Internship: The Center for Applied Strategic Learning

**Dates:** Fall, spring, and summer academic semesters

**Application deadline:** Rolling admission

**Background:** The Center for Applied Strategic Learning (CASL) designs national security exercises in support of the National Defense University’s core academic mission. The exercises assist senior leaders to think critically and enhance their decision making capabilities. CASL exercises challenge participants to address complex problems at a strategic level in a “not for attribution” academic setting. CASL’s mission is to enhance the strategic decision making and critical thinking capabilities of military and civilian leaders from the United States and other countries through strategic-level exercises that represent the complexity of the security environment.

**Position description:** Interns at CASL will conduct and support research of national security issues using a full range of unclassified sources. Interns will work under the supervision of exercise designers and facilitators to research topics and draft documents that support the design and development of exercises. Our simulations are based on real-world situations and crises. Previous exercises have focused on failed states, nuclear proliferation, energy security, stabilization and reconstruction, homeland defense, pandemic disease, and regional national security challenges. Research activities normally include library research, internet searches, serving as note-taker during interviews, and attending conferences and briefings at think tanks in the Washington, D.C. area. The National Defense University offers an excellent opportunity for interns to gain practical experience in public policy, U.S. policy discussions, decision-making processes, and gain insight into the executive and legislative branches of government.

Qualified candidates will generally have completed 3 years of higher education, with majors in international relations, political science, mathematics, economics, history or the liberal arts. This is an uncompensated internship. Interns will be responsible for covering all lodging and living expenses while they are in the D.C. metro area. Interns can work between 20 to 32 hours per week, with flexible scheduling options available. Interested applicants should send a statement of purpose, resume/CV, unofficial transcript(s) and writing sample (no length requirement) to Sanjeet.deka@ndu.edu