STUDENT APPLICANTS

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to apply?

Individuals fitting the following criteria are eligible to apply for The Columbus Foundation Summer Fellowship:

- A college junior, senior, May or June 2027 graduate, or a graduate student; and
- A graduate of a Franklin County high school attending any post-secondary college or university; or
- A junior, senior, recent graduate, or a graduate student attending a Franklin County college or university.

How long is the Fellowship?

The Fellowship is 10 weeks long running from June 7, 2027 to August 12, 2027. This includes the full-time work of the Fellow, Learning Circle meetings, and any opening and closing orientation sessions for both the Fellow and selected organization.

I have a vacation planned during the designated Fellowship; will my application still be considered?

It is preferred that vacations not be planned during the Summer Fellowship program. Students without other obligations will be given preference in the application review process.

I am already working for an organization that is hosting a Fellow; am I able to apply for this Fellowship?

Organizations will not be interviewing applicants who are already working at that organization.

How many hours per week will I be working during the Fellowship?

The Fellow will have a project that requires them to work full-time (approximately 40 hours) each week for 10 weeks. Non-traditional working hours are acceptable.

How does the student selection process work?

- Students meeting the minimum qualifications will send in complete applications by the deadline.
- Each application will be reviewed by members of the selection committee. The selection committee will give each applicant a numerical score based on a set of criteria.
- These scores will be tallied. Columbus Foundation staff and the selection committee will move the top applicants into an interview phase. Each selected host organization will be sent information about two applicants.
- Selected organizations will interview both applicants and choose one they believe will be the best fit. Once the organization has chosen the best-fitting applicant, they will notify The Columbus Foundation.

Continued on next page

- Columbus Foundation staff will contact each potential Fellow to complete a background check.
- Once the applicant's background check is completed, The Columbus Foundation will notify the Fellow that they has been selected—and which organization they will be serving.

What is the specific timeline for this year's application, selection, and program process?

Summer Fellows are selected in March. Once selected, a timeline will be provided with specific dates for the Summer Fellowship program.

Who notifies the candidates that they did or did not receive the Fellowship?

The Columbus Foundation staff will notify the candidates regarding whether or not they are selected once the background check is complete or if they did not receive the Fellowship.

How much does the Fellowship pay?

The Fellow will receive a stipend of $6,350.

How does the Fellow receive their stipend?

The Fellow is considered an employee of their host organization. Each organization will receive a grant of $7,350 from The Columbus Foundation. The Fellow will be paid through the organization's payroll system—most typically a form 1099. The additional $1,000 is intended to cover organization costs or supplies related to hosting the Fellow.

What do I do if I have more questions about how the stipend works?

Each selected host organization will be given more information and the opportunity to contact Columbus Foundation staff members to ensure a smooth payroll process.

Does the Fellow have any obligations to The Columbus Foundation during the Fellowship?

Fellows must attend an orientation, all Learning Circle sessions, and the final luncheon. Organization representatives will be notified of additional required events.

Required events taking place during working hours will be included in the Fellow's required 40 hours of work.

Fellows will be required to make weekly blog postings capturing Fellowship experiences and lessons learned. At the conclusion of the program, Fellows will be invited to make a final presentation of their Fellowship experience. Other events, such as excursions, are highly encouraged for the Fellow but not required.

Who is the audience for the blog?

The Columbus Foundation will use the blog to publicize and promote the Fellowship to The Columbus Foundation's Governing Committee, organizations, and the public. This may include future employers, therefore blog posts must be appropriate for that audience and may not contain any privileged information. Creativity is strongly encouraged, as is sharing with any audience you would like to include.

How often must I post to the blog?

Each Fellow must post one 300-word blog post each week. The posts may be longer.

I have more questions about the blog and how to post, where can I find the answers?

Each Fellow will be given a link and information about how to post to the blog at the Fellows' orientation.

I am graduating and will not be enrolled in classes in the fall, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants may be May or June 2027 college graduates.

Need more information?

Please contact Dr. Mark Lomax at mlomax@columbusfoundation.org or visit **columbusfoundation.org**.