Legislative Externship Program
See the Legislative Process from the inside

The Legislative Externship Program gives students an “insider’s perspective” on the legislative process and an opportunity to develop a variety of legal skills. Offered Spring Semester 2023.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Legislative Externship Program (JD 937 & JD 938) offers students the opportunity to work in a Massachusetts Legislative office, often with a key Committee. By becoming part of a legislator’s staff, students will have the opportunity to participate in the policy making process and develop a variety of legal skills integral to the legislative process. Bi-weekly classes will cover the students’ experiences and the theoretical and practical aspects of law making in state legislatures and Congress.

Students also have the chance to develop knowledge about policy development in a substantive area of law ranging from health law to tax law.

Credits: Students earn one graded credit for their classwork, plus a range of ungraded credits depending on the number of hours worked in their placement from 3 credits = 150 hours total (avg. 12 hrs/wk) to 9 credits = 450 hours total (avg. 36 hrs/wk)

The Massachusetts Legislature has a committee dealing with almost every area of law.

Possible placements include:

**Senate Counsel’s Office**
Senate Counsel is the chamber’s in-house counsel. The Office conducts “third reading” corrections on every bill and amendment considered by the Senate to ensure that it is constitutional, properly drafted and effectuates its intent. The Office also offers senators legal advice on pending legislation, providing guidance on ethics and employment matters and reviewing contracts.

**Joint Committee on the Judiciary**
One of the busiest committees in the legislature, Judiciary considers all bills on creating or amending crimes and sentencing policy, the structure of the state judiciary, matters related to the probation system, juries, the parole system, and the corrections system.

**Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities**
The Committee develops policy and bills on child welfare, juvenile justice, people with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities. The Committee also oversees the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Transitional Assistance and Youth Services; the Massachusetts Commissions for the Blind, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

**Joint Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change**
The Committee investigates global warming and climate change, including: carbon emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energies.

**Joint Committee on Health Care Financing**
The Committee develops policy on funding health care programs and any other Medicaid, MassHealth, and the Uncompensated Care Pool.

We warmly welcome all applicants and remind students that Boston University policy prohibits discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military service, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, or because of marital, parental, or veteran status, and acts in conformity with all applicable state and federal laws. This policy extends to all BU Law academic programs.

[http://bu.edu/law/clinics-apply](http://bu.edu/law/clinics-apply)