

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

WHAT IS A FELLOWSHIP?

A fellowship can be best described as the financial grant made to a fellow in a college or university; a method of funding. There are many programs that include the term fellowship when describing the opportunities they have available. There are an increasing number of fellowships available to recent college graduates in public policy, the arts, education, and other nonprofit fields. While the term “fellowship” is used by a variety of different programs, generally fellowships can be:

- Short-term opportunities lasting from a few months to several years
- Focused on the professional development of the fellow
- Sponsored by a specific association or organization seeking to expand leadership in their field

Fellowship Programs Can Be Designed To Support A Range Of Activities Including:

- Graduate study in a specific field
- Research to advance work on a particular issue
- Developing a new community-based organization or initiative
- Training and reflection to support the fellow’s growth
- Opportunities to further explore a particular field of work
- Support for leadership in a particular region or within a particular group

Working As A Fellow

Fellowships are structured to provide significant work experiences. Fellows are often expected to take on a great deal of responsibility quickly. Generally, fellows are provided with unique experiences that are not typically available to someone starting out in an entry-level position. This experiential learning component varies depending upon the fellowship program. It could be:

- An apprenticeship with a senior level nonprofit professional
- A research project designed and implemented by the fellow
- A part-time or full-time internship in an organization chosen by the fellow
- Short-term field placements in various segments of the public affairs arena: nonprofits, labor, the media, the private sector, and government entities
- A team project developed by the group of current fellows
- An independent project proposed by a social entrepreneur and funded by the fellowship program

Training and Professional Development

Fellowship programs tend to be greatly committed to the professional development of individual fellows and often include intensive training within the parameters of the program. Key elements of this training might include:

- Academic seminars to develop frameworks and apply theory
- In-depth research and analysis of a particular issue area
- Attendance at professional conferences and meetings
- A broad array of skill development: leadership, community organizing, public speaking, grant writing, media relation

Mentoring

Fellowships are often designed to provide access to well-established nonprofit professionals who have a real interest in the fellow’s professional growth and development. Mentors are often prominent leaders in their field and are typically less accessible to people new to the field.

Compensation

Compensation is often considered the biggest drawback of a fellowship. Although most fellowship programs do provide a living allowance or stipend, it is typically not comparable to the salary of a full-time job. This financial compensation varies greatly - stipends can range from \$10,000 to up to \$25,000 for a 9-12 month program. Other incentives are often provided to fellows such as:

- Healthcare coverage and other employment benefits
- Student loan repayment programs
- Graduate school credits
- Housing stipends
- Paid travel or relocation expenses
- Alumni networks for developing and maintaining contacts in the field

The Application Process

The application process can be extensive; it often includes a resume, transcript and letters of recommendation making it similar to the process of applying to grad school. Most programs will also require some kind of writing sample, essay or written proposal. There may be additional application materials required if the fellowship includes a university nomination process. The application process and content vary greatly depending on the program. Some fellowships seek applicants with outstanding academic achievement, others do not. Some seek fellows with experience in the issue the program addresses, others less so. Most programs do look for:

- Motivation, self-direction and personal integrity
- Highly developed interpersonal and writing skills
- Demonstrated leadership and potential for continued leadership

In addition, most programs include an interview. The interview process may be a series of individual interviews or a single panel interview. Some include situational group interviews in which candidates work together to devise responses to a problem or question.

Tips for Finding Fellowships

There are many strategies to finding a fellowship including but not restricted to the links located at the end of this handout. You can also try to:

- Do a keyword search “fellowship” while reviewing online job listings. Look closely at internships for recent college graduates; there are some internships that are really fellowships masquerading under another title.
- Network. The nonprofit community is very collaborative and can provide good word-of-mouth information.
- Identify nonprofit organizations of interest to you. Contact them to see if they offer fellowships.
- Talk to current fellows for the inside story. They are expecting to hear from prospective fellows. Most fellowship websites profile current and former fellows. There may be alum from your campus who have been a recent fellow.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

This list is not inclusive of all opportunities. Students should expect to conduct further research and verify opportunities.

American Political Science Association (APSA)

<http://www.apsanet.org/diversityprograms> or

<http://www.apsanet.org/cfp>

The APSA Minority Fellows Program designates up to twelve stipend minority fellows each year. Additional applicants who do not receive funds from the Association may also be recognized and recommended for admission and financial support to graduate political science programs.

AmeriCorps

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps>

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

Associations of Schools & Programs of Public Health

<http://www.aspph.org/>

In an effort to train the future public health workforce, we are proud to provide students and graduates of ASPPH members with fellowship practice experiences globally, nationally and locally. Site also lists other training programs to students of public health.

El Pomar Foundation

<http://www.elpomar.org/fellowship/>

El Pomar's Fellowship program is built around the idea that outstanding organizations and communities don't just happen--they evolve when great potential meets great leadership. The focus of the Fellowship is on cultivating the next generation of leaders in the state of Colorado.

Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/ncer/guidance/faqs/faq_gro_undergrad.html

All interested applicants are encouraged to continue checking the EPA Fellowship website for program updates and opportunities, as well as explore education opportunities within the National Science Foundation Fellowship program at www.nsfgrfp.org.



Families USA

<http://www.familiesusa.org/about/careers>

The Villers Fellowship for Health Care Justice was created in 2005 by Philippe Villers, founder and president of Families USA, to inspire and develop the next generation of health care justice leaders. The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice is designed to foster the advancement of social justice through participation in health care advocacy work that focuses on the unique challenges facing many communities of color.

Green Corps

<http://www.greencorps.org/>

Find out more about Green Corps' one-year, full-time, paid Environmental Leadership Training Program which gives you the instruction and experience needed to launch an organizing and advocacy career.

Greenlining Institute

<http://greenlining.org/leadership-academy/programs/fellowship-program/>

The Fellowship Program is a year-long training program for young leaders who have completed, at minimum, their undergraduate degrees by the start of the program. Fellows are assigned to specific program areas and develop expertise with the direction of a Program Manager and the Academy Director.

Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship Program

<http://scoville.org/>

The Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship is a highly-competitive national fellowship program that provides recent college and grad school graduates with the opportunity to gain a Washington perspective on key issues of peace and security.

Idealist.org

<http://idealistcareers.org/>

Idealist.org provides a listing of fellowships in public service, nonprofit and public policy.

Indiana Governors Fellowship Program

<http://www.in.gov/gov/2565.htm>

The Governor's Fellowship provides a unique experience in Indiana State Government. The program is highly selective, recruiting talented young men and women from across the state who have been out of college for less than a year and who will serve in various State agencies on a rotating basis over the course of a year. Fellows, who are full-time and paid, participate in the daily activities of State Government, complete special projects, and experience firsthand how policies are made.

Junior Fellow Program with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows>

Each year the endowment offers approximately 10-12 one-year fellowships to uniquely qualified graduating seniors and individuals who have graduated during the past academic year. Carnegie junior fellows work as research assistants to the endowment's senior associates.

NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/work/urbanfellows.shtml>

The Urban Fellows Program is sponsored by The City of New York and administered by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). The program is designed to introduce America's finest college students and graduates to local government and public service.

Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Provides 28 different programs in education, community service, business advisory and development health programs; environmental and urban planning and more. Affairs.

The Public Policy and International Affairs' Resources Section

<http://www.ppiaprogram.org/ppia/what-we-dojunior-summer-institutes/>

On this website you can search and find many other Fellowship and Scholarship Programs.

Smithsonian Institution

<http://www.smithsonianofi.com/>

Provides a list of current fellowship opportunities at the Smithsonian, sorted by unit. This include centrally funded opportunities that place fellows throughout the Smithsonian and experiences within each of the Smithsonian's various museums, research centers, and other units.

Smithsonian Institution - National Air & Space Museum

<http://airandspace.si.edu/research/fellowships/verville.cfm>

The Verville Fellowship is a competitive nine- to twelve-month in-residence fellowship intended for the analysis of major trends, developments, and accomplishments in the history of aviation or space studies.

Teach for America

<http://www.teachforamerica.org/>

Places college graduates as teachers for two years of service in inner city or rural public schools. No formal teaching credential required.



White House Fellowship Program

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/fellows>

The program seeks outstanding individuals early in their careers, who have both excelled in what they do and demonstrated a strong commitment to their communities. The participants will serve one year (September to August) as full time paid assistants to senior White House staff.

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/pickering/>

This program provides academic and professional preparation for outstanding candidates to enter the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service, representing America's interests abroad. Pickering Fellows are undergraduate and graduate students in academic programs relevant to international affairs, political and economic analysis, administration, management, and science policy. Women, members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and students with financial need are encouraged to apply.

