The John Smith Centre Parliamentary Internship Programme has been running since 2017 and places 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students with MSPs from across Scotland for 10 weeks.
I’m Kezia Dugdale, I’m the Director of the John Smith Centre. In this video, we’ll tell you more about the features of the Parliamentary Internship Programme and how you can get involved.
The John Smith Centre is based at the University of Glasgow.

We promote trust in politics and public service.

One of the ways we do this is through structured development programmes that are designed to break down barriers to public life.
The John Smith Centre Parliamentary Internship Programme is a hands-on learning opportunity for students to engage in frontline politics and public service roles.

The John Smith Centre has a non-partisan approach to public service and host MSPs are selected from across the political spectrum.

Through a structured 10-week placement, interns work in close cooperation with their host MSP and their staff, enabling students to develop a range of workplace relevant skills and an appreciation for the value of a career in public service.

Work-related learning opportunities like this provide undergraduate students with ‘more than just a degree’, and by building employability into interns’ programmes of study, the John Smith Centre and host MSPs help provide an experience that prepares students to go into the world and make change happen.
Interns will primarily be based in their host MSP’s constituency office – although there will be the opportunity to spend some time in the Scottish Parliament.

The programme offers a flexible working pattern enabling students to fit their internship around their studies. All working patterns are agreed between the intern and their host MSP.
### Programme Features

- University of Glasgow employee
- Paid above the Living Wage
- Travel expenses covered

Students appointed to the programme will become an employee of the University of Glasgow and will be paid above the Living Wage for their time. This includes all training and evaluation activities.

Travel expenses to the constituency office and parliament will also be covered.
Interns receive support throughout their placements from the John Smith Centre. This includes:

- A training and induction session before they begin their placement,
- Regular online drop-in sessions with John Smith Centre staff to ask any questions they may have,
- And access to a moderated WhatsApp group so they can stay in touch with fellow interns and the team at the John Smith Centre
Programme Features

Scottish Parliament Day

- Meet the Chief Executive, a Deputy Presiding Officer, committee clerks and research staff
- Networking lunch with MSPs and attendance at FMQs

As well as the 10-week part-time internship, interns also attend a full day session at the Scottish Parliament as guests of the Chief Executive of the parliament.

At the Parliament Day, interns spend time with the Chief Executive, a Deputy Presiding Officer, committee clerks and SPICe researchers.

They also attend a networking lunch with MSPs, watch First Minister's Questions in the Chamber and receive a tour of the parliament.
All participants will join the John Smith Centre’s Alumni Network for the life of their career.

The Alumni Network is a peer group of current and former John Smith Centre interns who keep in touch to share advice and opportunities.

All Alumni Network members receive invitations to events and other exclusive opportunities from the Centre, like networking, skills development and the chance to join us at our annual reception.
How to apply

1 Go to johnsmithcentre.com
2 Submit your application by the deadline on our website

So what are you waiting for?
Just head over to our website at johnsmithcentre.com to find out more and apply
And if you have any further questions, please get in touch.