



Residential Fellowship Program

Program Overview, Fall 2018



HARVARD Kennedy School

INSTITUTE OF POLITICS



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August 1, 2018

Dear Prospective Fellow,

The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School was founded in 1966 as a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy. President Kennedy's closest family and aides agreed that the most fitting tribute to the late 35th president was a place where students could gather to learn and practice politics and public service, capturing the spirit of youth and hope that President Kennedy brought to the country.

In the more than fifty years since its founding, the Institute has become a national leader in undergraduate political engagement. The IOP currently offers fifteen distinct student programs that offer undergraduates diverse paths into politics and public service, and the Fellows and Study Groups program is one of our oldest and most distinctive. The Fellows program was established in 1966 during the Institute's founding, contributing toward the Institute's mission of inspiring students in politics and public service by connecting them with leading practitioners who had experience beyond that of academics and could mentor students through close relationships formed over a semester.

Many extraordinary individuals have contributed to our Fellows program, and we are honored that you are considering applying. We are confident that our program offers an unparalleled opportunity to join Harvard's esteemed community, connect and engage with some of the brightest and most inspiring young people in the country, and form relationships with other leading political practitioners who serve as fellow Fellows. Our Fellows are selected through a rigorous and competitive application process that emphasizes genuine passion for mentoring students, an innovative concept for a discussion series ("study group") to be conducted over the course of one semester, and commitment to being fully present on Harvard's campus for roughly ten weeks.

The remainder of this brochure will share more details about the Fellows program, and you should feel free to reach out to any of us at the Institute if you have additional questions. In the meantime, thank you for considering the Harvard Institute of Politics as a step in your path in politics and public service, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mark Gearan

Director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School



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Components of the Fellowship

Leading an eight-week study group

All Fellows must develop an eight-week “study group” that engages students in a current political issue area. Each study group session is 75 minutes long and is usually opened by the Fellow providing an overview/presentation of the session’s theme. The remainder of the study group is reserved for discussion and Q&A with study group attendees. Roughly four study group sessions during the semester should feature guests, and Fellows are responsible for inviting guests appropriate for their subject area.

Mentoring undergraduate students

All Fellows are assigned a team of six undergraduate student “liaisons” for the semester, who help the Fellow organize and publicize their study group. Students volunteer as liaisons because they are passionate about the Fellow’s experience or study group topic, and hope that their Fellow can serve as their mentor. Excellent Fellows prioritize time with their liaison team, inviting them to their residence for meals, organizing outings, and taking time to get to know each student personally and helping them toward their academic and professional goals.

Holding office hours

All Fellows are expected to conduct at least four hours of “office hours” each week, during which undergraduate and graduate students across the Harvard community sign up to have a short conversation with the Fellow about their experience, study group topic, career advice, etc.

Connecting with the Harvard community

Fellows have extensive opportunity to immerse themselves in the Harvard University community, from auditing classes to attending student group meetings. While each Fellow decides how involved they will be on campus, Fellows are expected to attend certain IOP-facilitated events to broaden the influence of their Fellowship. These events could include dinners at undergraduate residential “Houses” (dorms), events at the IOP’s JFK Jr. Forum, and more.



Logistical Details

Time commitment

Fellows are expected to be in residence in Cambridge, MA for the duration of the Fellowship, which is one academic semester (ten weeks). Spring Fellows generally arrive on campus during the first week of February and depart in late April; Fall Fellows usually arrive in early September and remain until early December. While occasional travel is completely acceptable, Fellows are expected to spend the majority of their time on campus to work with students. The IOP prioritizes Fellow candidates who can meet this expectation.

Stipend and benefits

Fellows receive a \$20,000 stipend. In addition, Fellows are considered Harvard employees during their appointment, and are thus eligible to receive benefits through the University (with the exception of dental insurance).

Living arrangements

Fellows are provided with a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in Cambridge (about a ten-minute walk from the IOP) for the duration of their Fellowship. The apartments are fully furnished and ready for move-in. Fellows are invited to bring their spouses/partners and children to Cambridge during their stay, and all are invited to attend IOP events at their leisure. Each apartment also contains an office space for the Fellow if they need to work from their residence.

Professional considerations

Fellows are provided with a private office at the IOP, which includes a phone and computer. The Kennedy School also has a full media studio where many Fellows perform their television hits remotely during their Fellowship. In general, Fellows are welcome to pursue personal or professional projects during their Fellowship (such as writing a book, continuing some involvement in a career, etc.), but must be primarily committed to their role as a Fellow and prepared to devote a majority of their time each week working with students.



Why Be A Fellow?

Interact with some of the brightest students in the world

Undergraduates from Harvard College and graduate students from the Harvard Kennedy School enthusiastically participate in Fellows' events, from study groups to informal conversations and meetings in office hours. Students are passionate and optimistic about their future in politics and the future of the United States and the world, and many Fellows share that they are invigorated by their interactions with the leaders of tomorrow while at the Institute of Politics. As a Fellow, you will have the chance not only to impart your experience and wisdom upon these students, but perhaps learn something from them as well.

Connect with Harvard faculty and administrators

Fellows have access to a wide range of Harvard resources, including faculty at any of Harvard's campuses, administrators at a wide variety of campus offices, and other Fellows across the Kennedy School and University. Those seeking intellectual engagement with the vibrant academic community at one of the world's best universities will not be disappointed by the opportunities available for scholarship during their time at the Institute of Politics.

Get to know other diverse political practitioners

Those who walk the halls of the IOP and the Kennedy School each semester include some of the country's most prominent politicians, activists, and public servants. As a Fellow, you will not only become a member of this illustrious group, but also get the chance to interact with other incredible individuals who shape our country's and the world's politics. Previous Fellows have taken full advantage of the opportunity to get to know not only their fellow Fellows, but also guests who speak in the JFK Jr. Forum and other events at the IOP and beyond.

Take time away from a busy career to reflect on your journey in politics and public service

When departing from campus at the end of their Fellowship, many Fellows share that they deeply appreciated time spent stepping back from a hectic career and reflecting on their own political journeys and the issues of the day. Whether through writing a memoir or sharing past experiences in a study group, Fellows appreciate the opportunity to look at the political world from a more objective outsider's position and gain inspiration for further steps in their career after the IOP.



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application process.



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