

Monday, May 22nd – Friday, July 28th, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Summer 2023 Internship Program



"I am incredibly grateful for the enriching experiences and invaluable opportunities that the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' 2023 University Student Summer Internship Program provided. Throughout the program, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and insights, allowing me to explore and confirm my passion for this career path. For me, this internship has been an unforgettable journey of growth."

– 2023 USSIP Participant

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-293-6466 | Fax: 202-293-7770

Dear Friends of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations:

I am pleased to share with you this record of the activities of our Summer 2023 interns. Participation in the National Council's summer internship program is competitive and highly selective. Each intern worked full-time in an organization whose focus was United States foreign policy and whose concerns dealt frequently with Arab-U.S. relations. In addition, the interns met in academic seminars two evenings a week and met on-site with foreign affairs professionals, who modeled a wide variety of possible career directions, weekly. This document is a record of those activities, chaired and led by the founding President and CEO, Dr. John Duke Anthony, who, in October 2023, passed the baton to Mr. H. Delano Roosevelt.

These recollections of the importance of the National Council programs in shaping the transformation of a young person from an enthralled high school student traveler, to an engaged learner at university seriously encountering the history, culture, and language of the Arab world, into a perceptive, responsible, experienced foreign affairs professional are gratifying. But, these same words also constitute a challenge: is the metamorphosis of one young person described here a unique occurrence, or can the National Council offer similar challenging and transformative experiences to succeeding generations of students and emerging leaders?

The National Council describes its mission as educational outreach, and leadership development is a large part of that agenda. Here you will meet an exceptional group of young people whose college studies, international interests, and personal experience brought them to a point where they were willing to devote a summer to working and studying in Washington, D.C. in order to better understand the complexities and the nuances of U.S.-Arab relations. These pages tell the story of their experience, demonstrate evidence of their growth, and offer proof that such internship experiences can and do change lives.



President and CEO
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Summer 2023 Internship Program

Seminar Sessions and Programming

Monday, May 22nd – Friday, July 28th, 2023

Week 1

Monday, May 22

10:00am - 12:00pm – NCUSAR Summer Internship Orientation

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 1: Understanding the Arab Region: Prisms for Perspective

Location: Zoom

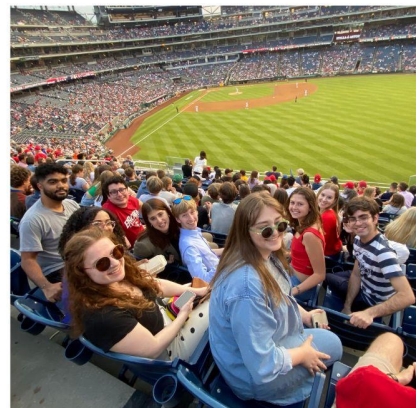
Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Wednesday, May 24

10:00am - 12:00pm – Old Town Trolley Tour of Washington, D.C.

12:15pm - 1:00pm – National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Office Tour

7:00pm - 9:00pm – Washington Nationals Baseball Game



Week 2

Tuesday, May 30

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 2: Lenses for Learning: Constancy and Change in America's Interest in the Arab Region: Implications for U.S. Policies

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Thursday, June 1

12:00pm - 1:30pm – Discussion on Islam and Islamic Finance

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Dr. Ghiyath Nakshbendi, American University Muslim Chaplain and NCUSAR International Business and Investment Affairs Fellow

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 3: Social Stratification in Arabia and the Gulf

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Friday, June 2

2:00pm - 3:00pm – Prayer and Transcendence and What Color is the Divine Light?

Location: GW Museum of Textiles



Week 3

Tuesday, June 6

1:30pm - 3:00pm – U.S. State Department Briefings (General, Tunisia, and North Africa)

Location: U.S. State Department

Speakers: Dr. Peter Howard, Senior Advisor for Regional Political Affairs, Patrick Coughlin, Desk Officer for Tunisia, Mahmoud El-Hamalawy, Press Officer for North Africa

6:00pm - 9:00pm – Dinner and Discussion: The Charter of Makkah

Location: Perry Belmont House

Speakers: Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Alissa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Thomas Friedman, Pulitzer Prize Commentator and New York Times Foreign Affairs Op-Ed Columnist

Thursday, June 8

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 4: Arabia and the Gulf I: Dynamics of Regional Organizations in Context (Pre-GCC)

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Friday, June 9

12:00pm - 2:30pm – U.S. Capitol Tour



Week 4

Tuesday, June 13

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 5: Arabia and the Gulf II: Dynamics of Regionalism in Context (Pre-GCC)

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Wednesday, June 14

2:00pm - 3:00pm – Aramco Tour and Briefing

Thursday, June 15

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 7: Saudi Arabia and Its Neighbors

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

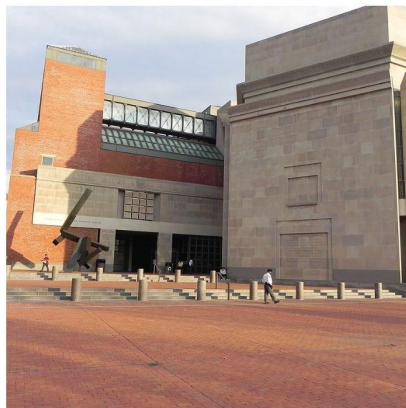
Friday, June 16

2:00pm - 3:00pm – Holocaust Museum

4:30pm - 6:00pm – Seminar Session 6: Challenges of Careers in the U.S. Government

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Ms. Kirsten Fontenrose, Former White House National Security Council Senior Director for Gulf Affairs, Sonoran Policy Group Vice President for Global Relations



Week 5

Tuesday, June 20

11:00am - 12:00pm – Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Speaker: Mr. Fahad Nazer, Spokesperson of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 8: Saudi Arabia: Elites, Interest Groups, and the Decision-Making Process

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Wednesday, June 21

11:00am - 12:30pm – Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center

Speaker: Jenan Mahmood, Program Officer

Thursday, June 22

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 9: A Crash Course in Model Arab League

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Kennedy Anderson, Press Secretary for Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn (SC), Former NCUSAR Intern

Saturday, June 24

10:00am - 5:00pm – Summer Intern Model Arab League

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs



Week 6

Monday, June 26

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 11: Sultanate of Oman: Regional and Domestic Dynamics

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Tuesday, June 27

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 10: Arabia and the Gulf: Energy Dynamics

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

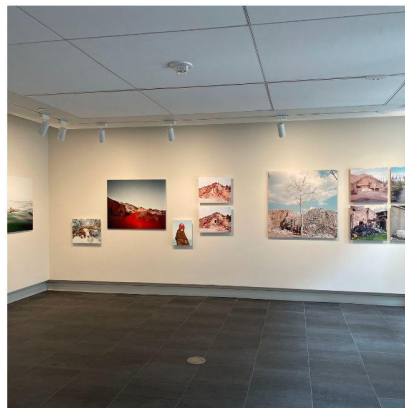
Speaker: Mr. John Pratt, Chairman of the Board, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Wednesday, June 28

1:30pm - 2:30pm – A River Flows Downstream, Curated by Roï Saade

Location: Middle East Institute Arts and Culture Center

Speaker: Lyne Sneige, Arts and Culture Director



Week 7

Wednesday, July 5

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 12: Qatar: External and Domestic Dynamics

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Ambassador Anne Patterson, Former President of the U.S.-Qatar Business Council, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (2013-2017), Ambassador to Egypt (2011-2013), Ambassador to Pakistan (2007-2010), Ambassador to Colombia (2000-2003), Ambassador to Egypt (1997-2000)

Thursday, July 6

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 13: The United Arab Emirates: Cultural and Historical Impact on External and Domestic Dynamics

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Friday, July 7

12:30pm - 2:00pm – Embassy of Qatar

Speakers: Sheikh Abdulaziz Abdulla Ahmen Al-Thani, Aysha Masson Alasfar, Second Secretary



Week 8

Tuesday, July 11

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 14: Bahrain and Kuwait in Perspective: Regional and Domestic Dynamics

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Thursday, July 13

2:00pm - 3:30pm – Al Jazeera

Speaker: Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, U.S. Bureau Chief

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 15: Palestine

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. James Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute, Former Director of Palestine at the Human Rights Campaign

Friday, July 14

1:30pm - 2:30pm – Museum of the Palestinian People

Speakers: Mohammad al Khatib and Mohammad Khalaf



Week 9

Tuesday, July 18

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 16: Middle East, Emerging Markets, and Global Economies

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Ashfin Molavi, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Wednesday, July 19

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 17: Syria

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Mohammad Al Abdallah, Executive Director and Founder of the Syrian Justice and Accountability Centre

Thursday, July 20

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 18: Iraq

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Ambassador (ret.) Dr. Richard Schmierer, President and Chairman of the Board of the Middle East Policy Council

Friday, July 21

1:00pm - 2:30pm – Kuwait Embassy

Speaker: Shaikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah



Week 10

Tuesday, July 25

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 20: Lebanon

Location: Zoom

Speaker: Col. Abbas Dahouk, Board Member, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Wednesday, July 26

9:30 - 12:00pm – Kuwait Ambassador Morning Reception

Location: Four Seasons Washington, D.C.

1:00pm - 2:30pm – Library of Congress Briefing and Tour

6:00pm - 7:30pm – Seminar Session 21: Grey Zone - Hybrid Warfare

Location: GW Elliott School of International Affairs

Speaker: Col. David DesRoches, U.S. Army (ret.), National Defense University Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Former DoD Liaison to DHS, NATO Operations Director, Deputy Director for Peacekeeping at OSD

Thursday, July 27

12:30pm - 3:00pm – Farewell Luncheon for Interns and Supervisors

Location: Lebanese Taverna



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Summer 2023 Internship Program

<u>Name</u>	<u>Undergraduate School</u>	<u>Internship Placement</u>
Leen Almahdawi	George Washington University	HANDS Along the Nile
Matthew Audi	Bowdoin College	Georgetown CCAS
Mary Davis	American University	National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Tatiana Hamilton	McDaniel College	National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Meriem Hamioui	Gettysburg College	Education for Employment Foundation
Grace Harsche	Tulane University	Middle East Policy Council
Zeina Hassan	Tufts University	Education for Employment Foundation
Aydin Henderson	Wheaton College	Georgetown CCAS
Eli Hill	Columbia University	UNA-National Capital Area
Galila Ibrahim	University of Miami	Palestine Center/Jerusalem Fund
Jenny Jacoby	University of Miami	Washington Report
Rayan Mama	New York University	UNA-National Capital Area
Leena Musharbash	UC-LA	AMIDEAST
Esma Ozgun	UC-Berkeley	Education for Employment Foundation
Rachelle Papillon-Amblard	Centenary College	National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Rebecca Porter	Macalester College	UNA-National Capital Area
Andrew Rovinsky	Brown University	UNA-National Capital Area
Anna Scott	Converse University	Mideast Relief USA
Shahd Sharaf	American University	UNA-National Capital Area
Ellie Surman	Yale University	Middle East Policy Council
Kayla Thayer	Missouri State University	UNRWA-USA

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations extends its thanks to all the organizations listed here for providing internship opportunities and for their investment of staff time and energy in supervising the work and mentoring the career development of these students.

“Participating in the NCUSAR program's diverse array of seminars, lectures, briefings, and site visits provided me with a profound understanding of U.S.-Arab relations and global affairs. I wholeheartedly encourage future students to apply for this exceptional program. NCUSAR has truly empowered me to make a meaningful impact in the world, and I am eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.”

– 2023 USSIP Participant



“NCUSAR provided me with an unparalleled experience to explore and actively contribute to the professional environment of D.C. Through embassy briefings, diplomatic receptions, and thought-provoking seminars, I was able to ask questions about foreign affairs, future careers, and personal development to many seasoned experts in the field. I would highly recommend this opportunity for those interested in gaining a unique insight into the facets of U.S.-Arab relations.”

– 2023 USSIP Participant

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Summer 2023 Leadership Team



Dr. John Duke Anthony

Founding President and CEO



Mr. Patrick Mancino

Executive Vice President



Dr. Fadi Hilani

Senior Academic and Research Fellow-in-residence



Mr. Rowland Robinson

Development and Communications Officer



Ms. Delaney Leslie

Student Programs Manager



Ms. Hannah Norton

Student Programs Manager



Established in 1983, the National Council is a Washington, D.C.-based American non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its mission is educating Americans and others about America's relationships and interests with the Arab and Islamic worlds. A fuller description of the Council's numerous projects, programs, events, and activities can be accessed at:

www.ncusar.org