Since 2007, the Summer Internship Grant Program (SIGP) has made it possible for undergraduate students to pursue unpaid internships.

In 2021, 339 Northwestern students received grants of $3,000 to participate in unpaid summer internships.
The Student Experience

Who They Are

339 students from 7 schools/colleges worked for organizations in 31 states, the District of Columbia and 24 countries, 90% of whom would have had to turn down their summer experience or supplement the experience with a second job if it had not been for SIGP funding.

Where They Went

Students interned at a range of organizations in a variety of industries, including:

- Arts, Culture, Museums & Performance: Atlantic Music Festival, Chopin Theatre, Di Novi Pictures, Evanston Art Center, National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America

What they learned

Communication Skills, Strong Work Ethic, Teamwork, Initiative, Interpersonal Skills

98% of students said they would recommend their summer experience to another Northwestern student.
Funding for the Summer Internship Grant Program comes from a variety of sources, including alumni, parents, staff and the University. The Alumnae of Northwestern University, Council of One Hundred, and NU Club of Washington, D.C. are among the major contributors.

My biggest takeaway from this summer is that impact is often times more significant than the actual work you do. It was truly a rewarding experience and I was able to have great conversations, as well as build good relationships with children and their families. Whether I worked with them for just a day or over the course of several weeks, I walked away knowing that every moment mattered. I am grateful to SIGP for providing me with the resources that allowed me to partake in such an enriching and fulfilling opportunity.”

Rebecca Ayiku
SESP Junior

“Since SIGP’s inception, student demand for support to pursue unpaid summer experiences continues to increase.

Without SIGP, the majority of selected students would need to turn down their summer experiences or supplement them with a second job.

Financial support for SIGP goes directly to students to pay for living and travel expenses during the summer of their unpaid experiences.

“Why give?

We are thrilled to support SIGP year after year. One of the joys of being a SIGP donor is the opportunity for our Alumnae Board of Directors to interact with students – to hear first-hand about their summer experiences and the impact on their choice of career.

Alumnae Leaders
My supervisors were very supportive and believed in me - amid the fast-paced environment, I got the chance to develop my communication and organizational skills by corresponding with international clients and catering to their needs and requests. Thanks to SIGP, I was able to support a very vulnerable field and region, while improving my interpersonal, technical, and analytical skills.

— McCormick Sophomore

I am so incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to take an unpaid internship this summer through SIGP. This grant allowed me the financial stability to take up a job at a start-up company, where I was able to have a high-level position very rarely given to someone my age. Being an Editor-in-Chief when face-to-face interaction was not an option had its challenges, which caused me to learn a great deal about flexibility, accountability, and leadership that I will take with me as I enter the field upon graduation next year. I thank everyone at the SIGP program and its generous alumni again for this truly amazing opportunity.

— Medill Junior

It was such an honor to intern with the most influential musical role model in my life. Not only have I grown as an artist, but also I have grown in self-motivation, creativity, and knowledge about this field and what it takes to be successful in it. I now feel a renewed sense of passion for my career goals. I thank you immensely for the opportunity you have provided for me because what I have experienced this summer is enough to inspire a lifetime.

— Bienen Junior