



HARVARD
Alumni Association



Summer Community Service Fellowship

2016-2017

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Summer Community Service Fellowship Program?

Established in 1992, the Summer Community Service Fellowship (SCSF) program has become a crucial initiative in supporting the development of a new generation of graduates working for the public interest. The program, administered jointly by the [Harvard Alumni Association](#) and the [Center for Public Interest Careers](#), provides one of the largest sources of funding for summer public service for current Harvard College undergraduates.

2. Who is eligible to apply for a Summer Community Service Fellowship?

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and first-semester seniors planning to return to Harvard in the fall of 2017 are eligible. Graduating seniors can apply, but Clubs and SIGs may give nomination preference to returning undergrads. The student must also be in good academic and disciplinary standing. Familiarity with the host Club's community will be valuable, though actual residency in that community is not required in all cases.

Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to public service. In the administration of fellowships at Harvard, public service is defined as work that helps people meet their need for food, shelter, and health; improves educational and employment opportunities; educates people about their legal and/or civil rights; protects the environment or wildlife; and/or supports social issues affecting the general welfare. Work must be done for an organization that is nonprofit, nondenominational, and nonpartisan.

3. How can my Club or Shared Interest Group (SIG) participate?

Inform the Harvard Alumni Association of your commitment to participate in the Summer Community Service Fellowship (SCSF) program by submitting this [participation form](#). It is recommended that participating Clubs and SIGs raise approximately \$3,500-\$5,000 per fellowship, which is given to the student as a stipend to offset the income they would have earned, had they worked in a for-profit organization over the summer. We utilize a variety of print and electronic means to advertise the program to students. We also encourage additional outreach from individual Clubs/SIGs.

4. How is the hosting non-profit organization chosen?

We recommend that Clubs/SIGs allow students to design their own internships and, where necessary, aid students in locating non-profits with which to work. Typically, students identify internships of their choosing with support from the Center for Public Interest Careers. However, some Clubs/SIGs assist students in their selection of internships, while others select specific non-profits with which students

must work. Students must apply to both the non-profit organization for the specific position and to the local Club/SIG for funding.

5. How are fellowship award recipients selected?

Fellowship award recipients are selected by a committee representing Harvard University, the Harvard Alumni Association, the Center for Public Interest Careers, and participating Clubs and SIGs. Host Clubs and SIGs make recommendations to the award selection committee based on quality, clarity, and feasibility of student proposals as well as previous public service involvement. Preference may be given to those projects which most effectively address a demonstrated need in the hosting community.

The selection committee is mindful of potential conflicts of interest. In such situations, committee members who have a personal relationship with a potential fellowship recipient will recuse themselves from voting on the award recommendation, although they may present information on the fellowship recipient that would be relevant to the committee. It is recommended that participating Clubs/SIGs manage potential conflicts of interest similarly.

6. What responsibilities does my Club/SIG have during the summer?

One of the most exciting aspects of the SCSF program is that it offers current Harvard undergraduate students and Harvard alumni/ae the opportunity to connect. We strongly encourage each participating Club/SIG to identify alumni involved with the host organization (if applicable) to mentor and support the intern.

If this is not possible, we recommend each Club/SIG provides fellows with at least one contact person at the Club/SIG to serve as a mentor to provide guidance, encouragement, and support throughout his/her summer experience, as needed, and to include the student at Club/SIG activities.

In addition, students and Clubs/SIGs reporting the best experiences with this program have noted the importance of providing the opportunity for fellows to join Club/SIG events where alumni/ae and students get to know one another. Inviting fellows to attend Club/SIG meetings, dinners, and events is strongly encouraged. Finally, providing information about potential Club/SIG membership may also be of interest to fellows.

7. Whom do I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any questions about the SCSF Program, please do not hesitate to contact Monica Lesar with the Harvard Alumni Association Clubs and Shared Interest Groups at 617-496-2523 or monica_lesar@harvard.edu