



Career Development Office | Vassar College

Gap Year, Service Year, and Short-Term Opportunities

The following service and gap year programs are popular destinations for graduates of selective liberal arts colleges. The opportunities vary widely in terms of focus area and geographical locations but are similar in that they are limited to 1-2 year non-renewable contracts. Most programs are competitive, offer financial support through annual salaries or stipends, and allow recent graduates to gain hands-on service experience.

Economic/Business/Entrepreneurship

Federal Reserve Board

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/default.htm>

Research assistants are employed in six divisions: International Finance, Monetary Affairs, Research and Statistics, the Office of Financial Stability, The Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, and The Division of Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems.

The Mountbatten Institute

<https://lacn-csm.symplicity.com/students/>

The one-year experience in London or New York combines full-time work with evening and weekend coursework leading to a Postgraduate Certificate, or MBA in International Business Practice.

Sonoma County Economic Development Board

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Departments-Agencies/Economic-Development-Board/>

During a one year term, the Research and Program Development Project Coordinator Fellows may be involved in researching sectors of the local economy and preparing reports and recommendations, analyzing and distilling economic data for local decision-makers, coordinating several workforce advisory groups, and making presentations on economic policy.

Financial Clinic

<http://thefinancialclinic.org/>

The Financial Clinic's Fellowship Program is a social innovation model for scaling the Clinic's outcomes-based financial coaching development services. By training Financial Fellows to be Financial Coaches, providing a living stipend, and placing them with a variety of established nonprofits and public-sector entities, the program aims to increase financial security for working poor Americans.

Venture for America

<http://ventureforamerica.org/>

Fellows work for two years at emerging start-ups and early-stage companies in lower-cost cities (e.g., Detroit, Providence, New Orleans). Modeled after Teach for America, Venture for America provides a path for entrepreneurship to college grads that want to learn how to build companies and create jobs.

Echoing Green Fellowship

<http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship>

During their first two years, Fellows receive up to \$90,000, participate in leadership development gatherings, and access the network of Echoing Green Fellows, partners, and friends. Fellows work in the community to launch, manage and grow organizations that work towards creating social change.

New Sector Residency in Social Enterprise (RISE)

<http://newsector.org/rise-fellowships/>

An 11-month program designed for recent college graduates with up to 5 years of post-college experience. RISE gives recent college graduates the opportunity to lead a strategic initiative for a nonprofit organization in Boston or San Francisco. A stipend is provided.

Education

Teach for America

<https://www.teachforamerica.org/>

TFA seeks individuals from all backgrounds, majors, and professional experiences who have what it takes to excel as teachers and improve the quality of education for children growing up in low-income communities.

City Year

<https://www.cityyear.org/>

City Year unites young adults ages 17-25 of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service in 20 major U.S. cities. Corps Members serve as full-time tutors, mentors, role models and leaders of after-school programs for 10 months. Corps Members receive a stipend and financial support towards further study.

CoaHCORPS: Urban Teaching Fellowship

<http://www.cityonahill.org/urban-teaching-fellowship/>

The fellowship is a one-year program (beginning late August) intended to train and certify individuals interested in teaching in urban public high schools. Fellows are trained and mentored by veteran City on a Hill teachers while taking graduate courses at Boston University toward a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree. They receive a \$16,000 stipend and reduced tuition in exchange for teaching in an urban public school for two years upon completion of the program.

Great Oaks Charter School Tutor Corps

<http://greateakscharter.org/about-our-school/mission/>

An Urban Education Fellowship designed to close the Achievement gap one student at a time. Fellows are often recent college graduates who are interested in education and want to give a year of service. In Newark and New York City, people in this category may choose to apply to the Great Oaks Teacher Residency. Fellows invest time and energy in the success of a small group of middle or high school students. Most of the day is spent tutoring students one-on-one or in small groups. Fellows also take on secondary projects. A living stipend and housing are provided.

Blue Engine

<http://blueengine.org/fellowship/experience>

A one-year urban education fellowship program in New York City. Blue Engine Teaching Assistants (BETAs) are placed in school-based teams and work with teachers to provide academic instruction in core skills including algebra, geometry, English Language Arts (E/LA), and writing. BETAs receive a living stipend and unlimited NYC public transportation.

AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellows

<http://masspromisefellows.org/index.html>

Fellows dedicate a year of service to build their organizational, leadership, and communication skills and make an impact on young people in Massachusetts. Fellows receive a living stipend and benefits, and are eligible for free courses at Northeastern.

Citizen Schools' National Teaching Fellowship

<http://www.citizenschools.org/careers/teaching-fellowship/>

The National Teaching Fellowship is a two-year professional and leadership development program. The opportunity includes service as a team leader at a Citizen Schools' campus, professional development in partnership with a community organization, and the opportunity to enroll in a pioneering Master's program. Fellows receive a salary and become eligible for AmeriCorps Education Awards.

Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Program

<http://jetprogramme.org/en/about-jet/>

JET participants work either as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) or Sports Exchange Advisors (SEA), and are placed in local boards of education or public elementary, junior high and senior high schools in Japan. ALTs are primarily engaged in language instruction. All participants receive an annual salary.

Match Corps

<http://www.matcheducation.org/join/match-corps/>

Match Corps is a one-year urban education fellowship. Recent college graduates commit to a year in Boston, where they tutor small groups of students in grades 1-12 and partner closely with families. A living allowance, an education award, and subsidized housing are provided.

Math for America

<http://www.mathforamerica.org/fellowships>

A five-year program for recent college graduates and mid-career professionals, the MfA includes one year of full-time graduate study and four years of teaching math and participating in MfA corps activities. MfA Fellows are provided with full-tuition coverage for a year of graduate study and annual stipends in addition to their annual teachers salary.

NYC Teaching Fellows

<https://www.nycteachingfellows.org/>

Fellows pursue a master's degree in education while teaching full-time in a New York City public school. Teaching Fellows receive a generous annual salary and subsidized tuition for advanced study.

Phillips Academy Andover Teaching Fellowship

<https://www.andover.edu/About/CareersAtAndover/Pages/Teaching-Fellowship-Program.aspx>

During a one-year teaching fellowship, recent college graduates (bachelor's or master's level) are introduced to teaching as a career through guided classroom work, professional seminars, and exposure to the theories and methods of experienced teaching faculty. Teaching Fellows contribute to the culture of the school through their involvement in residential, multicultural, and athletic programs on campus. Fellows receive a stipend of \$30,000, plus insurance benefits and campus housing.

Schuler AmeriCorps Coach Program

<http://www.schulerprogram.org/en/ameri-corps/>

Coaches work with Scholars in one-on-one and group settings to provide subject specific tutoring and homework help. The ideal applicant will serve a two-year commitment. Coaches receive a stipend and benefits.

The Fulbright Program

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>

<http://fellowships.vassar.edu/fellowships/graduates/fulbright/>

Each year over 1,500 students receive a grant to travel overseas. Most grants are for study/research; English teaching assistantships, travel-only, and special grants are also available. Grants are 9-12 months but vary by country. Candidates should contact the Office of Fellowships and Pre-Health Advising to learn more about this opportunity and to apply in August/September.

Environment**Green Corps**

<http://www.greencorps.org/index.html>

In Green Corps' yearlong paid program, organizers get hands-on experience fighting to solve urgent environmental problems – global warming, deforestation, water pollution, etc. Green Corps organizers are salaried employees of Green Corps.

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

www.thesca.org

Provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington, D.C.'s Urban Tree House.

Aspen Center for Environmental Studies

<http://www.aspennature.org/>

Summer Naturalists receive valuable education, training, and experience while conducting naturalist-guided hikes and environmental education programs.

Health/Healthcare**The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice**

<http://familiesusa.org/about/careers>

The Wellstone Fellowship is designed to increase the number of low-income, American Indian & Alaska Native, Asian American, Black/African American, Latino, and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander social justice leaders. Candidates must demonstrate an interest in health care policy as a tool for reducing racial and ethnic health disparities and in using organizing and advocacy skills to achieve social change. Fellows receive a generous annual salary and benefits.

The Villers Fellowship for Healthcare Justice

<http://familiesusa.org/about/careers>

Responsibilities include conducting research on a range of health care issues and health reform topics – such as Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as well as contributing to publications that are relevant to current health reform issues. Fellows receive an annual salary and benefits.

Health Corps

<http://healthcorps.org>

Coordinators teach daily classroom lessons based on the HealthCorps Curriculum, organize and facilitate after-school programming, provide staff and parent outreach, and hold school-wide and community-wide events. Health Corps Coordinators receive an annual salary and benefits.

International**Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program**

<https://watson.foundation/fellowships/tj>

<http://fellowships.vassar.edu/fellowships/seniors/watson/>

Enables graduating seniors the opportunity to engage in one year of self-designed independent study and travel abroad after graduation. The Fellowship provides \$28,000 to each recipient, plus twelve months' payment for outstanding federally guaranteed student loans. Proposed projects should reflect an interest in, and long-standing commitment to, a specific concern but need not be related to academic experience or plans. Formal study or affiliation with an organization is not permitted. Watson Fellows may not return to the U.S. at any time during their travel year. Vassar College nominates up to four graduating seniors to be considered for this opportunity. Interested candidates should contact the Office of Fellowships and Pre-Health Advising to get more information.

Atlas Corps Fellow

<http://www.atlascorps.org/>

This multinational, two-way, year-long volunteer program sends U.S. volunteers overseas and global nonprofit leaders to the United States. Volunteers tend to be between the ages of 23 and 33, and have a college degree. Fellows volunteer at organizations addressing social issues and are enrolled in an ongoing training program. After 12 or 18 months, they return to their countries to work for at least one year in the nonprofit sector. As volunteers, Fellows receive a modest living stipend intended to cover only shared housing, food and local public transportation. Atlas Corps starts classes twice a year and accepts applications year-round.

Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship

<http://www.hungercenter.org/fellowships/leland/>

This two-year fellowship is for those interested in the global fight against hunger. For the first year, fellows are placed in countries throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America. For the second year, fellows work in a policy setting with the headquarters of the organizations they served in during their first year. Fellows receive a monthly stipend, relocation allowance, a housing supplement, and transportation allowance during the policy year, and professional development funds. Health care and emergency evacuation insurance is also provided.

Volunteers for Peace

<http://www.vfp.org/>

Work camps, offering 3,400+ 2-3 week service opportunities in 100 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, South and Central America. Placement fee subsidizes living expenses. Projects include construction and restoration of low income housing; trail building, park maintenance, organic farming; working with children, the elderly, physically or mentally handicapped, refugees, minority groups, drug/alcohol recovery, AIDS education and arts projects; historic preservation, etc.

Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms

<http://www.wwoof.org/>

Join a WWOOF organization in your country of interest and access host farms that welcome volunteer help.

Journalism**NPR Kroc Fellowship**

<http://www.npr.org/about-npr/183691179/kroc-fellowship-details-and-application>

Rigorous, hands-on training in public radio journalism – writing, reporting, producing and editing, for both radio and the Web. NPR selects three Kroc Fellows per year, and they receive an annual salary and benefits.

Remapping Debate Creative Journalism Fellowship

<http://www.remappingdebate.org/fellowship>

An online domestic policy news journal, with a focus on original reporting. Fellows must want to use this year to hone serious, high-quality journalism skills. Annual salary and benefits are included.

Public Policy/Public Service**Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship**

<http://scoville.org/>

The Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship is a highly competitive national fellowship program that provides college graduates with the opportunity to gain a Washington perspective on key issues of peace and security. Scoville Fellows receive a monthly salary, benefits, and stipends for professional development.

US Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>

Peace Corps Volunteers work directly with communities on their most pressing issues while gaining a competitive advantage in today's global economy with international experience, cross-cultural understanding, and fluency in a foreign language. Peace Corps provides Volunteers with language, cross-cultural, and technical training.

AmeriCorps*VISTA

http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/vista.asp

Full-time opportunities within nonprofits, public agencies, faith-based and other community organizations to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. Members who successfully complete a one-year term of service are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$5,350 to help pay undergrad student loans or graduate school expenses. Benefits include training, a living allowance, limited health care benefits, relocation expenses, student-loan forbearance or deferment. Opportunities are available nationwide.

NYC Urban Fellows

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/work/program_info.shtml

The Urban Fellows Program is a nine-month fellowship that combines work in Mayoral offices and City agencies with an intensive seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. New York City Urban Fellows are placed at an array of agencies across the City where they learn about public policy through a hands-on approach. Urban Fellows receive a stipend and health insurance.

Philly Fellows

<http://phillyfellows.org/>

This yearlong post-graduate fellowship offers graduates the opportunity to work in local nonprofit agencies across Philadelphia. Living stipend, housing, health insurance and an education award provided.

Public Allies

<http://www.publicallies.org/>

Public Allies provides a ten-month apprenticeship and leadership training program at nonprofit organizations nationwide. Allies work four days each week at a local nonprofit organization in areas such as youth development, community development, public health, and economic development. One afternoon every week, allies collaborate with a team of Allies to design and implement a project that benefits the community while participating in leadership training. Allies are eligible for a monthly stipend, access to health care and childcare, student loan deferment, and an education award.

Volunteer Maryland

<http://www.volunteermaryland.org/about.html>

Each year, Volunteer Maryland places AmeriCorps members in nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies throughout the state to serve as Volunteer Coordinators developing volunteer and service-learning programs that meet critical needs in the areas of education, human welfare, public safety, homeland security, and the environment.

Change Corps

<http://www.changecorps.org>

A paid, one-year full-immersion training program in grassroots organizing. Upon training completion, you'll know how to organize people in making a difference in the issues they are passionate about.

Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

<http://www.hungercenter.org/>

This yearlong fellowship is for students interested in fighting hunger and poverty in the United States. For six months, fellows work with urban and rural community-based organizations and for the last six months, they work with national organizations.

Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) Fellowships

<http://jobs.uspirg.org/fellowship.html>

Employ grassroots organizing, direct advocacy, investigative journalism, and litigation to affect public policy. Make the case for reform through targeted research, coalition building, outreach to citizen activists and the media and direct lobbying of decision-makers. Affiliated with state PIRGs, fellowships run for two years and come with an annual salary.

City Hall Fellows

<http://www.cityhallfellows.org>

Combines an intensive, on-the-ground, full-time employment experience in local government with a Civic Leadership Development Program that will prepare recent graduates for the next stage in their career, whether it be continued government employment, work in the private or non-profit sectors, or graduate school.

AVODAH Service Corps

<http://www.avodah.net/apply/>

Each year, AVODAH recruits members to spend a year working on urban poverty issues full-time at local nonprofit organizations. Participants live and study together, forming a community of people making a connection between social activism and Jewish life. AVODAH provides Corps Members with a monthly living stipend.

Camphill Soltane

<http://www.camphillsoltane.org/>

This yearlong, full time program aims to create a supportive environment and a college experience for young adults with disabilities, emphasizing self-advocacy, ongoing education, meaningful work, and the transition into adulthood. Located in Glenmoore, PA.

Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship

<http://www.ppiaprogram.org/ppia/what-we-do/junior-summer-institutes/>

Designed to prepare college juniors or rising seniors from diverse backgrounds for graduate studies in public and/or international affairs and groom them for professional roles in public service. There is an array of opportunities under the Fellowship that span a period of development from the junior year of college to beyond the completion of a graduate degree.

Google Policy Fellowship

<http://www.google.com/policyfellowship/>

Offer undergraduate, graduate, and law students interested in Internet and technology policy the opportunity to spend the summer contributing to public dialogue on issues fundamental to the future of the Internet and its users. Fellows will work at public interest organizations at the forefront of debates on broadband and access policy, content regulation, copyright and trademark reform, consumer privacy, open government, and more. Work is both domestic and abroad.

Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs

<http://www.corofellowship.org/>

Fellows participate in a series of full-time projects across a variety of sectors in public affairs, concluding in a final independent project of the Fellow's choosing. Elected officials, staffers, department heads, executive directors, and CEOs serve as mentors to help Fellows assess how organizations get things done in the social, political, and economic spheres. Coro fellowship locations are in high-impact urban cities across the U.S.: Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

California Executive Fellowship Program

http://www.csus.edu/calst/executive_fellowship_program.html

Executive Fellows function as full-time professional staff in executive offices at various levels of California's executive branch, which includes the office of the governor, constitutional offices, cabinet secretaries, commissions and departments. Applicants must demonstrate commitment to California and public service and an interest in and knowledge of the California Executive Branch. Executive Fellows receive a monthly stipend, as well as medical, dental and vision benefits.

Service – Faith-Based**Amate House**

<http://www.amatehouse.org/>

This yearlong program supports and develops men and women rooted in faith, dedicated to service, and committed to building a more just and loving society. Volunteers are placed in schools, parishes, and social service agencies in Chicago and live in intentional communities of six to twelve people. A monthly allowance, one-time year-end allowance, room, board, food, health insurance, and transportation are provided.

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

<http://www.avodah.net/>

This yearlong, full-time program combines Jewish learning with social activism and community building in low-income neighborhoods in Chicago, New Orleans, New York City and Washington, DC.

Christian Appalachian Project (CAP)

<http://www.chrisapp.org/>

For 9-12 months, volunteers work for an interdenominational, nonprofit Christian organization committed to serving people in need in Appalachia by providing physical, spiritual, and emotional support through a wide variety of programs and services. Room and board, a monthly stipend, health insurance, potential loan deferment and a potential AmeriCorps educational award are provided.

Jesuit Volunteer Corps

<http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org/>

This Catholic volunteer program offers one-year or longer commitments to work for and with people who are homeless, unemployed, refugees, people with AIDS, the elderly, street youth, abused women and children, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. Positions in the US and internationally.

Jewish Organizing Institute & Network Fellowship

<http://www.joinforjustice.org/programs-projects/jewish-organizing-fellowship/>

A professional development opportunity for Jewish young adults (21-30) to become full-time community organizers for social justice organizations, explore their Jewish identity together, and grow as leaders in pursuit of social justice. This highly competitive yearlong salaried fellowship is open to Jewish young adults who have campus or professional experience working for social justice and are interested in systemic change and community building. The fellowship is also open to young people who hold organizing jobs and are seeking training, mentoring, and support.

Jewish Service Corps

<http://www.jdc.org/get-involved/serve-abroad/jewish-service-corps.html>

This is a one-year volunteer opportunity for individuals with a strong Jewish background and a passion for transmitting it to others to serve and take part in the life of a Jewish community overseas.

Lutheran Service Corps

<http://lutheranvolunteercorps.org/become-a-placement/>

Lutheran Service Corps places people at a wide variety of non-profit organizations across the country for a year of service. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles to make a difference in fields such as housing and homelessness, health care, community development, environmental concerns, children and youth, LGBTQ issues, immigration, women's rights, and many more. Monthly stipend is provided.

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

<http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/>

This yearlong service program is for people seeking to unite faith, social justice, community living, and simplicity. Volunteers are matched with non-profit organizations in 13 metropolitan areas across the United States. They work full time in positions ranging from direct social services to political advocacy, community organizing, education, and activism while living in intentional community. Monthly stipend is provided.

Mercy Volunteer Corps

<http://www.mercyvolunteers.org/>

One-year volunteer opportunities are available in urban and rural areas in the U.S or internationally. Mercy volunteers work with those who are economically poor or marginalized in a spirit of solidarity and mutuality, live simply in community, and commit to personal and communal spiritual growth. Volunteer positions include fundraising, administration, healthcare, education, social work and direct care. Stipend is provided.

Quaker Voluntary Service

<https://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply/>

Fellows work full time in community based social service and social change organizations. QVS partners with agencies and organizations that offer direct support to marginalized individuals and communities or which strive to transform unjust systems through support and advocacy. Fellows are of various faiths and committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Volunteer service opportunities and fellowships offered nationwide. Shared housing, utilities, support for health and wellness, health insurance, food/grocery allowance, public transit pass, and a monthly stipend are provided.

Vincentian Service Corps

<http://www.vscorps.org/>

Faith-based service organization providing one-year service opportunities in impoverished areas within California, working with marginalized people in our society with a focus on healthcare, social services, schools and educational programs to improve the lives of those in need. Travel expenses, lodging/monthly stipend, and small education award are provided.

Westmoreland Volunteer Corps

<http://www.westmorelanducc.org/volunteer-corps/>

One-year service opportunity in disadvantaged communities of Washington, D.C. in areas including AIDS ministry, disadvantaged youth, elderly support and outreach, employment counseling and job search, health clinics and maternal/child health care, homeless service agencies and shelters, refugee support, and social justice and advocacy. Agencies where Volunteers work provide a monthly stipend, cover transportation to and from work (usually with a bus/Metro pass) and provide medical insurance or reimburse Westmoreland for it.

Other Opportunities**Vassar Post-Baccalaureate Fellowships**

<http://fellowships.vassar.edu/fellowships/>

Historically, the Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Environmental Sciences, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Office of International Services, the Campus Activities Office, and the Career Development Office have all offered short-term (1-2 year) fellowships to recent graduates. Fellows work full-time, gain valuable insight into higher education administration, and often work closely with students. While opportunities vary from year to year, fellows generally live on campus and work part time with the Office of Residential Life.

Vassar College's Office for Fellowships

<http://fellowships.vassar.edu/fellowships/>

Whether you are interested in spending time overseas, doing independent research, or going to graduate school, the Office for Fellowships can help you apply for nationally and internationally competitive grants to help you realize your goals. The office coordinates the application process for fellowships requiring institutional support and provides information and assistance in the search for funding possibilities during the undergraduate experience, as well as for study after Vassar.

Idealist

<http://www.idealists.org/>

For fellowships in public service (US, international and nonprofit), one-year service opportunities (primarily in the US), organizations that place people in international volunteer positions, and international organizations seeking volunteers.

Just for Fun**Back Door Guide to Short-Term Job Adventures**

<http://www.backdoorjobs.com/>

Adventure jobs in the US and abroad – includes jobs in camps, ranches, resorts, the outdoors, environmental, artistic, sustainable living and agricultural employment.

Cool Works

<http://www.coolworks.com/>

Seasonal jobs in the national and state parks, ski resorts, ranches, etc.