Brandeis University, Department of Community Service

Rich/Collins Community Leadership and Impact Fellowship

Informational Overview
History of the Program

• Two-year old program

• Alumni Mariah Rich (Class of 2010) and James Collins (Class of 2009) generously donated to make this program possible.
  • Mariah was active in Waltham Group & Kids Club; created Stanley Elementary community garden and Brandeis farmer’s market.
  • James was baseball team captain; sustainability initiative intern.
  • Both are now involved in the social sector/community impact fields.
  • They wanted to create an avenue for Brandeis students to make their big ideas for community impact a reality.

• Modeled after similar program at Rice University, created by Mariah’s grandparents.

• 4-Year Pilot Program with potential for expansion.
Program Overview

1. **Innovative Opportunity:**
   - Fellows receive between $500-$4,000 for a community impact project.
   - This program is NOT an alternative source for supplemental club funding.
   - Nothing else like this quite exists at Brandeis (no Club or internship required).

2. **Community Impact:**
   - Projects must address an unmet community need in the local community.
   - Must be within a 30 mile radius of Waltham. Preference given to projects in Waltham.
   - Projects must be completed by the end of Spring term but also be something that is sustainable or can be used after the project is complete.

3. **Student Leadership**
   - The Fellowship is a cohort-based leadership experience.
   - The handful of Fellows will work on projects independently but use the cohort to support each other, train together and brainstorm ideas.
   - Regular Fellows trainings will be provided (grant-writing, budgeting, community asset mapping, presentation/resume support)
   - Fellows will be overseen by a staff member, Samantha de Melim
Eligibility:
The following things are required to apply:

- Students must be a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior at Brandeis.

- International students are eligible and encouraged to apply.

- GPA must be 3.0 or higher at time of application.

- If seeking additional funding, outside funding must be secured by time of application.
  - Anyone listing ‘pending outside funding’ in their budget proposal will not be seriously considered by the committee.

- Must be on campus in the Spring semester to:
  - Implement the project
  - Participate in cohort trainings
  - Present at the end of year symposium.

- Students currently abroad this Fall may apply but those who will be studying abroad in the Spring may not.
To apply, students should first:
- Attend a Information Session and/or meet with Community Service staff.
- Work with the Hiatt Center to update your resume
- Attend a workshop for application and budget support (October 30 - 12:00pm - 5:00pm)
- Meet with community partners you would be interested in partnering with.
- Find a staff/faculty to serve as a mentor for you in this project (encouraged; not required).
- Check out the Project Action Form and Project Checklist on the website as tools to help you think through your application.

By November 4th at Midnight, Students Must Turn In
- R/C CLIF Application (w/essays and optional staff mentor info).
- Resume and/or Unofficial transcript from SAGE
- Letter of Community Support from your Community Partner
- Budget Proposal for Project
- Financial Support Request Form (Optional)

*All of these forms are available electronically on our website.*
Examples of Community Projects

- Examples from Last Year & Rice University
- Public health documentary and panel
- Healthcare podcast on nutrition
- Music program for African youth
- Waltham community resource fair
- Animal shelter awareness/volunteer days
- Study of healthcare discrepancies for homeless
- Memory Books for local assisted living facility
- Community Garden with local school system
Why should I apply for R/C CLIF Fellows?

Why This Fellowship?
- Individual funding to let you pursue your big ideas!
- Cohort and staff support, including trainings and regular check-ins
- You want to be a part of the prestigious class of R/C CLIF Fellows! Major resume booster!
- You want to leave a major community impact initiative that is something bigger than yourself!

Why You?
- You have a passion and proven commitment to your local community.
- You have an idea to address an unmet or underserved need in the greater Waltham community.
- You have the passion and commitment to join an elite cohort of student leaders who will receive ongoing leadership development and support.
- You want to leave a legacy behind at Brandeis like Mariah and James!

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Frequently Asked Questions

What if I am interested but don’t have an idea yet?

• No worries! We have community partners also sending us ideas that you could help them implement! Set up a meeting with DCS staff to talk about your passions and potential partners.

What if I don’t get this my first year applying?

• No worries! You can re-apply the next year. Fellows may also re-apply with a maximum of 2 years of funding if they were selected last year.

What if a team of us want to apply together?

• You may apply in teams of 2 with special permission from DCS. If selected, both would be required to meet “Fellows” requirements. All Fellows are encouraged to have a team of volunteers though to help them implement their idea once selected.

Can more than one project proposal idea be submitted for the same community partner?

• Yes, but if the projects are similar, both may not be selected.
Further Questions? Fantastic!

• Email us at RCCliff@brandeis.edu to ask questions or schedule a meeting with our staff
• Call the Department of Community Service at 781-736-3237
• Come by and visit with Samantha de Melim (sdemelim@brandeis.edu), DCS staff member overseeing this initiative.
• Hang around afterwards and feel free to ask more questions 1-on-1!