

Climate Policy Summer Internship Program

Summer 2026



**THE SALATA INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY**
at Harvard University



What is the purpose of the program?

The program provides **professional development** opportunities for Harvard Students to explore career pathways **at the intersection of climate, policy, and public service**.

1. Foster internships placements
2. Lower barrier to entry
3. Legislative offices focused on climate issues

Program details

All internships are **part-time** (15-20 hrs/week)

All internships are primarily **in-person**

10-week program

Program dates **May 26, 2026 – July 31, 2026**

\$4,500 stipend

**qualifying students can apply for need-based housing assistance up to \$1,000*

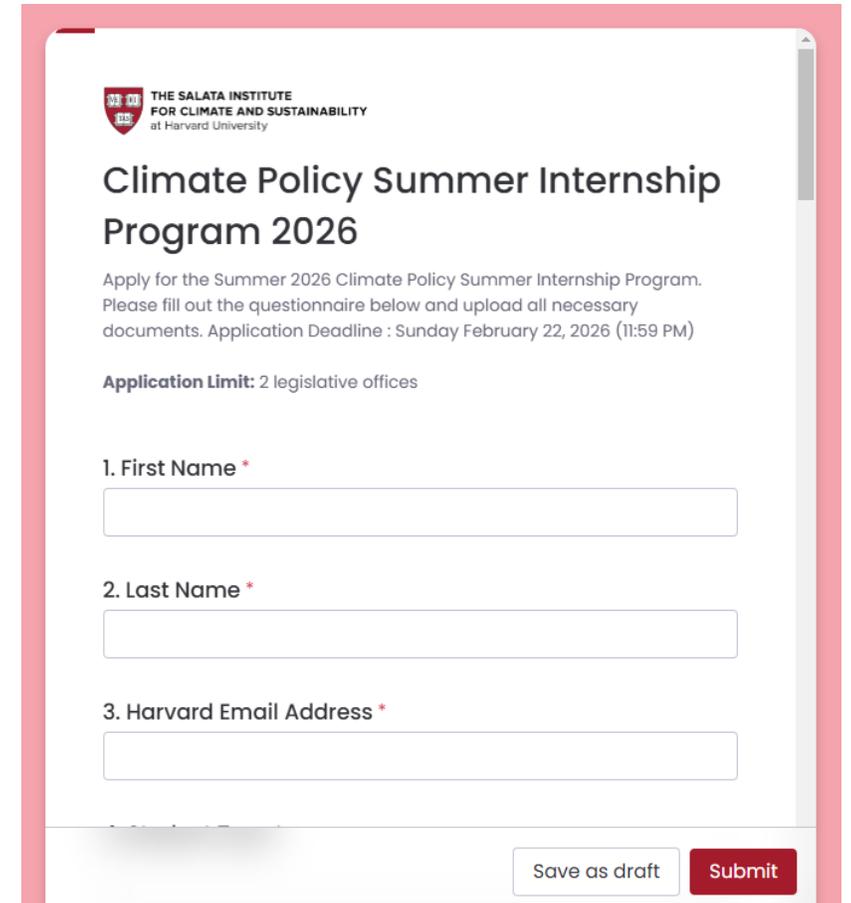
Program qualifications

Undergraduate or graduate student
at Harvard University

Must be returning as an enrolled student
during the Fall term following the internship period

Application Process

1. Review Program Details + Requirements
2. Browse Available Internship Positions
3. Apply! (Choose Top 2 Offices)
4. Interview with host offices
5. Wait for decision
6. Accept/Deny



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Climate Policy Summer Internship Program 2026

Apply for the Summer 2026 Climate Policy Summer Internship Program. Please fill out the questionnaire below and upload all necessary documents. Application Deadline : Sunday February 22, 2026 (11:59 PM)

Application Limit: 2 legislative offices

1. First Name *

2. Last Name *

3. Harvard Email Address *

[Save as draft](#) [Submit](#)

Program expectations

Before Applying

1. Students must secure their own **summer housing**
 2. Students must be able to **commute** to the State House
 3. Students must have access to a **laptop** or personal computer
 4. Undergraduate applicants must comply with **Harvard College's Summer Funding Policy**
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Considering an Offer

1. Respectful and professional conduct
2. May not accept a position unless you can 100% commit to it

After Starting

1. Bi-weekly in-person programming: **Required**
2. Salata-State House Supervisor Check-ins
3. Salata-Intern Check-ins
4. Engaged, attentive, communicative, and respectful



About the State House

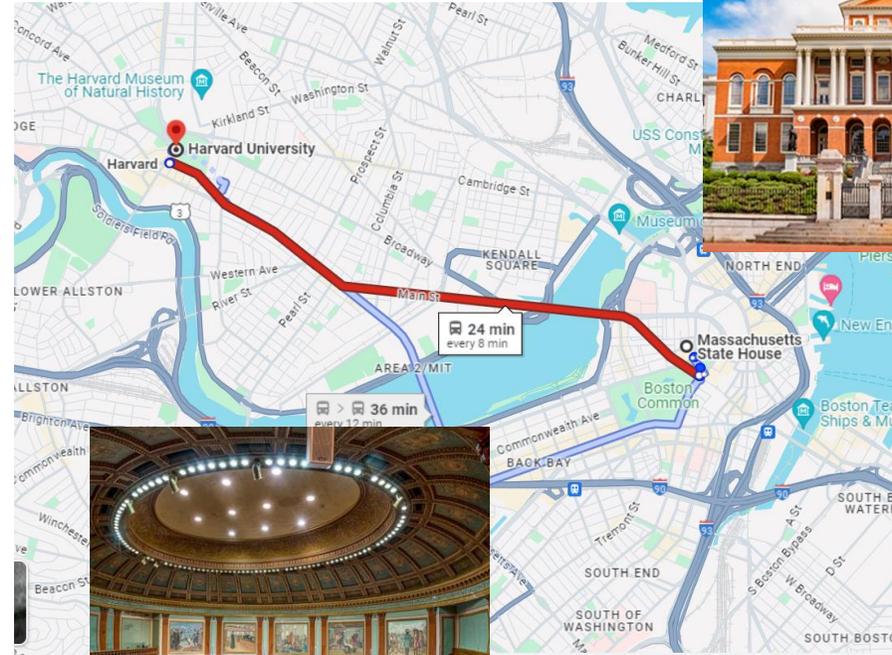
It's not only a place of work but also a historical landmark, a tourist destination, a place of civil discourse, and a community resource.

2-year legislative session

An intern's work may vary depending on the phase of the legislative cycle

Year 1: New bills are being filed, the state budget is being set, new committees are being assigned. *Attend hearings for bills + note-taking, develop infographics, support work related to budget debate, work on written testimony, etc.*

Year 2: Getting legislation across the finish line. *Research on current bills, research for new bills for the next session, tracking legislation, tracking amendments, attend briefings and formal floor debates etc.*



Learn about the legislative process in Massachusetts.



Host Offices



Senator Edwards, Boston, Revere and Winthrop

Priority Areas: Climate Justice, Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience, Climate-Safe Buildings, Food Justice, Education, Water Transportation



Representative Mark Cusack, 5th Norfolk

Priority Areas: Clean Energy Affordability, Energy Policy & Regulation, Utilities and Telecommunications



Representative Shand, 1st Essex

Priority Areas: Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience, Coastal & Ecosystem Protection (Wetlands, Salt Marshes, Coastal Zones), Water Quality Improvement & Environmental Health



Senator Fernandes, Plymouth and Barnstable District

Priority Areas: Renewable Energy, Agricultural Resilience, Eco-Tourism and Developing a Blue Economy, Resource Protection, Clean Water



Representative David LeBoeuf, 17th Worcester

Priority Areas: Economic Justice, Health Equity, Water Resource Management



Representative Joan Meschino, 3rd Plymouth

Priority Areas: Natural and Working Lands, Building Decarbonization, Climate Finance, Drought Management



Representative Steven Owens, 29th Middlesex

Priority Areas: Clean Energy Transition, Transportation Electrification, Building Decarbonization



Representative Tommy Vitolo, 15th Norfolk

Priority Areas: Clean Energy Transition, Climate Action and Resilience, Environmental Justice

What do interns do?

Year 2 Legislative Session

Students take on different tasks **day-to-day** depending on the specific needs and priorities of their legislative office. Some common tasks interns done in the past:

- **Research** on current bills to advise the representative/senators stance
- Research and **summarize legislation**
- Provide **preparation support** for bill hearings, testimony, etc.
- **Track progress** on priority bills, updates, key changes, or amendments
- **Attend** session, briefings, hearings and meetings, take notes and summarize
- District work, community outreach and engagement, site visits
- Constituent **communication**, coordination, and outreach
- Supporting Legislative Office communications work, research, and **writing**
 - Author policy memos
 - Create news briefs with information regarding federal, state and local news
 - Draft press statements, releases, and weekly newsletters
 - Support social media communications including visual digital design, creating info graphics, drafting posts, etc.

Interns also complete a **capstone project** that they work on over the duration of their internship.

- ★ Policy Brief ★
- Draft Legislation
- Write an op-ed
- Develop a new resource or tool

Qualities of a successful intern

Self-starter, strong independent worker

Enthusiasm and **eager to learn**

Curiosity – confidence in asking lots of questions

Interest in policy, the legislative process, and climate and sustainability

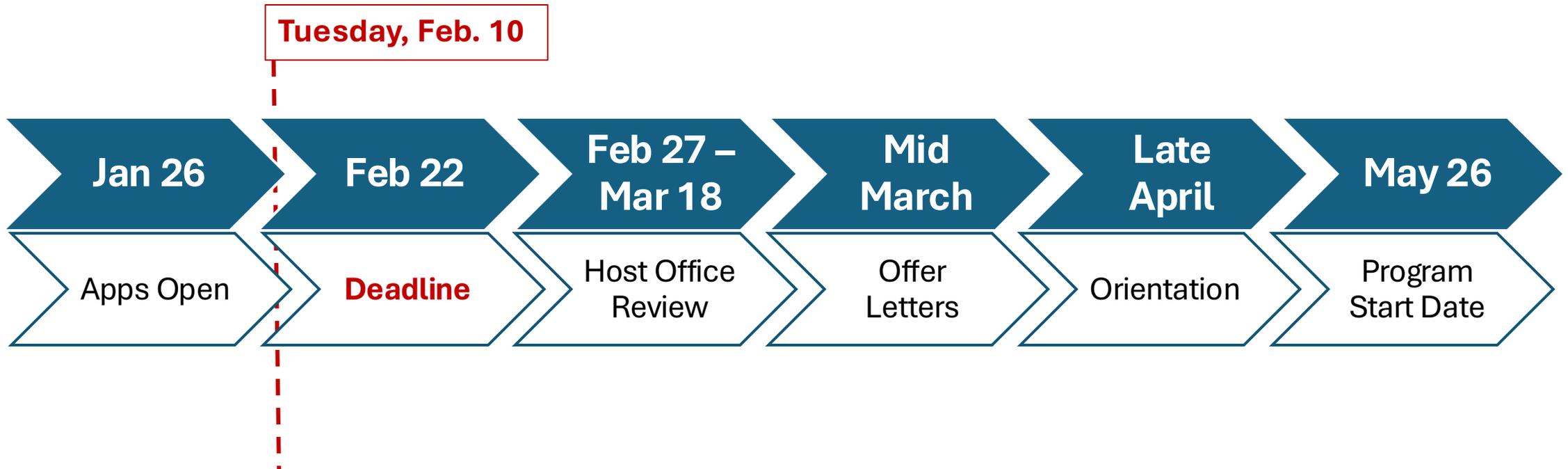
Strong **literature review**, **academic research**, and **writing** skills

Interpersonal skills and strong collaborative skills

Professional demeanor

Organization and attention to detail

Timeline



Other resources:

Read the [State House Intern Handbook](#) (2023 Edition)

[A Guide](#) to the Legislative Process in Massachusetts

Take an [online tour](#) of the Massachusetts State House (Read-through)

A history of the Massachusetts State House: [Read the Blogs](#)

Visit the [State Library of Massachusetts](#):

- Browse the library's [Law Resources](#)
- Performing a [Legislative History](#)

[Harvard Mignone Center for Career Success Resources](#)

- Resume Review
- Interview practice

Questions?