



## TEXAS LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

*Sponsored by  
Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis*

The Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP) was established 1990 by then-Texas Senator Rodney Ellis to honor his mentor, the late Congressman Mickey Leland, and provide opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, and law students interested in pursuing a career in public service to serve as interns in the Texas Legislature, state agencies, local and federal government, and nonprofit organizations. Now serving as Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, Commissioner Ellis continues to sponsor the program, which is administered by Texas Southern University.

Students receive a minimum of six and maximum of fifteen academic credit hours for participating in TLIP, which combines academic study and research with supervised practical training. The internship lasts for one academic semester, and interns are responsible for their academic admissions and enrollment in the necessary courses. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in the political process and in the kind of humanitarian values exemplified by Congressman Leland are encouraged to apply for the internship. Commissioner Ellis serves as advisor to the interns, while his office assists in coordinating on-site activities.

During legislative sessions, TLIP interns have been placed in the offices of ranking members of the Legislature as well as in the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Between legislative sessions, interns have served in the offices of elected and appointed officials at the municipal and county levels, such as the Harris County Judge and Mayor of Houston.

Interns are involved in all facets of the governmental process. They experience the legislative process of both chambers of the Texas Legislature. They view county and municipal government from the ground up and state policy organizations. Their experiences often serve as the springboard for selecting public service careers. In fact, many TLIP interns continue to work in public service at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

Notably, three former TLIPers are now serving in the Texas House of Representatives: The Honorable Ana Hernandez, Armando Walle, and Ron Reynolds. TLIP alumni also have held elected office as Judges and City of Houston Council Members.

**TEXAS LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**  
**COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS**  
**MICKEY LELAND CENTER AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
**SPRING 2023 PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**THE PROGRAM**

The Texas Legislative Internship Program, sponsored by Commissioner Rodney Ellis and administered by the Office of Governmental Relations and the Mickey Leland Center, provides undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to serve as interns in the Texas Legislature, various state agencies, local and federal government, and nonprofit organizations.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT**

Interns must be enrolled in an academic institution and receive credit for their internship experience. Interns are responsible for their academic admissions and enrollment in the necessary courses.

**PROGRAM DATES:**

The Spring 2023 session placements will be in person in Austin, Texas:

- Mandatory orientation on Monday, January 9, 2023.
- First Day in office placement is Tuesday, January 10, 2023
- Last Day in office placement is Monday, May 29, 2023 (Memorial Day). Please note that session is 140 days. Memorial Day is a working day.

**STIPEND**

For the Spring 2023 session, interns *may be eligible* to receive stipends of up to \$8,500. The interns' stipends will be determined on a case-by-case basis and dependent upon, but not limited to, interns' need to pay for housing, transportation, and other expenses.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

Interns will be assigned to work in the offices of state and local government including, ranking members of the Texas Legislature, Harris County Commissioners Court, City of Houston officials as well as non-profit organizations that impact policy.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible students will have completed at least 80 undergraduate hours at an accredited college or university. Enrollment in graduate or professional school is preferred. Exceptional skills in writing, composition, and computer literacy are required.

**THE APPLICATION**

Completed applications must include a writing sample (essay or term paper), an official transcript, proof of financial aid (if applicable), one letter of recommendation and two references, a resume, and a wallet-size photo of yourself.

**DEADLINE**

Submit the application and documents electronically to [internshipTLIP@gmail.com](mailto:internshipTLIP@gmail.com) by **Friday, Sunday, October 9, 2022 by 11:59 PM. The virtual interview timeframe will be October 16-29, 2022.**

# REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNS

## **The following conditions must exist to meet the qualifications for the TLIP:**

1. The intern must complete an official application and submit a resume, one letter and two references , official transcript showing at least 80 hours of post-secondary education, a writing sample, proof of financial aid (if applicable), a wallet-size photo of yourself and verification of enrollment before being approved to start his or her experience. Criminal background checks will be performed on all selected interns before the start of the program.
2. The intern enrolled at a law school, graduate school or a bachelors program must have a minimum G.P.A of 2.5.
3. The intern must work the office placement for the entire length of the program for the intern to receive the maximum semester credit hours.
4. The intern must report to his/her assigned post punctually and carry out his/her responsibilities according to the assigned office.
5. The intern must perform other assigned projects germane to his or her experiential training, including writing reports, conducting research, assisting with program development and logistical planning, and attending lectures and symposiums.
6. During the internship, the intern must be available for at least one on-site evaluation.
7. The intern will be assigned to an office where he or she can receive training under the guidance of persons with expertise in a particular field.
8. The intern must follow all office placement policies and procedures.
9. The intern's conduct must be exemplary. Unprofessional behavior shall be the reason for dismissal.
10. The intern must sign and date the TLIP agreement provided by the Office of Governmental Relations at Texas Southern University.
11. Applicants who are granted an interview will be asked to fill out a criminal background form. (Criminal history is not determinative on acceptance into the program).
12. Interns will not be allowed to leave the program early. Interns who fail to keep their commitment to the program may face sanctions ranging from loss of academic credit to liability for the full sum of the stipend.