



Montgomery County Council's Summer Fellows Program June 1 - August 7, 2020



Why should I become a Summer Fellow in Montgomery County?

The Montgomery County Council's 10-week Summer Fellows Program is a unique opportunity that enables graduate students between their first and second year of study to gain real-world experience across multiple fields. The program is a collaboration among 4 independent organizations -- the Montgomery County Council, the Council's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO), Montgomery County's Economic Development Corporation and various departments within the County Government such as the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

This alliance provides multiple points of access to innovative leaders who are shaping the future of Montgomery County in new and exciting ways. It also enables participants to build an experience that is specifically tailored to their field of study.

Summer Fellows will work directly with decision makers on ongoing projects, policy analyses and self-selected research projects. Participants can expect to interact directly with elected officials, senior management staff and, depending on placement, local civic organizations, advocacy groups and business leaders. The Fellows also experience field trips throughout the summer where they learn about some of the County's most innovative programs and get an opportunity to meet inspirational leaders. The Council anticipates hiring eight Summer Fellows for the summer of 2020 (three to work directly for the Council, two for OLO, one for MCEDC, and two for a department (depending on interest) within County Government.)

A VIDEO DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM CAN BE FOUND AT <https://tinyurl.com/mcsfvideo2019>

Montgomery County



Montgomery County is one of the most diverse and well-educated counties in the U.S. and is home to several Fortune 500 corporations such as Marriott International and Lockheed Martin. It is also the epicenter for biotechnology in the Mid-Atlantic Region, with the nation's third largest biotechnology cluster. Many federal agencies are also located in the County, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As part of the Washington metropolitan area, Montgomery County Maryland has one of the nation's most progressive governments. Many programs and local laws originally implemented in Montgomery County have served as models for other jurisdictions. The County's programs to preserve agricultural land and provide affordable housing in all new development, to support public financing for campaigns, health care for the uninsured, and the Sick and Safe Leave Act are among the many programs that have attained national recognition. Montgomery County Public Schools is continually ranked among the top performing school districts in the country, and is committed to educating students so that academic success is not predictable by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, or disability.

COUNCIL FELLOWS: Summer Fellows placed with the Council will work on issues before the Council while it is in session (through early August) and have an independent research project. Summer Fellows will likely be asked to prepare an analysis of a policy issue on the Council's agenda, work directly with a Councilmember to address an issue he or she is interested in, and/or make presentations to Councilmembers or senior staff in official meetings. Summer Fellows will work with other central staff members who are non-political policy experts and will also have the opportunity to work with staff in an individual Councilmember's office.

The Council has approximately 55 staff members in councilmembers offices and there are 40 members of the Council's central staff. Each Summer Fellow will be matched with a staff policy expert who will serve as an advisor and mentor. Council staff will work with each Summer Fellow to jointly identify a focused research project that will be valuable to the Fellow and the Council and, when relevant, meet academic requirements.

Broad topic areas include education, the environment, fiscal policies, health and human services, public safety, transportation, and land use issues. Most Summer Fellows indicated that the opportunity to do a significant research project in a self-selected policy area that was presented to the County Council was one of the highlights of the program. The County immediately began to implement some of the recommendations.

Links to 2019 Summer Fellows reports: <https://tinyurl.com/mcsfhome>.

Additional information on the Council can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mccouncil>.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OLO): OLO Summer Fellows will be assigned to one or two in-depth OLO research projects. Through program evaluations, budget analyses, audits, investigations, and other special studies the OLO provides accurate information, analysis, independent findings and recommendations to the County Council in order to help elected officials successfully fulfill their legislative oversight function.



Although project availability is often not known until the spring/summer time frame, best efforts will be made to match Summer Fellows with projects based on specific skill sets, interests, and project needs. Each Summer Fellow will work directly with OLO staff to complete the project.

Typical project experiences gained may include managing client expectations and deadlines, observing field interviews with various County departments and agencies, engaging in qualitative and quantitative research, participating in briefings for elected officials, and assisting OLO staff with producing report deliverables. The completed OLO report will be published and released by the Council. Summer Fellows will have the opportunity to present their findings to Councilmembers, either as an interim update or as a final presentation with OLO staff at a Council meeting.

Past OLO reports can be viewed on <https://tinyurl.com/mcoloreports>.

Where Will I Be Working?

Summer Fellows will work at the Council Office Building or other County offices located in Rockville, Maryland (less than a 10-minute walk from the Rockville Metro Station), or at the MCEDC office also located in Rockville (a 5-minute walk from the Twinbrook Metro Station). Each office is also served by buses. Just 30 minutes from the heart of the nation's capital, Rockville offers various transportation options, including Metro, Capital Bikeshare, Uber and Lyft. Some additional information on the area can be found at: <https://visitmontgomery.com/rockville/>.

When Will I Be Working?

The 10-week program will start June 1 and end August 7, 2020. Summer Fellows are expected to work full-time (Monday through Friday). Adjustments to the start date may be made for students whose classes end after June 1st.

Assistance With Housing?

For Fellows who do not have local housing options, we can assist you in exploring opportunities at local college campuses, summer sublets, or possibly to stay with a Council staff member. Below are links to various housing information sites in the greater Metro area:

University of Maryland Office of Off-Campus Housing - <https://och.umd.edu/>

Georgetown University Office of Off-Campus Housing- <https://ochlistings.georgetown.edu/>

Facebook Groups Washington DC Area Housing: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1468086266815937/>

What Are The Eligibility Requirements?

Each Summer Fellow will be a talented graduate student in public policy, planning, law or related field between their first and second year of study. Applicants must have completed their first year of graduate school before beginning the program and must have a college GPA of at least 3.0.



How Will Summer Fellows Be Selected?

Summer Fellows will be selected in a three-step process

STEP 1

Applicants must complete an application through the Council's Summer Fellows Program page at: <https://tinyurl.com/mcsfapp2019>

Applicants are asked to provide general information, a copy of their resume and undergraduate transcript. Applicants who fail to submit the requested information will be eliminated from consideration. The deadline for the initial application is December 1, 2019.

STEP 2

Applicants selected for Step 2 will be asked to submit supplemental materials by late December 2019.

ONLY APPLICANTS SELECTED FOR STEP 2 MUST SUBMIT THESE DOCUMENTS

The supplemental materials required are:

- (1) reference letter from at least one individual who is a current professor, employer or community service supervisor. Two letters of reference are preferred. The second letter of reference must also be from a professor, employer or community service supervisor;
- (2) first semester graduate school transcript, when available;
- (3) a writing sample (preferably 5-10 pages); and
- (4) answers to the following questions.

Questions

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Summer Fellow for Montgomery County?(30-150 words)
2. What skills or attributes would enable you to succeed as a Summer Fellow?(30-150 words)
3. Pick one of the following issues and explain how you would approach analyzing it for the Council. (150-500 words)

*Whether to merge the County Police Department with the Department of Parks Police.

*How frequently County schools should be torn down and rebuilt.

*Whether a new transit line should be light rail or bus rapid transit.

*Whether the County should work with the private sector to revitalize under occupied office parks.

*Whether to continue to require that liquor stores be operated by the county.

*Whether to privatize County-run golf courses.

*Whether to ban the use of pesticides on private lawns.

*Whether to encourage redevelopment near light rail stations or develop programs to support the continued operation of existing small businesses.

4. Describe one work or school assignment that you believe would be of interest to a local government. (50-250 words)

STEP 3

The most qualified applicants will be interviewed in person or via Skype. Summer Fellows will be notified of their selection by the end of Feb. 2020. All documents must be submitted electronically via the Council's Summer Fellows Program page

Send questions to mcsfprogram@gmail.com