



the Sillerman Center

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

2021 Summer Fellowship Program: Application Information

Application Deadline: February 12, 2021

Background:

- **Sillerman summer philanthropy fellowships¹** enable eligible Heller School Master's students, including those receiving dual-degrees, and PhD students completing their first or second year, to work at foundations, philanthropic organizations, [funder affinity groups](#) or funder networks anywhere in the U.S.
- **Eligibility:** Master's degree and PhD students must have completed at least one full academic year by the summer and must still be a student at the time of the internship (in other words, applicants must not be graduating any sooner than December 2021).
- **Up to 4 fellowships will be awarded.** Typical placements include private, community and corporate foundations whose work has a social justice focus.
- **Fellowships are designed to be full-time**, though there is some flexibility as long as students complete 300 hours of service throughout the summer.
- If you are selected as a Sillerman Fellow, we will work with you to find an appropriate placement.

Compensation:

Each fellow will be compensated \$6500, which may be considered taxable income. Fellows are selected on a competitive basis by a Heller review committee of faculty and staff.

Program Requirements:

- Fellows must work for a minimum of 300 hours anytime between May and August. The work schedule will be negotiated directly with the placement site upon selection.
- Recipients must attend a pre-fellowship meeting and submit a reflection paper upon completion of the fellowship.
- You are required to interview, virtually or in-person, with potential fellowship sites. Potential sites will also receive a copy of the fellow's application materials. Each site is required to fill out a Site Agreement Form that includes a work plan for the Fellow.

Apply Now for a 2021 Sillerman Summer Fellowship:

To apply, email the following materials to sseller@brandeis.edu by February 12, 2021: **1)** Completed Application Form **2)** Short-answer questions, **3)** Transcript (unofficial is acceptable) **4)** Current Resume **5)** One outside letter or recommendation. It is **STRONGLY PREFERRED** that this letter be written by a professional with whom you've worked, though a recommendation from a faculty member will be accepted.

¹ We anticipate that fellowships will be completed in-person during Summer 2021. However, in-person fellowships will only be completed, as opposed to virtual fellowships, if it is deemed safe and students are comfortable doing so.

2021 Sillerman Summer Fellowship Application

Name: _____

Address _____

Email address _____ Cell phone number _____

Master's Program/s _____ Year of Graduation: _____ Concentration _____

PhD current status (year, completed proposal, concentration, etc.): _____

Preferred Internship Subject Area of Interest (i.e.: K-12 education, food justice) _____

Preferred Internship Geographic Location (assuming in-person internships will be safe for summer 2021, please provide 2-3 options): _____

Recommender's name/title: _____

Are there any special circumstances that you feel the committee should consider when reviewing your application? _____

Optional: Tell us how you self-identify in terms of racial/cultural background, gender, nationality or any other way that you feel is important for us to know: _____

Optional: Preferred gender pronouns (for example, she/her/hers): _____

Application Questions

Please complete the following short-answer questions. Word ranges are approximate as long as you fully answer each question. Please restate the questions with your answers:

- 1) **Describe** in your own words, the meaning of the term: "social justice philanthropy." (300- 350 words)
- 2) **Why are you interested** in a fellowship related to social justice philanthropy? (250-300 words max)
- 3) **Tell us** about one social problem, issue or challenge that concerns you. What questions do you have about this social problem, issue or challenge? Why is philanthropy a useful context in which to explore this challenge? (300-500 words)
- 4) **Expectations:** What would an 'ideal' internship placement be for you? Consider factors such as workplace environment and working remotely, a specific organization or foundation you are interested in, or skills you'd like to gain through this fellowship. (100-200 words)

- **Questions? Please contact Sheryl Seller** at the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, —781-736-3772, sseller@brandeis.edu, Room 342 Heller/Brown, MS 035

Application Checklist

- (1) **Application Page**
- (2) **Short-Answer Questions**
- (3) **Transcript** (unofficial is acceptable)
- (4) **Current Résumé**
- (5) **Recommendation** from an outside professional is strongly preferred, though a recommendation from a faculty member will be accepted (in sealed envelope or via email to sseller@brandeis.edu) Please see Recommender Form on page 4.

Selection Process:

Sillerman Fellows will be selected based on personal and academic characteristics and their demonstrated interest in the philanthropy field. This includes past work experience in philanthropy or in related fields, in addition to an expressed desire to combine skills in this area with your desired future career. A committee of faculty and staff will review applications. Finalists will be notified within a month of the application deadline or sooner. Specific criteria include:

- Demonstration of interest in the field of philanthropy (essay).
- Commitment to exploring the field of philanthropy through a social justice lens and in exploring philanthropy's influence on public policy, sustainable development or other systems (essay, resume, recommendation).
- Strong interpersonal communication skills (interview², recommendation)
- Demonstrated ability to write concisely and clearly for non-academic audiences (essay)

During the fellowship:

- Recipients will have one mid-point check-in with a member of the Sillerman Center staff to discuss progress towards personal and career goals and to evaluate the experience up until that point.
- Sillerman staff will have one mid-internship meeting with the fellow's supervisor.

After the fellowship:

- Recipients must write and submit a reflection paper (1-2 pages) due by September 20, 2021.
- Recipients will be expected to become active members of the Sillerman Center by sharing their experiences with other students, and by participating in events and activities as appropriate.

Application materials are due NO LATER than FEBRUARY 12, 2021 via email attachment to:

- Sheryl Seller, Sillerman Center
 - Email: sseller@brandeis.edu
 - MS 035; Room 342 Heller/Brown Building

The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy *draws upon scholarship and practitioner experience to inform and advance social justice grant making. One of the Center's goals is to support emerging leaders in the social justice philanthropy field. Fellowships provide first-hand experience about how philanthropies operate and perform their grant making duties and provide a closer look at the ability of philanthropy to influence policy and leverage resources to create social change for populations.*

² We will conduct in-person interviews with those students who have access to the Brandeis campus, as opposed to conducting virtual interviews, if it is deemed safe to do so.

**The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy
At Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management**

2021 Summer Fellowship Recommender Form

Applicant: Please give a copy of this page to your outside recommender and/or faculty member.

Background

- The Sillerman Center sponsors summer fellowships for select Heller graduate students for work in private, corporate and community foundations or philanthropic advisory services. This experience on the “donor side” of philanthropy has been valuable for those whose careers may take them to the non-profit sector; it is helpful to gain a grantmaker’s perspective and better understand the power of philanthropy to make a difference.

Faculty and Outside Recommender’s Instructions

- In your recommendation, please indicate how you know the applicant, for how long, and provide an evaluation of his/her work and/or academic work and potential. We are looking for students who are committed to gaining experience in social justice philanthropy; particularly students who can prioritize effectively, have skills valuable to organizations, can follow through with commitments, and who would be excellent ambassadors for Brandeis University, the Heller School and the Sillerman Center.
- Both concrete examples and general impressions/evaluations are useful to the selection committee. Please comment on the applicant’s ability to flourish in a self-directed, professional work environment.
- There is no word limit for your reference letter, though most recommenders will find 350-750 words sufficient. Please use 11- or 12-point font.
- Your recommendation should be submitted directly to Sheryl Seller via email at sseller@brandeis.edu.
- **The deadline for completed applications is February 12, 2021.**
- **Thank you for your assistance!**