

Dear Sociology Majors:

I am writing to inform and/or remind you about a unique opportunity for Bryn Mawr sociology majors that you might want to pursue. It is the Pollak summer internship grant. Current sophomore and junior majors are eligible to apply for these grants, which are supported by the estates of Otto and Gertrude Pollak. The Pollaks, lawyers from Vienna, Austria, were Jewish political refugees from Nazism, who immigrated to the United States and settled in the Philadelphia area. Bryn Mawr College had an important role in helping them to resume their professional careers and the Pollaks, in a gesture of gratitude, left the College an endowment to provide grants for undergraduate sociology students. This information is important so that you will be aware of the humanitarian legacy represented by the grants. Each summer, approximately 5 to 8 students are awarded grants for an 8 to 10 week internship with a *non-profit* organization in the United States or abroad. To begin the process of submitting an application, you must locate an organization where you would like to offer your services *for free* as a summer intern. If the sociology department approves your grant application, you will receive a \$4000 stipend for a full summer of work (shorter periods may be funded at a pro-rated amount). Please be advised that the \$4000 stipend is taxable income and that the final amount will be approximately \$3200.

In order to apply for a Pollak Grant, you must begin by locating an organization or agency that is willing to accept you and to supervise your internship. While there is no specific occupational field stipulated for the internship, the organization should give you work experiences that are relevant to either your anticipated professional career or your undergraduate sociology studies. Those students who have taken courses that are relevant background to the proposed internship will be given priority, but all sophomore and junior sociology majors are eligible for Pollaks. As long as the department has awarded Pollak grants, students have worked in a wide variety of organizations such as shelters for battered women in Hawaii and Philadelphia; health care clinics in Rwanda and Malawi; a development assistance organization in Tanzania; an educational research firm in South Korea; a home for homeless boys in Haiti; and a school for disadvantaged youth in New York. Most of the internships were based in the United States. We will take special care in reviewing international placements to account for the greater risks involved. Generally, students have found the internship experiences useful for exploring prospective careers and deepening their understanding of particular social problems.

If you want to apply for a summer internship, you should begin the application process as soon as possible. Identifying and contacting prospective organizations can take a month or more, so you should get started immediately. Once you have received approval from the organization that will sponsor your internship, you will have to submit your application to the Leadership, Innovation, and the Liberal Arts Center (LILAC) through Wufoo:

<https://brynmawr.edu/summerfunding>

**DEADLINE: APRIL 8, 2019**

In addition to participating in the LILAC orientation and post reflection program, each grant recipient must make a brief presentation about her/his internship experiences at the department tea early in the fall semester and also submit a 2-3 page essay describing those experiences for publication in the fall Sociology Departmental Newsletter.

I encourage you to consider seriously taking advantage of this unique opportunity to enrich your education with the practical experiences of a summer internship. If you have any questions about the application process or any other aspect of the Pollak internships, contact me and I will be happy to respond.

Sincerely,

David Karen, Chair