

2026 Jeffrey L. Pressman Awards
Deadline for Submission: February 20, 2026
Submit application to Katherine Hoss, hoss@mit.edu

The Department of Political Science announces the Summer 2025 Jeffrey L. Pressman Awards for research, travel or internship in US government, politics, law or education. All members of MIT undergraduate classes 2027, 2028, and 2029 are eligible to apply.

Several stipends (maximum \$7000 each) will be awarded to MIT undergraduates for use during the summer to undertake a special project *or* internship in US government, politics, or policy. The project should focus on some legal, political, institutional, or policy issue.

Application guidelines for research or special project applicants:

Proposal (3-5 Pages)

1. Completed application form.
2. Describe your project.
 - a. Why are you interested in this topic?
 - b. What is your background in this area?
 - c. How do you propose to complete the research?
 - d. What will this project contribute to your education?
 - e. What will you contribute to the field by completing this research?
2. Include a preliminary budget
3. Letter of recommendation from 1 MIT faculty member (or UROP supervisor or senior administrator at MIT).
4. A current resume.
5. Unofficial transcript.

Application guidelines for internship applicants:

Proposal (3-5 Pages)

1. Completed application form.
2. In an essay of 750 words, please describe an issue or policy related to American policy, government, law, or education of interest to you (it is preferable but not required that your topic be related to the internship or research project you wish to pursue). What are the origins of this issue and who are the major stakeholders? What are the implications of various possible resolutions of the issue?
3. In a paragraph of 150 words, describe how an internship or research project funded by a Jeffrey L. Pressman Award would develop and advance your educational and/or career goals.

4. Letter of recommendation (1) from an MIT faculty member or similar.
5. Current resume.
6. Unofficial transcript.
7. Internship offer letter due to Katherine Hoss (hoss@mit.edu) by May 1 2026 to be eligible for funds

Recent Pressman Award winners

Summer 2024

Olivia Honeycutt
Internship at MIT Washington DC Office

Sam Packman
Internship at Transportation 4 America

Jayashabari Shankar
Internship at Utah Health Policy Project

Manuel Tsoukatos
Internship at Federal Office

Summer 2023

Jennifer Ai
Internship at Recidiviz Data Analysis

Lily Chen
Research Project: "Natural Language Processing for Political Polarization"

Paul Irvine
Internship at the Office of CA Governor Gavin Newsom

Liberty Ladd
Internship at the U.S. Department of Defense

Aiden Render-Katolic
Internship at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

Sam Salwan
Internship – Brookings Institution

Maanas Sharma
Research Project: "Algorithmic Redistricting and Gerrymandering in Texas' 2020 Congressional Districts"

Alec Sheres
Internship at the office of U.S. Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA, 52nd District)

Luka Srsic
Internship at the Department of Government Affairs, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Summer 2022

Umang Bansal
Research Project: U.S. unemployment insurance program in comparison with Germany and Canada

Ibrahim Suat Evren
Research Project in Market Design with Profs. Scott Kominers and Yannai Gonczarowski (Harvard)

Phillip Hood
Internship at Beto for Texas

Mallika Pajjuri
Research Project: "Civic Synergy – Depolarization Amongst Generation Z"

James Shaw
Internship at City of Boston, Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion

David Spicer
Internship at Louisiana Department of
Education

Summer 2021

Michelle Tang
Internship with Rep. Erika Uytendhoeven

Grace Song
Internship at MIT Washington DC
Office

Stephanie Zhang
Internship at Department of Education
and Senate HELP Committee

Summer 2020

David Spicer
Massachusetts Advocates for Children

Max Williamson
US Senator Chris Coons' Re-Election
Campaign, Delaware

Heidi Li
Research Project: "A Policy Outlook:
Energy Transition in Appalachia
Pennsylvania."

Natasha Stamler
Research Project: "Using Earth
Observation to Inform New York City
Resiliency Planning."

Prosser Cathey
Research Project: "Experimentally
Testing a Game Theoretic Model of
Social Dilemmas."

Kevin Downey
New York Office of the Securities and
Exchange Commission Quantitative
Analytics Unit