



CALL FOR SERVICE LEARNING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS ROLLING DEADLINE, FIRST REVIEW APRIL 29, 2022

The Blum Initiative on Global & Regional Poverty is pleased to announce the call for the **Richard Blum Service Learning Fellowship (RBSLF)**. [UC Regent Richard Blum](#)'s generous support of poverty research, teaching, and service at the University of California provided for the creation of the UCR Blum Initiative in 2015. During a 2018 visit, Regent Blum was especially enthusiastic about the immersive learning opportunities developed by the Initiative for UCR students. This fellowship is offered in his memory.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

RBSLF affords undergraduate and graduate students of public policy the opportunity to learn about poverty while serving a community or population in-need.

Applicants will **identify and partner with an anti-poverty organization** that will 'host' them for **at least 150 hours of work**. Recipients will receive a **fellowship stipend of up to \$3,600** to subsidize their cost of living during the fellowship and a **round trip airline ticket** if their fellowship takes them outside of California. The exact number of RBSLF's awarded will be contingent on the quantity and quality of the applications.

There is no pre-approved list of groups with which the student can volunteer, but non-profits, government agencies, and think tanks that provide services to low-income populations or study anti-poverty interventions are plausible examples. The organization's activities should be consistent with the [mission](#) of the Blum Initiative. If an applicant has general questions regarding the fellowship or about whether the organization they identified is a good fit for this opportunity, please contact Justine Ross (justine.ross@ucr.edu).

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Applications are invited from all UCR School of Public Policy undergraduate or graduate students, who are or will be enrolled in a full-time degree seeking program as of October 1, 2022 and are in good academic standing.

Applicants will only be considered:

- If the service-learning experience will be **completed by June 30, 2023**
- If the applicant **will not graduate before the service-learning experience is completed** in full
- 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 contacted an organization and can provide **written documentation** verifying they 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

DEADLINE & SUBMISSION

Applications will be **reviewed on a rolling basis beginning April 29, 2022** and continue until all award funds are exhausted or May 2023, whichever comes first. Students are encouraged to apply as soon their application is ready as there is no guarantee the call will remain open until May 2023.

All materials must be **submitted electronically in a single PDF** to the Blum Initiative at blum@ucr.edu with the **applicant's last name, department, and "RBSLF" 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.

HOW TO APPLY

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 the Blum Initiative's mission of poverty study and/or service.
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 in a single PDF:**
 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 \$3,600) stipend will be used. If traveling outside of 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.

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

Questions? Contact justine.ross@ucr.edu.

THE FINE PRINT

- 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 June 30, 2023.
- 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.