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.) Students will live and learn alongside Dartmouth peers in a cohort designed to provide support and community throughout the summer term.

About the Program

* 10-week full-time summer internship in Philadelphia, PA
* Interns are provided housing with peer interns
* Interns are provided summer living stipend to cover transportation and food
* Interns are matched with an alumni mentor through DPCS
* Weekly professional development programming

Impact Focus

Philadelphia nonprofits are cutting edge and intersectional in their approach. Nonprofits working on poverty alleviation have set up mail centers for those experiencing homelessness, mend clothing, provide free legal services, and give access to nutritious food.

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% direct service 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!

A True Cohort

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns live and learn together, creating a new community for the summer. They support each other when days are challenging and celebrate together when there are victories. They may enjoy cooking meals together or simply share the bounty when they make too much. Students in this cohort are actively engaged in the process of caring for one another on their own terms.

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. Summer is especially exciting due to many 4th of July celebrations, numerous block parties with vast varieties of delicious food, and the infectious culture of the Phillies. Weather is hot and humid; it can be in the low 90s with high humidity for the majority of the summer. As a result, many residents retreat to local jersey shore towns on weekends to go to the beach, which are only a short bus ride away.

**Housing and meals:** Interns are housed together in suites in an area of the city populated with many universities. They are expected to buy groceries and cook in their suites’ shared kitchens.

**Transportation:** Students are expected to take public transportation to and from their work sites each day. Average transportation time is about 45 minutes to an hour each way to work.

**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 a group reflection and an individual debrief meeting with a DCSI staff member. While they are in Philadelphia, they 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