



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

What We Do:

The Office of International Trade (OT) is one of the 16 offices within the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). OT consolidates the trade policy, program development, and compliance measurement functions of CBP into one office. This provides for uniformity and clarity of CBP's national strategy to facilitate legitimate trade as well as implement results-driven strategic initiatives for trade compliance and enforcement. Furthermore, OT directs national enforcement responses through effective targeting of goods crossing the border as well as strict, swift punitive actions against companies participating in predatory trade practices. Additional activities include:

- Coordinate with international partners and other U.S. government agencies to direct the enforcement of intellectual property rights; the identification of risks to detect and prevent the importation of contaminated agricultural or food products; and the enforcement of free trade agreement eligibility.
- Promote trade facilitation through partnership programs in order to streamline the flow of legitimate shipments and foster corporate self-governance as a means of achieving compliance with trade laws and regulations.
- Manage a risk-based audit program to respond to allegations of commercial fraud, conduct corporate reviews of internal controls, and ensure importers comply with trade laws and regulations.
- Provides the legal tools to promote facilitation and compliance with customs, trade and border security requirements through the issuance of all CBP regulations, legally binding rulings and decisions, informed compliance publications and structured programs for external training and outreach.

CBP's Overall Mission:

To safeguard America's borders thereby protecting the public from dangerous people and materials while enhancing the Nation's global economic competitiveness by enabling legitimate trade and travel.

For more information visit the CBP homepage: <http://www.cbp.gov/trade>

About Our Facility:

OT's main office building is located in downtown Washington, DC. The facility is conveniently located just two blocks from the McPherson Square Metro station, which is accessible by the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines. Our office has a host of great offsite breakfast and lunch options in the immediate vicinity including: Starbucks, Cosi, Jimmy Johns, and many local office favorites. Being in the heart of DC, our office is a 5 minute walk to the White House, and convenient to several housing options for students to choose from, as well as a wide variety of restaurants and cultural activities.

Professional Development:

Professional development is at the forefront of everyone's mind here at OT. We understand that students want to gain both personally and professionally from challenging experiences in a real world environment that will encourage them to use their knowledge for research, analysis, and briefings.





U.S. Customs and Border Protection

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

We provide creative opportunities for students to learn about international trade and all of the intricate processes that go along with it. Included during their time here at OT is an opportunity to visit a sea or air-port where they will experience trade in a hands-on fashion and learn from those on the front line. Per program requirements, a final briefing is scheduled with the OT Assistant Commissioner during the last week of the internship. This provides students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned and produced during their internship as well as directly interact and network with OT leadership. Other professional development activities will include informal brown-bag lunches, online trainings, and guest speaker presentations.

Projects at OT:

Given the emphasis on professional development, we try and provide interns with projects that are both interesting and challenging. Some examples of projects previous interns have completed include:

- Report to Congress on Intellectual Property Rights – involved attending congressional hearings, conducting interviews with key stakeholders, and reviewing and analyzing strategy documents and quantitative data.
- Report to Congress on behalf of the International Trade Committee – involved participating in Senior Leadership briefings, interviewing staff, and tweeting about trade topics.
- Import Trade Trends Analysis – involved identifying proper data sources, collecting and analyzing statistics, and creating innovative graphics to portray trade information.

Housing:

While OT is not directly responsible for making housing arrangements for students, we would be happy to assist students in providing a few popular options for intern housing during the summer. Summers tend to be a very busy housing time in Washington, DC so it's best to act quickly. Below are some suggested housing options available for interns.

- George Washington University Student Housing: <http://summerhousing.gwu.edu/>
- Washington DC Intern Housing: <http://internsdc.com/>
- Washington Intern Housing Network: <http://thewihn.com/>
- Washington DC, Airbnb: <https://www.airbnb.com/>

For more information, please feel free to contact Elena Ryan at elena.d.ryan@cbp.dhs.gov.

