

# Making the Most of Summer 2021

## *Policy and Social Impact*

Finding extra time on your hands this summer? Thinking about ways to be industrious? Interested in making a difference in the world but unsure how to move forward and generate impact? Overachiever? Take a deep dive into your professional and personal growth. Build skills, develop industry expertise, make an impact in your community, and focus on your wellbeing to make the most of your summer.

### **Get in the Conversation (5-10 hours per week)**

#### **Stay Up to Date on the Global Conversation**

- News and Think Tank Research
  - [Annenberg Public Policy Center](#)
  - [Brookings Institute](#)
  - [Cato Institute](#)
  - [Columbia International Affairs Online \(CIAO\)](#)
  - [Counsel on Foreign Relations](#)
  - [Politico](#)
  - [The Heritage Foundation](#)
  - [The Hill](#)
  - [The Rand Corporation](#)
- Podcasts
  - [20 Social Impact Podcasts that will Inspire You to Impact the World](#)
  - [Africa Today](#)
  - [The Axe Files](#)
  - [Israel Policy Pod](#)
  - [Kinda Sorta Brown](#)
  - [Not Another Politics Podcast](#)
  - [NPR Politics Podcast](#)
  - [Politics vs. Policy](#)
  - [Pod Save the World](#)
  - [Public Health on Call](#)
  - [Women Rule Politico](#)
- Documentaries
  - [New York Times Recommends Social Documentaries](#)
  - [PBS Frontline 2019's Most-Streamed Documentaries](#)
  - [ScreenRant's List of Best Political Documentaries on Netflix \(Dec 2019\)](#)
- [Follow Organizations on LinkedIn](#) – The LinkedIn Newsfeed is a professional way to learn about what's going on in your network, including organizations you follow.

#### **Engage in and Start a Conversation**

- Attend Government Meetings – Many local government meetings are now livestreamed! Engage from the comfort of your own home.
  - Chicago City Council | [Information Available Here](#) | Wednesdays at 10:00 AM
  - Cook County Meetings & Committee Meetings | [Information Available Here](#)
- Volunteer
  - [Big Brothers, Big Sisters Chicago](#)
  - [Chicago Conservation Corps](#)
  - [Chicago House](#)
  - [Feeding America](#)
  - [Idealist](#) (Search)
  - [Legal Aid Chicago](#)
  - [Meals on Wheels](#)
  - [Omprakash](#)
  - [Red Cross](#)
  - [United Way](#)
  - [Volunteer Match](#) (Search)
- Join Organizations and Associations
  - Find, Research, Join Organizations of Interest
    - [International City/County Management Association \(ICMA\)](#)
    - [Independent Sector](#)
    - [Social Impact Exchange](#)
- Join a Non-Profit Board – Interested in contributing to your cause in a tangible way? A non-profit board junior member opportunity could be for you!
  - [BoardSource's Advice](#)

- Engage in the Community
  - [UChicago Civic Engagement](#)
- Write/Create
  - Build an online presence and invite others into the conversation.
    - Take a [WordPress class on LinkedIn Learning](#) to learn in two hours how to create a functional site. Consider Topics:
      - Industry or Policy overview, e.g., “My take on Urban Policy”
      - Op-Ed/My Point of View
      - Outlining Contradictory Points of View
      - Relevant Articles, Lists, Policies
      - Tip: If you want to work in government/campaigns/with or as an elected official, show partisanship. Align with a party/platform of interest and contribute.
    - Create a “Newscast” to publish online
    - Start your own Podcast
- Start a Company
  - Have an idea? – Consider Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation and own your impact. [Innov8Social](#) offers tools you need to succeed and start your business. Don’t forget about Entrepreneurship Education at [UChicago Polsky](#), too!

### **Build Your Skills and Discover Opportunities (5-10 hours per week)**

#### **Master Your Narrative**

Can you tell a story about how you added value in a professional or leadership experience using each of these skills? If there are gaps, how you might build these key skills? What else could you add to this list?

- **Soft Skills**

<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/> Intercultural Knowledge
<input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal Skills
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Thinking
<input type="checkbox"/> Decision Making/Critical Thinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Time Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Listening	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication
- **Employability Skills**

<input type="checkbox"/> Initiative and Enterprise	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning Agility	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Awareness
<input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving	<input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork
- **Technical and Writing Skills**

<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced/Intermediate Excel	<input type="checkbox"/> STATA
<input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS
<input type="checkbox"/> SAS	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Analysis/Memo Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> SQL/Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Written Communication for Business

#### **Develop Your Professional Toolkit**

- Take an Online Course
  - [LinkedIn Learning](#) – As a UChicago student, you have free access. LinkedIn Learning is a leading online learning company that helps anyone learn skills to achieve personal and professional goals.
  - [Coursera](#) – Hundreds of free courses give you access to on-demand video lectures, homework exercises, and community discussion forums.
  - [Ivy League MOOCs](#)
- Learn a new language with [Duolingo](#) or [Babbel](#) or [Rosetta Stone](#)
- Practice your Professional Writing

- Policy Memos and Briefs
  - Harris School of Public Policy presents [How to Write a Policy Memo that Matters](#)
  - [International Center for Policy Advocacy](#)
  - [UNC's Writing Center Resources for Policy Briefs](#)
- Business Communication
  - Lifhack offers [12 Tips for Business Writing](#)

### **Flex your Career Search Skills**

- Research Impact Sectors – Know you want to make a difference but unclear about where to focus? Use these websites to expand your priority list of sectors, causes, and policy interests:
  - [NetImpact Guide](#) – NetImpact’s Career Profiles guide.
  - [ProInspire Sector Guide](#) – List of resources for individuals who are interested in learning about different sub-sectors or topics in the social sector.
  - [The Social Progress Imperative](#) – Data on the social and environmental health of societies to help prioritize actions that accelerate social progress.
  - [GuideStar](#) – Up-to-date nonprofit data.
  - [US Green Technology](#)
- Build Your Target List of Organizations and Opportunities – Now that you have an idea of what sector you’d like to impact, build your list of targets:
  - General Search: Moving World’s [70 Best Places to Look for Social Impact Jobs in 2021](#)
  - Education: Education Pioneer’s [List of Partner Organizations](#)
  - Government
    - [U.S. Government Departments and Agencies](#)
    - Illinois [Departments](#)
    - City of Chicago [Departments](#)
  - NGOs: Wango’s [Worldwide NGO Directory](#)
  - Non-Profit: ProPublica’s [Nonprofit Explorer](#)
  - Fellowships: ProFellow’s [40 Social Impact Fellowships for U.S. and Global Changemakers](#)
  - Think Tanks: [Harvard’s list of U.S. Think Tanks](#)
- Organize Your Job Search
  - Choose a format – Excel document, Google sheet, White board, Notebook, Journal – what tracking tool works best for you?
    - [The Muse’s Tracker](#) is a great template to begin organizing
- Complete your [USAJobs Profile](#)
  - Be accurate and thorough and set up for success by completing your profile now. You’ll be ready to face the competition and apply quickly when you find the job of your dreams.

### **Discover Future Opportunities at UChicago and Beyond**

- Explore Opportunities Across Campus
  - [Institute of Politics \(IOP\)](#)
    - [Get Involved at the IOP](#)
    - [IOP Civic Engagement Leadership Programs](#)
    - [Event Ambassadors Program](#)
  - [Pozen Family Center for Human Rights](#)
    - [Human Rights BA Fellowship](#)
    - [Human Rights Internship Program](#)
  - [The Pearson Institute](#)
  - [UChicago Urban Labs](#)
  - [UChicago Study Abroad](#)
    - [Barcelona Public Policy](#)
    - [Vienna Human Rights](#)
  - [College Center for Research and Fellowships](#)

- Post-Graduate Foreign Service Fellowships – These programs prepare college seniors and graduates for careers in the Foreign Service. Fellowships provide up to \$37,500 annually for completion of a master’s degree in international affairs, or a related subject. Fellows commit to a minimum of five years of service. The application of members of minority groups, women, and those with financial need is encouraged. The application deadline is in September.
      - [The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship](#)
      - [Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Fellowship](#)
      - [Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship](#)
    - Public Policy & International Affairs Junior Summer Institute – A fully funded, rigorous academic graduate-level preparation program for rising 3<sup>rd</sup>-year students committed to public service careers. The program seeks to address the lack of diversity across the spectrum of professional public service. The intensive seven-week summer program builds skills in economics, statistics, policy analysis, writing, and public speaking. The application deadline is in October.
      - [PPIA Junior Summer Institute](#)
    - For support with your application and essays for any of these opportunities, contact [Sandra Zupan](#) at the College Center for Research and Fellowships.
- Prepare for Opportunities across the World
  - [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#)

**Prioritize Personal Growth (2-5 hours per week)**

**Be Well, Take Care**

- Prioritize [UChicago’s Seven Key Facets of Well-being](#)
  - Emotional
  - Environmental
  - Financial
  - Intellectual
  - Physical
  - Social
  - Spiritual
- Spark Joy with [Marie Kondo](#)
- Exercise from anywhere with [UChicago Department of Athletics](#)
- Relax with the [Jellyfish Cam from the Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)
- Develop a Budget with [Tips from Nerd Wallet](#)
- Learn to Cook with [SeriousEats](#) or [America’s Test Kitchen](#)