

Career Paths and Desired Skills

National Security and Public Safety offers careers at the intersection of economics, law, policy, and cutting-edge technology. In these fields, students apply an interdisciplinary skillset to analyze threats and manage risks. Opportunities are available with a wide range of employers, including government agencies, think tanks, advanced materials firms, and companies focused on geopolitics and global trade.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Get started with these resources and stay up-to-date on policy events and internships!

- **Sign up for industry newsletters** to get regular updates on opportunities in your area of interest
- **Explore the Jeff Metcalf Internship Program** to find paid, substantive internships around the world
- **Get personalized support** from a Careers in Policy and Social Impact adviser:
 - **Maha Ezalarab** oversees all global health career programs drawing on her expertise in health policy research and implementation
 - **Tala Ali-Hasan** is a UChicago double alum with experience in public policy research and education policy
 - **Bethany Malzman** works closely with employers to create student opportunities with government agencies, think tanks, nonprofits, and more
- **To subscribe to Career Advancement's events calendar**, [copy this calendar feed URL](#) and add to any calendar application. Contact [Career Advancement](#) with any questions.

MEET EMPLOYERS AND BUILD YOUR POLICY SKILLS

Stand out by engaging with employers, learning important skills, and building your policy expertise.

- **Attend employer information** sessions to network with recruiters such as Chicago Appleseed, Atlantic Council and John Howard Association
- **Use the UChicago Alumni Directory** and other tools like LinkedIn to contact alumni at your target employers
- **Job shadow** with an alum working in government, intelligence agencies, or a think tanks
 - **Winter Break Job Shadowing (December 15 - 19):** Apply by November 10, 2025
 - **Spring Break Job Shadowing (March 16-20):** Apply by February 17
- **Apply for a national security and public safety career trek** to meet employers and learn about careers pathways. Upcoming treks include Chicago and Washington, DC.
 - **Winter Break Treks (December 15-19):** Apply by October 13
 - **Spring Break Treks (March 16-20):** Apply by January 20
- **Apply for the Summer Institute in Social Research Methods** to get accelerated training in social science research methodologies. Apply and join the community of 68 UChicago students from the 2025 program!
- **Get involved with research** and work with a faculty member specializing in your field of interest
- **Apply for the FLAG Program** which offers awards of \$7,000 to support the costs of intermediate or advanced language study abroad.
- **Join a policy competition** like the **UChicago Impact Competition** on May 8, 2026
- **Sign up for the Metcalf Clinics Program** to work on an employer project with a team of peers. Apply for a public safety clinic by October 5, 2025
- **Complete a policy immersion program** like the [Hoover Institution](#), [Summer Policy Boot Camp](#) or the [Stimson Center Foreign Policy Futures Program](#)

GET EXPERIENCE

Get hands-on experience by interning with UChicago employer partners such as:

- **Intelligence Agencies:** CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, FBI, National Security Agency
- **Think Tanks:** Atlantic Council, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, RAND Corporation
- **Advanced Materials and Trade:** Applied Materials, International Trade Administration, Mare Liberum, NVIDIA
- **Public Prosecutors:** Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Manhattan District Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorneys' Offices

NATIONAL SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY —

EVENTS

Fall Quarter

- September 29 | UChicago's Fall 2025 Career Fair
- September 30 | Student Employment 101: Jobs, Work-Study & Community Connections
- Sept. 30 | UChicago Grad Programs Fair featuring 4+1 Advanced Scholars Programs
- October 2 | Student Employment 101: Jobs, Work-Study & Community Connections
- October 5 | Metcalf Clinics Application Deadline
- October 7 | Resumes for Policy Careers and Student Employment
- October 8 | Campus Research and Employment
- October 14 | Student Employment 101: Jobs, Work-Study & Community Connections
- October 16 | Correctional Oversight with John Howard Association
- November 6 | Careers in Think Tanks with the Stimson Center
- November 13 | Chicago Local Criminal Justice Trek
- December 15 - 19 | Winter Break Trek
- December 15 - 19 | Winter Break Job Shadowing

Winter Quarter

- January 8 | Dine and Define Your Summer Plans
- February | Careers in Germany Alumni Panel
- February 18 | Fair Courts and Criminal Justice with Chicago Appleseed
- February 20 | Chicago Local Security Trek
- February 23 | Criminal Justice in Illinois with the Illinois Prison Project
- March 1 | ICSG Fellows Program Application
- March 16 - 20 | Spring Break Treks
- March 16 - 20 | Spring Break Job Shadowing

Spring Quarter

- April 9- 10 | Springfield Security and Criminal Justice Trek
- April 20 | Careers in Intelligence with DIA
- May 8 | Impact Competition

Summer Quarter

- June -July | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Program (Hangzhou, China)
- September | Summer Treks

Government Agency Visits

If you are interested in learning about information sessions with national security agencies such as the CIA and FBI, please contact Bethany Malzman at bmalzman@uchicago.edu!

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Fall Quarter

- October 13 | Winter Break Trek Application Deadline
- October/November | U.S. Department of State Summer Internship Applications Due
- October/November | FBI & CIA Summer Internship Applications Due
- October/November | U.S. Department of Treasury Full-Time Fellowships Due
- October 24 | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Application
- November 3 | Fall Deadline: 4+1 Programs
- November 10 | Winter Break Job Shadowing Deadline
- November 14 | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Application

Winter Quarter

- Jan. 12 | Winter Deadline: 4+1 Programs
- January 20 | Spring Break Trek Application Deadline
- January 21 | Peace Corps Volunteer Application Window
- January 11 | Winter Metcalf Clinic Deadline
- February | Illinois Governor's Office Summer Internship Program application window
- February 17 | Spring Break Job Shadowing Deadline
- March 1 | ICSG Fellows Program Application

Spring Quarter

- April 1 | Obama Foundation Voyager Scholarship
- Apr. 13 | Spring Deadline: 4+1 Programs
- Apr. 15 | Selective Career Cohorts
- April | Summer Trek Applications Due
 - Locations coming soon!