

# The Powell Fellowship Undergraduate Program



## Program Description

The Colin Powell Program in Leadership and Service is a two-year program for service- and policy-minded undergraduate students passionate about connecting their academic learning to questions of public concern. The experience is designed to prepare fellows for lives in public service and active citizenship and to enable them to apply their skills to issues of public concern. Students accepted into the fellowship acquire a broad knowledge of political institutions and the policy-making process and learn about public service careers and opportunities. Fellows also explore leadership development and methods for creating social change.

Fellows receive a \$10,000 scholarship each year, and are eligible for an internship stipend during the summer between the first and second year of the fellowship.

For questions about the Colin Powell Fellowship, please contact Ellen Murray, Program Director of Scholarships at [emurray@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:emurray@ccny.cuny.edu) | phone: 212.650.7344 | Shepard 550

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## Seminars

Undergraduate Powell Fellows participate in a weekly, three-credit seminar [Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:00pm] for two full academic years. The seminar serves as a broad introduction to the program's key themes: leadership, public service, and teamwork.

Through the seminar, students explore the concept of public service and examine the ways in which individuals and groups organize to produce social change and impact public policy. Fellows also identify, in themselves and others, the markers of successful leadership and teamwork and explore the possibilities for future careers in public service. Seminar participation is mandatory.

## Summer Internships

All undergraduate fellows participate in a summer internship between their first and second year. During the academic year, fellows and Office of Student Success staff share in the responsibility of finding appropriate internships in the fellow's field of interest.

Fellows also participate in a series of professional development workshops to prepare themselves for their summer internship experiences. Ideally, the internship serves as a bridge between each fellow's academic interests, career interests, and the learning goals of the Powell Fellowship. Fellows, who participate in full-time, unpaid internships in a non-profit or government agency, for a period of 8-12 weeks, receive funding for their summer work.

## The Capstone Project

In their second year, fellows work together on a culminating capstone project grounded in participatory action research methodology. The project requires fellows to collaborate in small teams and draw upon the skills, knowledge and experiences collected during their time in the fellowship program. Over the course of the year, fellows will complete fieldwork, conduct expert interviews, work alongside local community partners, and analyze data. They will assess the capabilities and resources available to local community partners, consider the prevalence and efficacy of existing efforts, account for the political, social and economic roadblocks that might compromise these efforts, and develop a set of recommendations that provide the most effective course of action for community stakeholders to consider implementing in order to solve existing community challenges.