Since 2002, BYU has enjoyed a special arrangement with the Scottish National Party (SNP) that allows five to ten BYU students per year to complete unpaid internships at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. Given that most Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) employ only one or two staffers in their parliamentary office, interns work daily with both the MSP and his or her key aides. Specifically, interns are asked to research issues, draft speeches and reports, respond to correspondence, and help manage the office and interface with the public. On evenings and weekends, students explore Edinburgh and the surrounding regions, participate in the local ward or YSA group, and, time and funds permitting, take advantage of low-cost trains and flights to London, Paris, and other major European cities. Scottish Parliament interns consequently emerge with enhanced workplace skills, a heightened appreciation for Scottish and European culture, several credits toward a major or minor, and an unusually impressive résumé line for graduate school or future employment.

QUALIFICATIONS
The Scottish Parliament internship is open to BYU students from all majors. Only in rare cases will freshmen and sophomores or students with a GPA below 3.0 be considered. While applicants need not be political junkies, they should have a broad familiarity with recent trends in Scottish, British, and European politics and a strong understanding of the SNP’s role in the recent referendums on Scottish independence and Britain’s membership in the EU. Given this internship’s emphasis on research and writing, students from writing-intensive majors such as English, European studies, humanities, history, communications, political science, and international relations are generally an ideal fit.

DATES
Internships are approximately 13 weeks long and generally correspond with BYU’s academic calendar. Fall interns go from early September through early December and winter interns from early January through early April.

HOUSING
Housing is solely the responsibility of each intern. For housing leads, students should consult previous Scotland interns from BYU and websites specializing in short-term Edinburgh rentals.

COURSES
As full-time BYU students, Fall and Winter interns must take 12 credit hours. Most credits will come through IAS 399R or the
equivalent 399R internship class from the student’s major. Students may also take three credits of IAS 380R (a cultural survey class) or set up courses with individual professors to fulfill major requirements. Students receiving stipends from the College of Humanities must take HCOLL 396R (Internship Prep) during the second block of the semester prior to their internship.

COST
Approximately $7,000 (more for graduate and non-LDS students). Cost estimate includes full-time BYU undergraduate tuition ($2,650), airfare ($1,000–$1,500), and living expenses (roughly $1,000 per month or $3,000 for a three-month internship). In 2017, students’ tuition money will cover visa applications and processing, health insurance, academic supervision, and at least part of an educational excursion to London.

FUNDING SOURCES
Although these internships are unpaid, students can make them quite affordable by pursuing a range of on- and off-campus funding options. University, departmental, and private scholarships, as well as federal financial aid such as Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, etc., may be applied toward the program’s cost. Beyond this, students majoring in European studies, international relations, or a department housed in the College of Humanities can qualify for up to $2,000 in international internship funding. Students in other fields should inquire at their department or college offices about funding earmarked for undergraduate internships or experiential education. See also kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships and BYU’s ORCA grant program.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applying: Interested students should contact Hannah Pugh (hannahpugh31@gmail.com), the program facilitator and a former Scotland intern. Hannah will help prospective applicants determine if they are a good fit for the program and, if so, assist them with early drafts of their application letter and CV. At this initial stage all applicants should complete ISP’s online application at kennedy.byu.edu/apply, which requires a $35 fee.

Selection process: BYU can send no more than five interns per semester to Scotland and only selects students who are reliable, mature, and will represent the university well. If the faculty director, Professor Nick Mason, decides to nominate you for the internship, he will help you polish your letter and CV and then submit your materials to the SNP employee who supervises interns. The SNP will then review your materials and determine whether they have a position for you. Internships are only official once the SNP has issued a formal offer, and therefore students should not purchase plane tickets or arrange housing until they have final word from Scotland. Once an offer has been made, students should immediately begin working with Hannah Pugh on visa and passport applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Applicants for Winter 2017 should meet with Hannah Pugh by September 20, 2016 and plan to have a completed application ready by October 1, 2016. Prospective interns for Fall 2017 should meet with Hannah Pugh by March 15, 2017 and complete their applications by April 1, 2017. Those who learn about this internship program after the application deadline should still contact Hannah Pugh, as the Parliament will occasionally accept late applications from particularly strong candidates.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT
Prospective applicants should first contact Hannah Pugh (hannahpugh31@gmail.com)—the student facilitator for this program. After beginning the application process with Hannah, students will then work with Dr. Nick Mason (Professor of English and European Studies and the faculty director for this internship) and internship supervisors from their home department. This is an independent internship, and therefore no BYU faculty or staff member will be on site with students in Brussels.

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS
ISP reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost estimates due to conditions beyond its control.