PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

COLLEGE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

At UChicago, College students are trained to become the next generation of thinkers and doers—and their education doesn’t stop when class ends. Throughout their four years, students take advantage of substantive on-campus employment opportunities that help them develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and put their knowledge into practice.

Whether they’re conducting research with faculty members, giving a tour for visiting high school students, managing the Library’s 11 million volumes, or providing IT support to the campus community, student employees get hands-on experience in their field of interest, advance their academic and professional goals, and receive mentorship from UChicago’s community of faculty and staff.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, there were more than 2,400 student employment positions for undergraduates with more than 175 campus departments and off-campus partners. Students had the opportunity to take on impactful projects in a number of different areas, including the arts, community service, event planning, fundraising, marketing, tutoring, and web development.

2015-2016 Student Employment Opportunity Types
When I talk to faculty candidates about why they should choose University of Chicago, I heartily promote our College students as among our greatest assets. The College students whom we employ come with intense curiosity and sophisticated analytic skills—both written and quantitative. College students are working with my lab co-author on original research and technical reports, serve as research and ‘near-peer’ mentors for local high school students with the MAPS Corps program, and contribute meaningfully to the development and execution of our extramurally funded activities. The students we hire are exceedingly fast learners and consistently perform their technical and analytic skills very near the level we expect from people with masters-level training. We have ‘graduated’ students from the lab to the fields of medicine, nursing, midwifery, public health, bioethics, academic careers in the social sciences, and the private sector, including social enterprise.”
JOINING THE WORKFORCE

Eight hundred College students started a new position at UChicago during the 2015-2016 academic year. To prepare themselves to thrive in their new roles, students completed the University’s New Student Employee Orientation, a professional development resource that provides comprehensive training on workplace best practices. Students began their new job with a strong understanding of professional etiquette, effective communication, and how to navigate their department’s unique culture.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS

College students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to build relationships with their local community on campus, in Hyde Park, and in the greater Chicago area through funded community service opportunities sponsored by the Federal Work-Study Program. UChicago Student Employment partnered with College Aid to provide $1 million of Federal Work-Study funding during the 2015-2016 academic year alone, which supported more than 720 paid employment opportunities for students from low- and middle-income backgrounds. In addition, more than 20 off-campus community service organizations leveraged the Federal Work-Study Program to hire talented UChicago students to support people in need. These community service interns tackled a number of important issues, including economic development, education, and healthcare.

The inaugural College Research Fellows Program provided 24 paid opportunities for undergraduates to conduct research with a faculty mentor. The fellows joined hundreds of their peers working in paid, on-campus research opportunities. Overall, UChicago spends over $4 million on research opportunities for students.

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH THEIR FUTURES

Student employees are not only having a major impact on the UChicago community, they’re also making a lifelong investment in their own careers. Through student employment positions, students gain the skills and experience they need to thrive in a competitive job market. Whether they choose to seek full-time employment, continue their studies in graduate school, start their own businesses, serve the greater good in organizations like the Peace Corps and Teach for America, or pursue anything else that aligns with their passions, UChicago students are well prepared to succeed regardless of the path they choose.
Peter Leung
SB’18, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, MOLECULAR ENGINEERING; RESEARCH ASSISTANT, INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR ENGINEERING

“My time working as a research assistant under Jun Huang at the Institute for Molecular Engineering was an eye-opening experience. Working alongside the greatest minds in immunoengineering with high-tech research equipment provided me with a new insight on what it means to conduct ground-breaking experiments. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Huang lab, and am glad to have been presented this valuable opportunity.”

Neeti Jain
AB’16, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES; TEACHING ASSISTANT, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COLLEGIATE DIVISION

“Working as a TA in the Biological Sciences department was instrumental in my decision to incorporate education, to some capacity, in my future career. I found it incredibly rewarding to be a resource for my students, and leading discussions for some of my favorite classes on campus reaffirmed for me that I chose the right field of study. I had an inside look into what it’s like to teach a class, which made me a better student and learner in my own classes.”

Russell Hathaway
AB’16, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC POLICY; COLLEGE PREP TUTOR AND COUNSELOR, METROSQUASH

“My time as a Work-Study student worker at MetroSquash connected me with greater Chicago in a way no other college experience did. For four years, I spent my weekday afternoons working with talented students from the South Side of Chicago on college applications, calculus assignments, scholarship essays, and standardized test preparation. I made some of my best friends (student and co-worker alike) and had some of my most fulfilling experiences working at this organization, and felt I was able to give back to Chicago and the surrounding community in a small way, while also earning enough money to help me cover my own college expenses.”

Paige Pendarvis
AB’16, HISTORY; RESEARCH ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

“Working with Professor Paul Cheney has been a truly rewarding and enriching experience. Assisting Professor Cheney with organizing and extracting data from his extensive archival research on the plantations of Saint-Domingue during, and shortly after, the French Revolution has been very different from my own individual research in late nineteenth-century French intellectual and cultural history, but has challenged me to think about my own research in different ways. Working with Professor Cheney, in brief, has given me an inside look into data-heavy historical research, in addition to showing me that quantitative research can be extremely valuable to the intellectual historian in ways I hadn’t necessarily expected.”

Shoshannah Feinberg
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COLLEGE PROGRAMMING
COLLEGE PROGRAMMING OFFICE

“With only four professional staff members in our office, we rely heavily on our student staff to carry out major pieces of our large-scale programming and manage our front office (phone calls, emails, mail, drop-ins, etc.). Having additional hands is not only incredibly helpful, but we also appreciate having a student presence in our office. This regular contact allows us to stay in touch with the student perspective and opinion to ensure our programming meets the needs of the UChicago student body.”
APPENDIX

2015-2016 Employers

Affinity Community Services
Alumni Relations & Development
Arley D. Cathey Learning Center
Arts Incubator
Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics
Ben May Department for Cancer Research
Biological Sciences Collegiate Division
Biological Sciences Division — Information Security Office
Biological Sciences Division — Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs
Biological Sciences Division — Office of Shared Research Facilities
The Black Star Project
Booth School of Business
Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence
Calvert House
Camp of Dreams
Career Advancement
Center for Cognitive & Social Neuroscience
Center for College Student Success
Center for Data Intensive Science
Center for East Asian Studies
Center for the Economics of Human Development
Center for Elementary Mathematics & Science Education
Center for Global Health
Center for Health Administration Studies
Center for Identity + Inclusion
Center for International Studies
Center for Latin American Studies
Center for Leadership & Involvement
Center for Research Libraries
Center for the Study of Gender & Sexuality
Chabad of Hyde Park
Chicago Academic Achievement Program
Chicago Center for Teaching
Chicago Child Care Society
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago Language Center
Chicago Project on Security & Terrorism
Classical Philology
Cobb Coffee Shop
The College
College Admissions
College Core Tutor Program
College Housing
College Information Technology
College Programming Office
Committee on Social Thought
Community Organizing & Family Issues
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Computation Institute
Consortium on Chicago School Research
Corazon a Corazon
Court Theatre
Department of Anthropology
Department of Art History
Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Department of Chemistry
Department of Cinema & Media Studies
Department of Classics
Department of Comparative Human Development
Department of Computer Science
Department of Ecology & Evolution
Department of Economics
Department of English Language & Literature
Department of Geophysical Sciences
Department of History
Department of Human Genetics
Department of Linguistics
Department of Mathematics
Department of Medicine — Cardiology
Department of Medicine — Dermatology
Department of Medicine — Emergency Medicine
Department of Medicine — Endocrinology
Department of Medicine — Gastroenterology
Department of Medicine — General Internal Medicine
Department of Medicine — Geriatrics
Department of Medicine — Hematology/Oncology
Department of Medicine — Hospital Medicine
Department of Medicine — Infectious Diseases