



CALL FOR SERVICE LEARNING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE POSTPONED: In light of the uncertainties brought by COVID-19, we have decided to postpone the deadline for service learning fellowship applications. We still plan to offer fellowships for 2020 and will announce a new deadline in late April.

In the interim, please contact Justine Ross (justine.ross@ucr.edu) if you are interested in applying. If you have a completed application you would like to submit, please follow the submission instructions below.

The Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty is pleased to announce the call for the *Blum Initiative Service Learning Fellowship* (BISLF). The BISLF is a funding opportunity for currently enrolled UCR undergraduate and graduate students who would like to pursue a domestic or international immersive volunteer or internship position. BISLF recipients will identify and partner with a non-profit, government agency, or other poverty-related service provider and receive a fellowship stipend of up to \$3,200 to subsidize the cost of living during the fellowship. As well, fellows serving outside of Southern California may also be awarded a travel stipend, commensurate with market rates, to cover the cost of their travel to/from the fellowship location.

BISLF affords students the unique opportunity to learn about poverty while serving a community or population in-need. The Blum Initiative aims to encourage the study of poverty throughout the world, across the U.S., and especially within the Inland Empire and Southern California. By poverty, the Blum Initiative is interested in relative and material deprivation, economic insecurity, and a host of related inequalities and disparities.

There is no pre-approved list of groups with which the student can volunteer, but those organizations that provide assistance, health, water and sanitation, housing, and/or educational services to underserved and impoverished communities are plausible examples. The organization's activities should be consistent with the mission of the *Blum Initiative*.

If an applicant is interested in service learning and would like assistance finding an appropriate organization, please contact Justine Ross (justine.ross@ucr.edu). In addition to providing feedback on partner organizations you have found, the Blum Initiative has a network of potential partners and can connect you with some possibilities.



For general questions regarding the fellowship or application requirements, please contact the Blum Initiative at blum@ucr.edu.

Funding & Use of Funds

Each BISLF will include a stipend of up to \$3,200.00 for living expenses. Students who serve outside of Southern California and require a roundtrip flight to/from their service learning destination will receive a

travel stipend commensurate with market rates¹. The exact number of BISLF's awarded will be contingent on the quantity and quality of the applications, but it is anticipated at least three fellowships will be awarded

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Applications are invited from all UC Riverside undergraduate or graduate students, who have a) completed at least one quarter of coursework at UCR prior to the application deadline, b) are currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program, c) are in good academic standing, and d) will not have graduated prior to August 31, 2020.

Applicants will only be considered:

- If the service-learning experience will be completed before the beginning of Fall quarter, 2020
- If the service-learning experience involves a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer work over at least 4 consecutive weeks (though higher hours/periods are encouraged and viewed favorably by reviewers)
- If the student has made contact with an organization and can provide written documentation verifying s/he will be able to volunteer with the organization
- If the experience requires certain credentials (e.g. emergency medical technician licensing), proof of such credentials must be included as part of the application
- If the application is fully completed and all supplemental forms are submitted via email by the deadline

¹ Fellowships are deemed taxable income pursuant to Section 117(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and may impact recipients' financial aid status if the award is used during the academic year. It is incumbent on the recipient to understand the tax and aid implications of the award prior to accepting the fellowship. If you have questions regarding your financial aid status, please contact UCR's Financial Aid Office.



Deadline & Submission

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, beginning on March 6th, 2020. The final deadline for submission is April 3rd, 2020.

To guarantee your proposal is considered, we recommend you submit all application materials by March 6th, 2020 at 5pm, though we will receive applications through April 3rd, 2020 at 5pm. All materials must be submitted electronically to the Blum Initiative at blum@ucr.edu with the applicant's last name, department, and "BISLF" in the subject line.

REVIEW

The Blum Initiative's will assess applications by considering the extent to which the proposal aligns with the objectives of the Blum Initiative, is of service to an in-need community, and meaningfully contributes to the student's education and understanding of poverty and inequality. Decisions should be made promptly and applicants will be notified via email.

APPLICATION

Please make sure you complete the following steps prior to submitting your application. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

1. Identify a poverty-related organization that is accepting volunteers or interns. Keep in mind, the organization you work with must relate, in some way, to the mission of the Blum Initiative.
2. Contact the organization and receive written permission to volunteer/intern under their guidance. You must submit a copy of this permission (e.g. an email, letter, etc.) with your application. This letter must include; a) the organization's permission for you to volunteer/intern with the organization, b) a brief description of the type of work you will undertake, and c) an estimate of how many hours and weeks you will partner with the organization.
3. Compile an application that includes the following materials:
 1. A cover sheet with your name, contact information, status at UCR (date of enrollment, expected completion date, program/major/school)
 2. A personal statement (maximum one-page, single-spaced) explaining why you want to work with your partner organization, how the service learning fellowship contributes to your educational and/or career goals, and how the organization's work specifically relates to poverty.
 3. An unofficial copy of your academic transcript from UCR.
 4. A resume detailing any relevant experience, education or activities



5. A budget that projects how the living stipend (up to \$3,200) stipend will be used. If traveling outside of Southern California, please also include a budget for your travel.
6. A written copy of permission (e.g. an email, letter, etc.) from the organization you will be working with.

All application materials (listed in point 3) must be submitted via email to the Blum Initiative at blum@ucr.edu. To guarantee your application will be considered, you must submit by March 6th, 2020 at 5pm; however, you may submit your application any time prior to April 3rd, 2020.

The subject line of your email and all attached documents should read: last-name_department_BISLF.

Details & Requirements for Recipients

- The recipient must submit a brief essay on the project after completion (e.g. motivation, accomplishments, findings/conclusions, etc.) and may be asked to participate in a brief “exit interview”. This essay, any accompanying photos, and any footage from the exit interview may be included on the Blum Initiative’s webpage.
- The Blum Initiative reserves the right to contact the host organization at any time during the service learning fellowship to confirm the recipient’s participation.
- Major changes to the service-learning proposal must be submitted in writing to Justine Ross (Associate Director, Blum Initiative) and require prior authorization.
- If the fellow does not complete the immersive learning experience detailed in their proposal, they are required to return all funds dispersed via the stipends to the Blum Initiative by September 30, 2020.
- All publications or presentations that result from the grant must acknowledge funding from the Blum Initiative.
- The Blum Initiative will administer funds in a manner consistent with University requirements. To this end, the above parameters are not exhaustive. Please contact Justine Ross (justine.ross@ucr.edu) if you have further questions.