

Gap Year Options



Volunteering and Service (USA)

AmeriCorps

Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps!

Challenge Detroit

Challenge Detroit is a leadership and professional development program that invites approximately 30 of tomorrow's leaders to live, work, play, give, and lead in and around the greater Detroit area for one year. During the course of the year, Fellows contribute intellectually and through hands-on service making incremental impact in the community. Learning by doing is a cornerstone of the program and the Fellows have the courage, passion, and drive to make a difference.

City Year

City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors and role models, these diverse young leaders help children stay in school and on track, and transform schools and communities across the United States, as well as through international affiliates in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England. Just as important, during their year of service corps members develop civic leadership skills they can use throughout a lifetime of community service.

National Civilian Community Corps

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with non-profits—secular and faith based—local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national and state parks, Indian tribes, and schools, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.

Children's Corps

Children's Corps seeks to improve life opportunities for all children and families who come to the attention of public child welfare systems throughout the United States. Our mission is to effect change by reducing caseworker turnover, providing more effective assessments and service referrals, as well as creating more positive, permanent outcomes for children and families.

Volunteering and Service (Abroad)

Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is a service opportunity for motivated changemakers to immerse themselves in a community abroad, working side by side with local leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges of our generation.

Princeton in Africa

Founded in 1999, Princeton in Africa develops young leaders committed to Africa's advancement by offering yearlong fellowship opportunities with a variety of organizations that work across the African continent.

Princeton in Asia

Princeton in Asia (PiA) is an independent, non-profit organization affiliated with and located on campus at Princeton University. Founded by students in 1898, the program has long been driven by a mission to foster mutual appreciation and cultural understanding by connecting service-minded graduates and partner organizations in Asia through immersive work experiences that transform perspectives, cultivate long-lasting friendships and benefit local and global communities.

Volunteers for Peace

Many of our volunteers are recent college graduates and we find that this is an ideal time of life to do a volunteer project abroad. You have the background and the education of college to help guide your experience abroad, and the freedom and time before starting a career.

Environmental

National Park Service

There are thousands of opportunities for high school, college, and graduate school students to work with the National Park Service. Many of these jobs are filled at the park level—so contact the park that interests you—but others are advertised and recruited nationally by the National Park Service or in partnership with several national organizations. We welcome the interest and involvement of the next generation who will help us care for our nation's environment and preserve her history.

Green Corps' Environmental Leadership Training Program

The mission of Green Corps is to recruit and train organizers, provide field support for today's critical environmental campaigns, and graduate activists who possess the skills, temperament and commitment needed to fight and win tomorrow's environmental battles. Green Corps' one-year, full-time, paid Field School for Environmental Organizing includes intensive classroom training, hands-on field experience running urgent environmental campaigns, and career placement in positions with leading environmental groups.

Conservation Diversity Fellowship

The Open Space Institute's Conservation Diversity Fellowship seeks candidates pursuing professional experience in the conservation field. The Fellowship is a full-time, salaried, one-year position in New York City offering candidates the chance to work with colleagues and leaders at the Open Space Institute to accomplish meaningful conservation goals.

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms

WWOOF is a worldwide movement linking volunteers with organic farmers and growers to promote cultural and educational experiences based on trust and non-monetary exchange, thereby helping to build a sustainable, global community.

Teaching

MATCH Corps Urban Education/Teaching Fellowship

This is an 11 month (August through June) residential fellowship program. It pairs Corps members with 6-7 MATCH High or Middle School students. Corps members run small group or 1-on-1 tutorials every day, run extra-curriculars, coach sports, and serve as a Teaching Assistant to one of our classroom teachers or as an Administrative Assistant in each of the school departments.

Teach For America

All kids—no matter where they live, how much money their parents make, or what their skin color is – deserve access to a great education. But in our country today, low-income children do not have the same access to a great education as their wealthier peers. It's not easy to close this gap, but hundreds of proof points show that it's possible. It takes committed leaders in our classrooms today who will continue to fight for students tomorrow. Teach For America's mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by developing such leaders.

Uncommon School Summer Teacher Fellowship

The Summer Teaching Fellowship (STF) is designed to introduce college juniors to teaching and urban education reform through experience in Uncommon's classrooms and tailored professional development opportunities. Fellows develop the skills necessary for leading high-achieving urban classrooms through the mentorship, collaboration, and hands-on experience Uncommon Schools provides.

New York Teaching Fellows

The New York Teaching Fellows offers a high-quality teacher training program to begin a post-graduation education and career with hands-on training and experience. Fellows are trained during the summer, and most Fellows find employment in the New York Public School system in the following year.

WorldTeach

WorldTeach partners with governments and other organizations in developing countries to provide volunteer teachers to meet local needs and promote responsible global citizenship. It also addressed a growing interest among people in the U.S. and elsewhere to serve, teach and learn as volunteers overseas. WorldTeach provides opportunities for volunteers to teach in developing countries for year programs that are 10-12 months long or summer programs that are 2 months in length.

Arts & Communication

Hearst Journalism Fellowships

The Fellowship is a two-year program focusing on journalism in a changing digital world. The Fellowship program consists of two 12-month rotations at our top metro papers. Fellows will receive training, mentoring and real-world experience alongside top journalists who are using cutting-edge tools to tell stories through data, video, and more. Hearst Fellows are full-time employees with competitive salary and benefits, including health insurance and moving expenses.

Atlantic Media Fellowship Program

Atlantic Media is dedicated to equipping opinion leaders with breakthrough ideas and original insights. Its powerful brands, including The Atlantic, Government Executive, National Journal, Quartz, and Defense One reach leaders across all sectors—consumer, business, media, and government. Atlantic

Media offers high-achieving recent college graduates a unique opportunity to participate in the Atlantic Media Fellowship Program. The Program is a structured, year-long paid fellowship for top-tier talent committed to editorial-side or business-side careers in media.

Public Policy & Government

NYC Urban Fellows Program

The Urban Fellows Program is a highly selective, nine-month fellowship which combines work in Mayoral offices and City agencies with an intensive seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. Program participants are diverse and come from all over the country to work in New York City.

National Urban Fellows Program

National Urban Fellows' leadership development program is a rigorous, 14-month, full-time graduate degree program comprising two semesters of academic course work and a nine-month mentorship assignment. Fellows receive a \$25,000 stipend, health insurance, a book allowance, relocation and travel reimbursement, and full payment of tuition, in addition to their ongoing personal and professional development. The program culminates in a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the City of New York's Bernard M. Baruch College, School of Public Affairs.

The Greenlining Institute Leadership Academy: Fellows Program

As part of Greenlining's overall mission to impact state and national policy and secure community reinvestment on behalf of low-income and communities of color, the Greenlining Academy works to develop the next generation of multi-ethnic leaders and informed community members through its leadership training programs. The Fellowship program is a year-long training program for young leaders that have completed, at minimum, their undergraduate degrees by the start of the program.

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship is a unique leadership development opportunity for motivated individuals seeking to make a difference in the struggle to eliminate hunger and poverty. Each year 20 participants are selected for this eleven-month program. Fellows are placed for half their term of service with urban and rural community-based organizations all over the country involved in fighting hunger at the local level. For the other half of their service, they are placed with national organizations involved in the anti-hunger and poverty movement.

Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellowship

The Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellow works as a general research assistant on a variety of research projects and reports. Research tasks may include reviewing literature; collecting, checking and analyzing data; gathering information; and preparing reports and report graphics. Attending relevant Congressional briefings, policy seminars and meetings is also an integral part of the fellowship program.

Healthcare & Science

National Science Foundation

NSF funds a large number of research opportunities for undergraduate students through its REU Sites program. An REU Site consists of a group of ten or so undergraduates who work in the research programs of the host institution. Each student is associated with a specific research project, where he/she works closely with the faculty and other researchers. Students are granted stipends and, in many

cases, assistance with housing and travel. Undergraduate students supported with NSF funds must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its possessions. An REU Site may be at either a US or foreign location.

Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Fellowship Program

The Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Fellowship Program utilizes practical application of technologies, methodologies and practices related to emerging infectious diseases; conduct high priority infectious disease research in public health laboratories.

Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)

This program offers a "hands-on" application of medical research and is open to undergraduates, recent graduates, medical students, PhD and MD/PhD students, and postdoctoral research associates.

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation: Post-Bachelor Fellowship

The Post-Bachelor Fellowship is an advanced, structured, and focused didactic program where talented scholars can apply their knowledge and passion to help advance the field of health metrics and accelerate global health progress. The fellowship provides a unique opportunity for recent college graduates with strong quantitative skills to train with faculty and senior researchers on a variety of global health projects. At the intersection of academic research, education, and professional work, the Post-Bachelor Fellowship combines on-the-job mentoring from an illustrious group of professors and researchers with course work and field experience in developing countries.

NIH Academy

NIH Academy is a postbaccalaureate program that provides opportunities for recent college graduates to spend a year engaged in biomedical investigation at NIH. Recent college graduates with a research interest in domestic health disparities.

Unite for Sight

Unite for Sight volunteers participate daily with local ophthalmologists, local optometrists, and local ophthalmic nurses to eliminate patient barriers to care and to facilitate comprehensive year-round eye care for patients living in extreme poverty.

Business and Technology

Code for America

The Code for America fellowship is a full-time paid year of service for professionals in the technology industry, including developers, designers, product managers, and related roles. Cross-functional teams of three are embedded in local governments to develop digital tools that help cities and counties deliver key public services across health, economic development, and safety and justice.

Echoing Green

Since 1987, Echoing Green has provided seed funding and support to nearly 500 social entrepreneurs with bold ideas for social change in order to launch groundbreaking organizations around the world. Through our two-year Echoing Green Fellowship program, we provide start-up capital and technical assistance to help new leaders launch their organizations and build capacity.

IDEX Accelerator

The IDEX Accelerator is a six-month fellowship experience designed for aspiring social intrapreneurs who want to take control of their career path while helping to address society's most pressing problems. These young professionals are given the opportunity to work alongside social entrepreneurs across India and gain hands-on experience addressing the needs of a growing enterprise while earning a Professional Certification in Social Enterprise.

Venture for America

Venture for America is a fellowship program that places recent graduates at startups in cities with emerging entrepreneurial ecosystems, forging a community of entrepreneurs committed to building companies that matter.