

What is a Fellowship?

Generally, fellowships:

- Are short-term opportunities lasting from a few months to several years
- Focus on the professional development of the fellow candidate
- Are sponsored by a specific association or organization seeking to expand leadership in their field

Fellowship programs are 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 candidate's growth
- Opportunities to further explore a particular field of work

Note: Fellowships have been traditionally awarded to graduate and post-graduate students, but there are an increasing number of fellowships available to recent college graduates in public policy, the arts, education, and other nonprofit fields.

Benefits of a Fellowship

1. **Experiential Learning**

Fellowships are structured to provide significant work experiences, and 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.

2. **Training & Professional Development**

Fellowship programs are known for their commitment to the professional development of individual fellows and often include intensive training. 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
- A broad curriculum of skills development: leadership, community-organizing, public speaking, grant writing, media relation

3. **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 to 12-month program.

Finding a Fellowship

Need help finding a fellowship? Here are some tips to help you when looking for a fellowship!

1. Search fellowship sites. Check out our website for fellowships we have already found for you! Subscribe to the LSAMP newsletter to receive up-to-date fellowship findings.
2. Search job listings. Do a keyword search for “fellowship” while reviewing online job listings. You can also search for “internships” as some internships are essentially fellowships. Idealist.org is a particularly good website for this type of keyword search.
3. Network with your community. The nonprofit community is very collaborative and can provide good word-of-mouth information. Don’t forget to attend LSAMP networking events to get more information for opportunities on campus!
4. Identify organizations of interest to you. Contact them to see if they offer fellowships.
5. Talk to current fellows. Get 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 that have been recent fellows.