

April 17, 2020

Dear UCDC Summer Students,

With great disappointment, I am writing to inform you that the UCDC residential summer program has been suspended; our building in Washington, D.C. will remain closed for the summer. For the safety of students and staff, the University of California Office of the President has determined that the facility — closed since March 16 — should not reopen until the COVID-19 virus is better contained. Michael Brown, University of California Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, informed us of the decision today. Like California, Washington, D.C. has been under a shelter-in-place order since last month, and there is no timetable for offices and businesses to reopen. Local universities have canceled their summer programs as well. Housing deposits will be returned through your campus housing office. Your campus coordinator will be able to explain the process at your campus.

We recognize the disruption this causes for your summer plans. For those who would like to continue as a remote participant, our UCDC Academic Internship Team (AIT) is working with hundreds of organizations to move their internships online. Many have already expressed interest in bringing on interns remotely. While clearly not the same as being in Washington, a remote internship would nevertheless provide valuable experience and an opportunity to earn academic credit.

We encourage you to discuss online options with your campus coordinator or UCDC program administrator. Information on how to earn academic units for internships through UCDC can be found on our [website](#).

A word of caution to anyone who may be considering traveling to Washington and finding housing on your own. Don't do it. The city is shut down. Medical facilities are near full capacity. Restaurants, bars, museums, and tourist attractions are closed. The UCDC staff is working remotely and is not in position to assist you should you or anyone around you become ill. Even if the city were able to partially reopen mid- or late-summer, our staff has instructed internship sites not to ask remote interns to travel to Washington.

This is a new world for all of us. While you may not be able to climb the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, we plan to offer online programming for those who choose to participate. Sessions on how to succeed as a remote intern, how to turn an internship into a job, and the policy/politics of Washington's COVID-19 response, among others, are being worked on now and will be announced in the coming days.

We regret that we will not be able to welcome you into our building this summer. We hope you will consider interning or working in Washington, D.C. in the future. Those who are not graduating might inquire on your campus about participating in UCDC in future terms.

Best of luck and stay healthy.



Helen Shapiro
Executive Director
University of California Washington Program (UCDC)