



CARE-UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
DECEMBER 10, 2019

The **CARE-University of California Innovation Fellowship Program** is a UC graduate student research and training opportunity with [CARE USA](#). The fellowship is a six-month commitment from April to September 2020, during which time the fellow will be working on a project with professional staff at CARE in one of four priority areas: migration and the U S/Mexico border; reimagining the INGO; addressing poverty and social injustice in the U.S.; or a student proposed project that aligns with CARE’s strategy. The fellowship begins with a 2.5-day orientation in April 2020, requires a full-time commitment during the summer months, and includes a two- to four-week in-country placement between June 22-August 14, 2020 (specific dates and locations vary by project). Fellows receive a \$9,000 stipend plus travel and accommodation for the in-country experience.

The Fellowship is open to UC graduate students in good academic standing from any discipline or degree program. It offers a unique opportunity to align practical experience with their academic interests and conduct applied research in collaboration with CARE staff in the countries where it operates.

Fellowship Overview and Priorities

The CARE-UC Innovation Fellowship is a research and training opportunity established by [CARE USA’s Innovation Team](#) and the University of California, in collaboration with the [UC Blum Center Network](#). The Fellowship is intended to strengthen the workforce pipeline of expertly-trained individuals whose training and expertise can alleviate poverty and improve human conditions in California, regionally and internationally. University of California graduate students will obtain tailored training and experience through a partnership with CARE, whose humanitarian mission and global footprint provide opportunities to explore applications of research and innovation in real-world settings.

This is an exciting opportunity to help advance the pace and scale of impact that CARE seeks to create in the world. The Fellowship is designed to address capacity and knowledge gaps necessary to advance key innovation and programmatic priorities at CARE and engage the Fellows in advancing real-world solutions to poverty alleviation. The alignment with CARE’s organizational goals ensures the Fellowship provides a meaningful, engaging, and enriching professional development experience for Fellows and an opportunity to advance their graduate work. The Fellowship comes with high expectations regarding performance and professionalism.

The Fellowship is open to UC graduate students in good academic standing from any discipline or degree program at any UC campus. Applications undergo a competitive review process and Fellows are selected based on merit and alignment with CARE and UC program priorities outlined in this RFP. The Fellow is expected to take part in orientation and planning activities during the spring, and commit full-time during the summer months. The fellowship will culminate in a fall “showcase” event in September. Please review the expected activities, outputs, and requirements for the Fellowship in developing your proposal. Students are encouraged to discuss the benefits of this opportunity with their faculty or program advisor, and are responsible for conferring with their campus graduate fellowship office to address any potential conflicts with existing funding.

Key Dates

Final RFP release:	Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Applicant info-sessions:	Monday, December 16 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time Thursday, December 19 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time Friday, January 10 at 10:00am Pacific Time
pC application system opens:	Monday, January 6, 2020
Proposals due:	Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time*
Interviews with Finalists:	March 16-20, 2020 one-hour video interviews with finalists
Notification of review outcome:	Tuesday, March 31, 2020 (expected)

Graduate Fellowship start date:	Wednesday, April 22, 2020
Orientation / Kick-off Event:	Required 2.5-day meeting, April 24-26, 2020, Location TBD
Summer In-Country Experience	TBD: Two to four weeks between June 22-August 14, 2020
Showcase presentation and wrap-up	September 2020 (TBD) at a UC campus

Please see our [website](#) for program info-session and program info-session registration links.

*Campus approvals are required for submission, as described below. Please plan accordingly.

Thematic Priorities, Expected Outputs, and Scope of the Fellowship:

Applicants must commit to devoting effort weekly between the fellowship start date in April and June to project scoping and preparation through individual research and virtual meetings with CARE staff, prior to the in-country experience, and must commit full-time to the Fellowship during the summer months. The in-country experience will take place between late June and mid-August.

Applicants will propose their own research topics and solutions, aligned with both their graduate studies and one of the four thematic areas identified as priorities for the 2020 inaugural fellowship (see below). Specific project and training activities will be designed collaboratively with CARE, and tailored to the research topic and location. Therefore, there may be a range of potential outputs. A few examples provided for illustrative purposes include:

1. Research paper to inform the evolution of current and future CARE programming
2. Prototypes and experimental results of testing new solutions aligned with CARE program strategy
3. Knowledge products (articles, toolkits, videos, podcasts, etc.) to help disseminate solutions and impact stories

Thematic Priorities

The three thematic areas below map well onto research priorities for the CARE Innovation Team's portfolio and programmatic needs across the CARE network. Students may also propose their own research topics as long as they align with the CARE strategy, as described below.

1. Migration and the US/Mexico Border

Global crisis due to climate change, conflict and economic inequalities are leading to widespread migration. This is materializing at the US/Mexico border with different vulnerable groups looking for support and stability. Within the last year, CARE has been mobilizing resources to influence how humanitarian efforts incorporate gender into their analysis of how best to support migrants. Help CARE investigate further ways to address the challenges faced by migrants at the US/Mexico border.

Illustrative research questions:

- a. *What are programmatic and technological solutions that might aid migrants to increase their safety, improve access to resources, and support decision making along their journeys?*
- b. *How can CARE leverage its global experience in supporting migrants to inform immigration policy the United States?*

2. Reimagining the International Non-governmental Organization (INGO)

The international development and humanitarian aid sector is changing rapidly. The model CARE has operated under over the past 75 years too must change. Help reimagine how CARE can deliver its mission across the Latin America and Caribbean region using new operating, service, and business models, serving the needs of local civil society organizations and movements.

Illustrative research questions:

- a. *How might we leverage resources from diaspora communities to contribute to localized development efforts?*
- b. *How might CARE become a catalyst for advancing social movements, serving the needs of local civil society organizations, activists, and collectives?*

3. Bringing CARE's Work Home

As of 2017, there were approximately 45.6 million people at risk of living in poverty in the US related to numerous injustices. CARE has 75 years of global experience fighting for social justice in over 100 countries around the world. Help CARE bring its work to the US, building on its experience, learnings, and thematic expertise, recommending strategies that will position CARE to play a powerful role in advancing social justice and poverty eradication domestically.

Illustrative research questions:

- a. *In a crowded US market for non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, what role can CARE play in complementing and supporting existing structures in a way that leverages its global reach?*
- b. *What learnings can CARE bring from its programmatic work abroad to inform US domestic strategies for tackling similar issues, such as maternal health, financial inclusion, and gender justice*

4. Student Topics - Aligning with CARE Strategy

CARE tackles the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice in order to deliver lasting change in the lives of poor and vulnerable people. We believe that at its root, poverty is caused by unequal power relations that result in inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities between women and men, between power-holders and marginalized communities and between countries. Poverty cannot be overcome without addressing these underlying power imbalances.

Students can submit their own research questions that thematically align with our 2020 goal to support 150 million people from the most vulnerable and excluded communities to overcome poverty and social injustice, including:

- 20 million people affected by humanitarian crises receive quality, life-saving humanitarian assistance.
- 100 million women and girls exercise their rights to sexual, reproductive and maternal health and a life free from violence.
- 50 million poor and vulnerable people increase their food and nutrition security and climate change resilience.
- 30 million women have greater access to and control over economic resources and experience for their own empowerment.

Overview of Application and Review Process

We strongly encourage all applicants to begin the application preparation and online submission process early to accommodate any potential delays due to technical issues.

Applicant Information Sessions: Three informational applicant teleconferences will be held on 1) Monday, December 16 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time, 2) Thursday, December 19 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time, and 3) Friday, January 10, 2020 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time. Please check our [website](#) for details and call-in information. Participation in one of the information sessions is strongly recommended.

Proposal Submission: Proposals must be submitted through [proposalCENTRAL](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to follow the rules, procedures, and timelines for submitting a proposal. The proposal submission deadline will be strictly enforced. **Note:** The proposalCENTRAL website is expected to be live by December 20. Application templates are available on our [website](#) for reference. *Proposals must include signature from the applicant's Contracts & Grants/Sponsored Projects Office. Please contact your campus for local deadlines, and plan accordingly.*

Proposal Review and Selection: The CARE-University of California team will manage a competitive review and ranking of proposals based on the criteria outlined in this RFP. The review panel will be composed of UC faculty and CARE staff selected for their relevant expertise. Applicants should prepare their proposals in language accessible to a general audience. Finalists will be invited to a video interview as part of the selection process.

Final funding decisions and selection will be made jointly by CARE USA and the University of California Office of the President. This is a limited opportunity and decisions are final. Declined proposals may be submitted to future competitions without prejudice. Awards are contingent on availability of funding.

In this inaugural 2020 Fellowship year, up to eight Fellowships may be awarded, based on merit and fit with program priorities.

Eligibility and Exclusion

Applicants must be full-time graduate students enrolled in a master's or doctoral program at one of the ten UC campuses [Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, or Santa Cruz]. Students must be in good academic standing and remain in good standing throughout the Fellowship.

Students are responsible for confirming eligibility to participate in the fellowship with their academic department and for conferring with their campus graduate fellowship office to address any potential conflicts with existing funding.

Selected Fellows must adhere to CARE and UC guidelines and policies regarding appropriate conduct in the field and UC research regulations and protocols.

How to Apply: The CARE-University of California Innovation Fellowship

Proposal Submission: Page limits will be strictly enforced, and general guidelines regarding the length of each section are provided. The proposal must use the provided templates, and will include the following sections:

1. Proposed Project Plan (three pages max.): Identify the specific aims, activities, and outcomes of the proposed project, including the innovative components that will advance efforts in the proposed topic area. The plan should be written for a general audience and must include a description of the procedures, data, or resources that the applicant will use as well as the anticipated outcomes. Please include estimated milestones and related dates within the Fellowship period March 18-September 18. One additional page for literature cited (not included in the 3-page limit) may be included.
2. Statement addressing CARE priorities (one page): Please identify which of the four thematic foci listed on page 2 aligns with your project plan and describe how your project addresses CARE's stated priorities.
3. Personal Statement (one page): Please describe how your background and experience prepare you for this Fellowship, with an emphasis on your engagement with and commitment to social justice and/or poverty alleviation issues. Explain your cross-cultural experience and why this opportunity is important to you personally.
4. Additional Required Attachments: 1) Applicant's academic transcript (unofficial); 2) Letter from the applicant's academic advisor (or UC faculty member with thorough knowledge of the applicant's work) recommending the applicant for the Fellowship, providing approval of the proposed project and time commitment; 3) Departmental approval certifying that the applicant is an enrolled UC graduate student in good standing and that the stipend does not conflict with this student's other funding or financial support; 4) IP disclosure form. No additional attachments beyond those listed here are allowed.

Scoring and Selection Criteria

1. Research Excellence: The expected outcomes of the proposed project should directly relate to the fellowship goals and thematic priorities established in the RFP (page 2). The project plan should be appropriate for the level of the applicant, clearly relate to her or his academic research, and be feasible in the proposed timeframe. Relevance of the research to the CARE priorities must be clearly demonstrated. The timeline should indicate clear milestones for completion in the Fellowship period.
2. Qualifications of the Applicant and Quality of Academic Preparation: The applicant's academic record should demonstrate her or his potential to successfully conduct the research project and include evidence of strong, appropriate preparation for the research through both coursework and prior research or training. Important criteria include the extent to which the applicant demonstrates the likelihood of success and productivity, and the student's potential for success must be endorsed by the faculty recommender.
3. Cultural Competency: Demonstrated engagement with and commitment to social justice and/or poverty alleviation issues and significant cross-cultural experience. Relevant language skills and prior in-country experience will also be taken into consideration. **All finalists will be required to participate in a video interview with CARE staff to elaborate on their cultural competency.**

Awards are contingent on the availability of funding, and compliance with research and reporting requirements.

Program Contact Information

Please contact Dane Wetschler at dane.wetschler@care.org for questions on CARE priorities and scope of the Fellowship.

For assistance with proposal development or campus guidelines related to the application process, please contact:

Campus	Contact Person	Email
Berkeley	Maryanne McCormick, Executive Director, UC Berkeley Blum Center for Developing Economies	mmccormick@berkeley.edu
Davis	Liliane Larson, Executive Director, UC Davis Blum Center	llarson@ucdavis.edu
Irvine	Ruth Gyllenhammer, Associate Director, UCI Blum Center	rgyllenh@uci.edu
Los Angeles	Michael Rodriguez, Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences and Professor, Department of Family Medicine	mrodriguez@mednet.ucla.edu
Merced	Kurt Schnier, Associate EVC/Provost for Academic Planning and Budget, Professor of Economics	kschnier@ucmerced.edu
Riverside	Justine Ross, Associate Director, Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty, UCR School of Public Policy	Justine.ross@ucr.edu
San Diego	Fonna Forman, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center on Global Justice	fforman@ucsd.edu
San Francisco	Gretchen L Kiser, Executive Director, Research Development Office	Gretchen.Kiser@ucsf.edu
Santa Barbara	Joanne Nowak, Academic Coordinator, UCSB Blum Center	Joanne.nowak@ucsb.edu
Santa Cruz	Lisa Nishioka, UCSC Blum Center on Poverty, Social Enterprise and Participatory Governance	blumcenter@ucsc.edu

Technical Questions related to use of proposalCENTRAL: Please email pcsupport@altum.com or call the proposalCENTRAL technical support line 800-875-2562 (Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Please note that from California you must call between 5:00 AM and 2:00 PM).

UC guidance related to international travel may be found here: <https://www.ucgo.org/resources-uc-students-trainees>

Updated Program Announcements, FAQs, RFP clarifications (if any), and information on applicant teleconferences will be posted on the [website](#). To ensure proposal submissions meet all program requirements, applicants are strongly encouraged to check the website for any program updates prior to submission.