

Exemption Process for Social Impact Experiences Research Fellowships and For-Profit Internships

University of Richmond Bonner Scholars Program

Overview

Bonner summer internships are an opportunity for our students to reach far beyond campus boundaries and experience the world, broaden their capacity to learn, and serve their community. Each Bonner Scholar is required to complete two summer internships at a nonprofit or government agency; however, students who are committed to working in the private sector or interested in conducting scientific research may request an exemption for one of these summer requirements if they commit to completing an opportunity with an explicit focus on positive social outcomes.

How do we define social impact?

While definitions vary, we define social impact as any public endeavor that seeks to address complex social problems rooted in social and economic injustice¹.

How do we vet a social impact internship or research fellowship?

Students seeking to participate in a social impact internship/fellowship need to complete an exemption proposal. The sponsoring organization must also provide your BSP advisor a description of the work being conducted. These steps need to be completed by April 1, and upon doing so, your materials will be reviewed by staff members at the University of Richmond and Bonner Foundation staff. A response either approving or denying the opportunity will be provided in seven to fourteen business days.

Examples

Curtis Consulting, Matt Holyst, Summer '18 (For-profit Internship)

Matt Holyst worked with a joint initiative formed by Curtis Process Consulting and Ukrop's Home Foods to address childhood hunger in greater Richmond. To do so, they partnered with local agencies (The Food Bank, The Salvation Army) to collaborate and understand community-identified goals.

Guidehouse, LLC, Eva Kemal, Summer '20 (For-profit Internship)

To better understand access to the U.S health care system, Eva Kemal interned with Guidehouse, LLC, a consulting firm that allowed her to focus on veterans and their barriers utilizing the Military Health System.

National Institutes of Health, Khanh Vu, Summer '21 (Research Fellowship)

Khan Vu worked with STEP-UP, a program is a federally funded program managed and supported by the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination (OMHRC) in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney (NIDDK) at the National Institutes of Health

¹ See [Frumkin](#) and [Moudgil](#)

(NIH). The overall goal of STEP-UP is to build and sustain a biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social science research pipeline focused on NIDDK's core mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases and nutrition; kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases.

UR SMART Program (Research Fellowship)

With support of a faculty mentor, students in UR's SMART program can create a research proposal that aligns with Bonner Scholars Program's understanding of social impact.

Requirements for Social Impact Experiences

1. Time Submission

A signed, 280-hour time log must be submitted at the completion of the internship/research fellowship.

2. Written Reflection

Each student will write a 1500 word essay² using relevant resources and literature. The essay should serve as a conversation piece with your organization supervisor and needs to be submitted at the conclusion of your fellowship³. Students may choose between existing prompts or submit their own with approval from their BSP advisor.

Prompts for research fellowships

What is the *Civic Science Imperative* and what are the implications for your respective field of research?

- Suggested resources: Christopherson, E.G., Scheufele, D.A., & Smith, B. (2018). The Civic Science Imperative. *Stanford Social Innovation Review* (Spring). <https://richmond.box.com/s/0l15dei9fvxe494x1s246vxahcvwethv>

Philanthropy has a complex history with social change initiatives. What has been the impact of philanthropy on scientific research?

- Suggested resources (available in the CCE library): Fleishman, J.L., Kohler, J.S., and Schindler S. (2007). *Casebook for the Foundation. A Great American Secret*. Perseus Book Group.

Prompts for for-profit internships

Briefly compare the “niche”, “integrated”, “emergent” and “eco-system” impact strategies described by Alnoor Ebrahim in his book, *Measuring Social Change*. Then, choose one and discuss the practical implications for your organization.

² 6 pages, APA format

³ In lieu of an essay, students may also submit a 10-minute video or podcast discussing the suggested articles. While not required, feel free to ask a supervisor or mentor if they would be willing to participate in your recorded reflection by conducting a joint-interview.

- Suggested resources (available in the CCE library): Ebrahim, A. (2019). *Measuring Social Change: Performance and Accountability in a Complex World*. Stanford University Press.

Briefly analyze the history behind the duality of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors in the U.S. In what ways might this structure benefit democracy? In what ways might it be detrimental?

- Suggested resources (available in the CCE library): Levy, J. (2016) *Altruism and the Origins of Nonprofit Philanthropy*. In R. Reich, C. Cordelli, and L. Bernholz (Eds.). *Philanthropy in Democratic Societies*. University of Chicago Press.

3. Joint evaluation

Students will be asked to submit a joint assessment of the overall experience with their supervisor at the conclusion of their internship/fellowship.

Credit

Bonner Scholars who receive an exemption for their Bonner summer internship to conduct a social impact research fellowship or for-profit internship, and complete the needed requirements listed above, will receive a credit towards one of their summer requirements.

Compensation

Students participating in scientific research may receive financial compensation from the Bonner program if they are working at a nonprofit organization⁴; however, students working at for-profit entities cannot. If needed, students working at for-profit organizations can apply for financial compensation through the University's Richmond Summer Fellowships (URSF) program.

⁴ Note: students conducting research at the University of Richmond are only eligible to receive their funding from University's Richmond Summer Fellowships (URSF) program.