DPCS Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Internship

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Internships introduce students to the dynamic and new ways one of America’s most historic cities is responding to its evolving social needs. Philadelphia nonprofits are greatly influenced by the city’s motto of Brotherly Love, which is reflected in their mission to make the city more inclusive and livable for all. The Internships are generously supported by Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS.)

About the Program

* 10-week full-time summer internship
* Interns are provided summer living stipend that helps offset housing and technology costs
* Interns are matched with an alumni mentor through DPCS
* Regular professional development programming

Impact Focus

Philadelphia nonprofits are cutting edge and intersectional in their approach. Nonprofits working on poverty alleviation in the City of Brotherly Love have a wide-ranging and strategic impact. Whether they are serving those in need by providing free legal services while working to advocate for a more equitable system, or partnering with transnational food retailers to rescue tons of food from landfills while also providing meals for the hungry, or translating wildly successful youth development programs from South Africa to the North Philly context while fighting gentrification—you will not find a more vibrant and dedicated social sector.

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns can expect to be placed at a high functioning nonprofit that approaches poverty in dynamic and new ways in order to restore dignity to those experiencing poverty and its related effects.

Program Overview

During Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns’ 10-week internship experience they will work in nonprofits that combat the city’s pressing issues of poverty through challenging work that is distinctive to Philadelphia’s needs and culture.

Internship duties will be at least 60% social impact to an under resourced community. **Duties are at the discretion of the agency and students do not pick their agency**.

Students **will be placed** at high functioning nonprofit agencies with needs that match students’ skill sets. Students will be challenged in numerous ways, but supported by alumni mentors, Dartmouth staff, and each other.

Professional Development

Students will be challenged to enter the world of work with professionalism and learn the details of nonprofit decorum. They will meet weekly for cohort professional development sessions to reinforce these skills.

Alumni Mentorship

Each student is matched with a DPCS alumni mentor who helps guide them through this experience by providing support, professional development, and advice. DPCS mentors meet with students to talk through internships, give career advice, and more. Often times students remain in contact long after the summer is over. DPCS Internship Alumni cannot say enough good things about their mentors!

Program Requirements

**Language Requirement**

None, but Spanish speakers are encouraged to apply

**Personal Qualities**

Flexibility, An Open Mind, Humility, Curiosity, Empathy

**Availability**

Must be available for the entire duration of the program

Program Details

**City Profile:** Philadelphia is in the Delaware Valley region of Pennsylvania and one of America's most historic cities due its role in the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is also one of the most culturally distinct and neighborhood-centric urban areas in the country, with each neighborhood bringing a unique identity, close knit community, and set of complex social impact issues. Philadelphia residents are known for being honest, but extremely generous once you get to know them, hence the city nickname, "City of Brotherly Love."  Philadelphia is a "street by street" city, meaning neighborhood character shifts dramatically and quickly, but the overall city character is energetic and vibrant.

**DCSI support:** DCSI staff is always available in case of an emergency, but they are also available to help students in other instances such as problems with background checks, work duties, or in general instances of professional development and mentoring.

**Reflection opportunities:** Students will be required to read a book about structural poverty throughout their internship experience. Additionally, they will be required to produce a written reflection at the midterm point and a written or media-based reflection at the final point of the term. Upon return to campus, they will participate in an individual debrief meeting with a DCSI staff member. While they are interning, students will be encouraged to participate in the individual reflection method of their choice. Suggestions include: journaling, photography, etc.

**Potential partners:** Students can expect to be matched with organizations that tackle poverty from a variety of different angles in response to Philadelphia’s robust history and distinctive social climate. This can take the form of free legal assistance, food justice, providing affordable housing to those experiencing housing insecurity, and more. Poverty Alleviation Interns can expect to work with organizations that are intensely community driven and passionate about what they do.

**Remember:** Students may not request specific agencies or organizations. Accepted students **may not** switch once they have been matched.

**D-Plan Connection:** We welcome mindful applicants from all students with an upcoming summer off term who are interested in seeing innovative social impact work firsthand. Students from all majors and potential career paths are welcome to apply, but we feel students considering law school might be especially interested, along with students majoring in the social sciences such as geography, anthropology, psychology, and anthropology.

Consider a Social Impact Practicum, which are Dartmouth courses embedded with projects from nonprofits in the Upper Valley. These courses give a firsthand look into doing nonprofit work while still at Dartmouth and can show you if this internship is right for you.

For a list of current courses: https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/social-impact-practicums-sips

Continued Engagement

Looking for more ways to get involved with DSCI?

-**Social Impact Practicums (SIPS):** Dartmouth courses embedded with projects from Upper Valley nonprofits.

For a list of current and past courses: https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/social-impact-practicums-sips

-**’82 Upper Valley Community Impact Fellowship:** Up to $7500 grant covers one full-time leave term of immersion at a fellowship site in the Upper Valley to do social impact work and several terms of

part-time involvement.

For an application and more information: https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/internships/82-upper-valley-community-impact-fellowship

-**Youth Education and Mentoring Programs (YEM):** Connect with school age youth in the Upper Valley in a variety of ways and create holistic approaches to youth growth, development, and learning through America Reads, DREAM, Growing Change, OLE, SEAD, and SIBS.

For more information: https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/youth-education-mentoring-programs-yem