Established in 2007, the Summer Internship Grant Program supports Northwestern students with a demonstrated financial need as they are participating in unpaid internships. SIGP covers a student’s living expenses so that they can focus on their career opportunity.

In 2022, NCA raised the stipend to $3,500 and funded 371 Northwestern students to participate in unpaid summer internships.
Student Experience

Who they are

In 2022, **371 students** from 6 schools/colleges on 2 different campuses worked for organizations in **28 states**, the District of Columbia, and **31 countries**. **90%** of SIGP recipients 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.

What they learned

- Communication skills
- Technical skills
- Analytical skills
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving skills
- Strong work ethic
- Attention to detail
- Initiative

98% of students said they would recommend their summer experience to another Northwestern student.

Where they went

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

**Arts, Culture, Museums & Performance**
- Aspen Music Festival
- Broadway Evolved
- Evanston Art Center
- Kennedy Center
- Music@Menlo
- Prague Shakespeare Co.
- The Second City

**Communications, Journalism, Media & Publishing**
- GSE Worldwide
- Midstory
- PAPER Magazine
- PopSugar
- Purpose Brand
- TV Guide Magazine

**Government & Public Policy**
- Chicago Appleseed
- Development Finance Corporation
- E.E.O Commission
- U.S. Dept. of State
- U.S. House
- Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

**Nonprofit & Community Organizations**
- Boys and Girls Club
- Family Matters
- Illinois Prison Project
- Lurie Children’s Hospital
- New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance
Why give?

I not only honed my voice as a writer, but became skilled at finding a sweet spot [between] what I enjoy writing and what a publication’s audience enjoys reading. This experience changed my life and led me to intern at PEOPLE Magazine this fall, something that would not be possible without this experience. I feel more prepared to excel because of my time at TV Guide and PAPER. I am so grateful for your support of my grant, as I would not have been able to accept these opportunities without it.

Thank you.

– Bailey Richards, Medill ’23

SIGP gave me the chance to give back to my community, which brought me immense joy. From this, I learned that giving is actually more fulfilling to me than receiving. That being said, I would not have been able to give back to my community without SIGP’s support. By giving back, I [felt] connected to my community from a distance. It is hard to summarize well how much of a blessing SIGP has been to me, but I know for sure that I wouldn’t be as happy and fulfilled with my life as I am now if it wasn’t for SIGP.

– Lutgardis Ukangutse, McCormick ’23

This internship single-handedly reignited my passion for theatre and inspired me to move to New York after I graduate this year, in order to pursue a career out there. This was something I was going back and forth on before this summer, but now my course has been set, and the flame has been lit underneath me. Thank you so much for your immense support through this grant, because without it, none of this would have been possible.

– Blake Croft, School of Communication ’23

In the midst of all the pressure, tests, and competition, it can often be hard to remember why I chose music. Being in the mountains of South France with outstanding musicians from around the world brought me the most joy I have had playing music since the pandemic began, if not ever. To play for people who spoke a different language and see them smile and come up to me after the concert [was] an unforgettable feeling. Thank you for making my dreams a reality.

– Jason Chen, Bienen & McCormick ’26
We are thrilled to support the Summer Internship Grant Program (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.

- The Alumnae of Northwestern University

Funding for SIGP comes from a variety of generous sources, including alumni, parents, staff, and the University. The Alumnae of Northwestern University, Council of One Hundred, and the NU Club of Washington, D.C, are among our major contributors.

Since SIGP’s inception, the need to support students 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.