

2024 Summer Fellowship Program:

Application Information

Application Deadline: February 16, 2024

Background:

- **Sillerman summer philanthropy fellowships**¹ 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](#) and [philanthropy serving organizations](#)² anywhere in the U.S.³. Although this fellowship supports placements anywhere in the U.S., The Sillerman Center has the closest/strongest relationships with foundations and other philanthropic organizations in the Northeast. We strongly encourage you to check out the above links before completing the fellowship application.
- **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 2024).
- **Up to 3 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 a total of \$7000, which may be considered taxable income. Fellows are selected on a competitive basis by a review committee of both Heller and non-Heller constituents.

Program Requirements:

- Fellows must complete 300 hours of work anytime between May and the end of August, unless otherwise discussed. 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.
- Fellows 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.

How to Apply for a 2024 Sillerman Summer Fellowship:

To apply, email the following materials to sseller@brandeis.edu by February 16, 2024: **1)** Completed Application Form **2)** Short-answer questions, **3)** Heller Transcript (unofficial is acceptable) **4)** Current Resume **5)** One outside letter of recommendation. It is strongly preferred that this letter be written by a professional with whom you've worked and can speak to your skills and strengths, though a recommendation from a faculty member who knows you similarly well will be accepted.

¹ We anticipate that fellowships will be completed in-person or in a hybrid manner during Summer 2024. However, in-person fellowships will only be completed, as opposed to virtual fellowships, if it is deemed safe and all parties are comfortable doing so.

² Candid and Council on Foundations provide definitions and information about philanthropic organizations

³ Using your Brandeis UNET ID, search the Foundation Directory Online by geographic location or focus area to define your interests.

2024 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 (please provide 2-3 options): _____

Recommender's name/title: _____

Are there any special circumstances or concerns (i.e. transportation, ability to work in-person vs. remote) that you feel the committee should consider when reviewing your application?

The following questions are completely optional and for internal use only:

Please share the terms you use to describe your gender identity: _____

Please share the terms you use to describe your racial and/or ethnic identity: _____

Do you consider yourself a member of the LGBTQ+ community? _____

Have you been diagnosed with a disability or impairment? _____

Short-Answer 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 your understanding of “social justice philanthropy.”** How might philanthropy be a vehicle to move towards social justice? Why is social justice philanthropy a useful context in which to explore a social problem or challenge that concerns you? (350-500 words max)
 - 2) **Why are you interested** in a fellowship related to social justice philanthropy? (150-300 words max)
 - 3) **Expectations:** Is there a specific type of philanthropic institution or organization that interests you or stands out to you (e.g. different types of foundations or different foundation sizes)? What would you like to achieve during your fellowship and what skills would you like to gain? Refer to the first page of this application for information on various philanthropic institutions and refer to our “[Past Fellows](#)” page to better understand past fellows experiences and skills gained. (200-300 words max)
- **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 Heller committee 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 (short answer questions)
- 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 (short answer questions, resume, recommendation)
- Strong interpersonal communication skills (interview⁴, recommendation)
- Demonstrated ability to write concisely and clearly for non-academic audiences (short answer questions)

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 16, 2024.
- 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 16, 2024 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.

⁴ We plan to conduct virtual interviews in order to ensure proper safety measures and provide all fellowship application reviewers with the opportunity to review recorded virtual interviews.

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

2024 Summer Fellowship Recommender Form

Applicant: Please share a copy of this page to your recommender.

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 nonprofit 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 their 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.
- **The recommendation should be submitted by the recommender directly to Sheryl Seller via email at sseller@brandeis.edu.**
- **The deadline for completed applications is February 16, 2024.**
- **Thank you for your assistance!**