

CSIS Journalism Bootcamp

A fully funded reporting assignment in Washington, D.C.

Ten students. One week in the capital. A story only *they* can tell.

CSIS invites just five universities nationwide to send students through its Journalism Bootcamp each year — UW-Madison is one of them. If you're drawn to international reporting, Latin America and the Caribbean, or telling stories that matter, this is your assignment.

Led by **Dr. Sara McKinnon**, who will travel with students to Washington, D.C. for the full bootcamp week.

THE ASSIGNMENT

A spring pre-bootcamp course (LACIS 440) builds your research, multimedia, and regional skills. Then you travel to Washington, D.C. to work with CSIS's award-winning **iDeas Lab**, resident scholars, and a network of practitioners — reporting a multimedia story on a region and issue you choose.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Third- and fourth-year students in good standing, all majors welcome
- Especially: LACIS, International Studies, Communication Arts, Journalism & Mass Communication
- Selected by application quality and committee interview

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Completed online application
2. Resume/CV (2 pages max)
3. Unofficial transcript
4. Letter of interest (1-2 pages)
5. Writing sample (3-5 pages)

RECENT STUDENT STORIES

- Democratic backsliding and civic space in Colombia
- Gender-based violence under female heads of state in Italy and Mexico
- Illegal gold mining's impact on Indigenous communities in Venezuela and Brazil

THE DETAILS

COURSE

LACIS 440 · 2 credits · Spring 2027

CLASS MEETS

Select Fridays, 9:30–11:00 AM CST

BOOTCAMP DATES

May 15–22, 2027 · Washington, D.C.
(work days: Mon, May 17 – Fri, May 21)

FUNDING

Flights, hotel & most meals covered

COHORT SIZE

10 UW-Madison students

APPLY ONLINE

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmwRKHnqMDQRKh8k4CjzpKY0PhxI1caY4NNeGfqGpfhcJbQ/viewform

Past participants describe it as one of the most rewarding experiences of their academic careers — direct, sustained access to working policy experts that a classroom can't replicate.

— Based on past CSIS Journalism Bootcamp participant feedback

ABOUT CSIS

CSIS is a nonprofit, bipartisan think tank based in Washington, D.C., focused on U.S. foreign policy and global security. Its iDeas Lab is the center's in-house multimedia production studio.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

5:00 PM · Friday, October 30, 2026

Questions? Contact Molly Donnellan,
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