term are eligible to apply. Non-degree students, including Education Abroad Students are not eligible. The fellowship is not currently offered during the summer term.

How many Matsui-U.C. Congressional Fellows will be named each year?

We anticipate naming four fellows for each semester and six fellows for each quarter, such that there will be a total class of twenty-six Matsui-U.C. Fellows for each academic year. The Fellowship is not presently offered during summer terms.

What are the criteria by which the fellows will be chosen?

Fellowships will be awarded based on academic record, and personal characteristics as evidenced by letters of recommendation, written submissions, and a telephone interview with the selection committee.

Do I have to already have a Congressional internship placement to apply?

No. In support of Fellows, the University of California provides enhanced placement counseling and a letter of introduction for submission with internship applications.

Is this a nonpartisan fellowship?

Yes. Fellows are named without regard to party affiliation of applicant or placement office.

Who can I contact with questions?

Please send questions about the fellowship to fellowship@ucdc.edu.

Can I learn more about Representative Robert T. Matsui?

The Matsui Foundation website has a biography of Representative Robert T. Matsui and links to additional information about him (<http://www.rtmfoundation.org/aboutrtm.html>). We urge you to take a few moments to learn about Mr. Matsui in the course of preparing your fellowship application.

“Bob Matsui and I both arrived in Washington in 1979 as newly elected Congressmen from opposite ends of California’s vast Central Valley. For more than 20 years, we worked together on issues of importance to California. Because of his commitment to his principles and dedication with which he served his constituents, I am honored to say he was not just a colleague, but a friend. Any student contemplating a career in public service should be very proud to become a Robert T. Matsui – University of California Congressional Fellow.”

--Hon. Bill Thomas (R-CA)

From Our Alumni:
Reflections about the Robert T. Matsui—University of California Fellowship Program

“Honor and Opportunity”

“The Robert T. Matsui—UC Congressional Fellowship gave me the opportunity to meet former President Clinton, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Matsui along with networking with other people. It also allowed me to use the scholarship to further my education. The Fellowship gave me the honor to become part of a network of people who motivate themselves and other members of society to be civically engaged. I am proud to say that as the first RTM congressional Fellow, many doors have opened for me and I am grateful for everything.”

--Joanna Perez, UCLA '08, Fall 2007 Fellow, Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein,

“Public Service as a Future Career Path”

The Robert Matsui fellowship provided me the opportunity to explore public service as a future career path. It gave me the support and training I needed to get the most out of my internship and prepared me with the tools to seek employment upon completion. It was a privilege to be a Robert T. Matsui—UC Congressional Fellow because the Matsui family is genuine in their work to motivate and prepare students to become the future public servants of America.”

--Guillermina Garcia, UCB '08, Fall 2008 Fellow, Office of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

“A Sense of Belonging to the World of Politics”

“I have loved every moment of living and working in Washington, DC. The Fellowship was wonderful in helping me build connections and friendships. The UCDC program and the Matsui Foundation have been great resources and have mentored me in the best direction to supplement my internship at Senator Feinstein's Office. I will take away a sense of belonging to the world of politics and public service. I now have a clearer sense of my future career path, and I hope to come back to Washington and work for Congress.”

--Mohammad Naim, UCLA '09, Winter 2009 Fellow, Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein



Winter 2009 Robert T. Matsui—UC Congressional Fellowship Class with Congresswoman Doris Matsui