The Topol Fellowships in Nonviolence Practice honors the work of peace advocate, philanthropist, and entrepreneur, Sidney Topol, through the establishment of a full tuition scholarship to the Master's Degree program in Coexistence and Conflict (COEX) at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. This fellowship does not cover airfare, fees, health insurance, or housing.

The Master’s Degree in Coexistence and Conflict at Brandeis University trains students to recognize, understand and begin to heal the ethnic, religious and cultural fault lines that endanger our world. Through an approach that is equal parts theoretical and practical, graduate students investigate the root causes of violent conflict and they uncover effective means to prevent conflicts and to promote peaceful coexistence. After a full year in residence at the Heller School, students take their knowledge into the field, working with a conflict prevention organization. They graduate with a firm grasp of the delicate role that peace professionals play in bringing antagonistic parties together and the leadership expertise to help communities build shared societies.

Criteria

• Applicants for the Topol Fellowships in Nonviolence Practice must prove that their community benefitted from their personal commitment to nonviolent principles through prior volunteer or work projects.

• Applicants must also commit to return to their community within the next two years to establish projects in nonviolence.

• During their year in residence the Topol Fellows will be responsible for planning and coordinating the Sidney Topol Lecture in Nonviolence which will bring to campus a leader in the field.

• Following their academic year in residence, Topol Fellows will secure required practicum placements in organizations that use nonviolence methods to achieve sustainable peace, or in organizations committed to developing such methods.

• Recipients of the Topol Fellowships in Nonviolence Practice will be required to produce a report detailing their experiences at Heller and in the field, and to share their expectations for furthering a career focused on the use of nonviolent methods in conflict ridden areas.

Application Process

In addition to submitting a complete application to the Coexistence and Conflict program, fellowship applicants must submit the following materials:

• A personal essay which outlines their prior work in nonviolence, and their proposed work, and how completing the MA in Coexistence and Conflict will help them be successful in these endeavors.

• An interview either by phone or in person may be required.

Application deadlines

• March 1, 2015