

Career Paths and Desired Skills

Policy and social impact opportunities range widely. They include positions in government, think tanks, urban planning, public policy, nonprofits, and private/public sector partnerships. Through policy and service, measures are designed and implemented for positive social impact. Career paths vary broadly, accommodating all student interests and strengths.

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** has experience in global and human rights program implementation and research
 - **Tala Ali-Hasan** has years of experience working in public policy research, education and policy implementation
 - **Bethany Malzman** has years of experience working with government agencies, think tanks and non profit organizations

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
- **Use the UChicago Alumni Directory** and other tools like LinkedIn to reach out to alumni at your target employers
- **Job shadow** with an alum working in government, policy, or a think tank
 - **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 policy career trek** to meet employers and learn about careers in policy. Upcoming treks include Atlanta, Santiago, Jakarta, New York 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 who participated in 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 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 Abroad:** Participate in
 - Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Program in China. Apply by February 16, 2026
 - ICSG Fellows Program in India. Apply by March 1, 2026
 - Center for Global Health Summer Research Fellowship with a partnering research sites across the globe. Apply by January 30, 2026

GET EXPERIENCE

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

- **National Security and Criminal Justice:** CIA, FBI, Cook County States' Attorney's Office, U.S. Attorneys' Offices
- **NGOs and Foundations:** Heartland Alliance, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children, United Nations
- **Policy Analysis and Advocacy:** Advance Illinois, Civic Consulting Alliance, National Immigrant Justice Center
- **Think Tanks:** Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, Milken Institute, Progressive Policy Institute

POLICY & SOCIAL IMPACT

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 | UChicago Global Health and Social Development Student Symposium
- October 14 | Student Employment 101: Jobs, Work-Study & Community Connections
- October 24 | @ JAMfest: Arts and Humanities Opportunities on campus
- December 15 - 19 | Winter Break Trek
- December 15 - 19 | Winter Break Job Shadowing

Winter Quarter

- February | Careers in Germany Alumni Panel
- February 16 | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Application Deadline
- March 1 | ICSG Fellows Program Application
- March 16 - 20 | Spring Break Treks
- March 16 - 20 | Spring Break Job Shadowing

Spring Quarter

- May 8 | Social Impact Competition

Summer Quarter

- June -July | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Program (Hangzhou, China)
- June - August | Center for Global Health Summer Research Fellowship
- September | Summer Treks

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Fall Quarter

- October 13 | Winter Break Trek Application Deadline
- October/November | U.S. Department of State Summer Internship Applications Due
- October/November | U.S. Department of Treasury Full-Time Fellowships Due
- Nov 3 | Fall Deadline: 4+1 Programs
- November 10 | Winter Break Job Shadowing Deadline

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 16 | Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Application Deadline
- 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
- April 14 | Global Health Scholars Program Applications Due
- Apr. 15 | Selective Career Cohorts
- April | Summer Trek Applications Due
 - Locations coming soon!



Hamza Jilani, AB'24

- Consultant, Civic Consulting Alliance
- Internships: Policy Research and Special Projects Intern, City of Chicago Office of the Mayor; Undergraduate Fellow, Civic Consulting Alliance



Elizabeth Zazycki, AB'24

- South Asia Junior Fellow, Stimson Center
- Internships: Boren Scholar, U.S. Department of Defense; Policy Fellow, People's Action