



The Laurentian Leadership Centre is a live-in, extension program operated in Ottawa by Trinity Western University. Upper year university students come for one semester to live in our Metcalfe Street building for a program consisting of three political science classes and unpaid internship placements. The internship is a structured and supervised, professional, work-learn experience with an approved government office, non-profit organization or business for which students earn academic credit. It is “hands on” training that provides an opportunity for students to apply theoretical knowledge to actual work situations. Past participants in this program have gone on to careers in academics, politics and business and count their time in Ottawa as a “life-changing” experience.

In the past few years we have placed students with a wide range of offices in Ottawa including politics, government, media, the NGO community and business. These have included the Prime Minister’s Office, the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet Ministers’ offices, MP offices, the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian War Museum, the Canadian Council on International Cooperation, the Red Cross, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Mitel and the Ottawa Citizen, to name a few.

Trinity Western University is a not-for-profit Christian liberal arts university based in Langley, British Columbia. A member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, it is a fully accredited, degree-granting institution with over 3,500 students in 40 undergraduate majors and 12 graduate programs. For the last three years in a row, the Globe and Mail university survey gave TWU an A+ for academic excellence.

In 2001 TWU purchased and renovated the old J.R. Booth House (formerly the Laurentian Club) at 252 Metcalfe Street. Each semester up to 23 third and fourth year undergraduate students live in this heritage landmark (designated a National Historic Site for architecture) while taking a common academic course of study and pursuing internship placements in various offices around “official Ottawa.” Students come from across Canada and major in a wide range of disciplines (from politics and history to international studies, business, and communications, even nursing and biology). Students take their classes in the mornings and are available for their internships every afternoon from 1-5 pm (although this is flexible). They are required to complete at least 200 hours in their internship placements.

What do we ask of internship supervisors? The Laurentian Leadership Program is an educational program. Students receive academic credit for their internships. We therefore ask that students receive a work experience that will give them an inside experience. While we understand that interns normally do administration, we ask that they be given opportunities to participate in other projects as well. For political internships, this may mean attending committee hearings or preparing briefing notes. For business internships, this may mean developing a proposal or building a website. The duties of the intern are negotiable and will be reviewed by the Director.