



University of Colorado
Denver

May 22, 2018

To: Applicants to the CU Denver Political Science Department *Community Leaders and Scholars Graduate Scholarship*

From: Tony Robinson, Associate Professor and Chair, Political Science
Minsun Ji, Director, Center for New Directions in Politics and Public Policy

Re: Scholarship Application Procedure

We are pleased that you are interested in applying for a CU Denver Political Science Department *Community Leaders and Scholars Graduate Scholarship*. This scholarship fund will provide \$7000 in tuition support to entering graduate students in our program who are interested in building their graduate studies around a professional internship and community-based research opportunity with various community organizations who have partnered with our graduate program. This tuition support will provide approximately half of the funding needed to complete a full master's degree in our Department, or will pay for almost all costs associated with earning a formal *Certificate in Non-Profit, Community or Labor Leadership* in our program.

Students in the program will enjoy financial support as they complete their graduate degree, and will benefit from the field-learning and professional development opportunities provided through the professional internship. The community partners who are currently seeking student fellows are: The Urban Land Conservancy, The National Civic League, The Service Employees International Union, and El Centro Humanitario Par Los Trabadores. We are also finalizing an internship opportunity with The Four Winds American Indian Council or possibly the Fourth World Center for Indigenous Law and Politics, so please let us know if you might be interested in that placement.

Scholarship Eligibility. To be eligible for the scholarship, the following criteria apply.

- *Applicant must be a newly admitted student into the CU Denver Political Science "New Directions" Graduate Program starting in the Fall of 2018, or must begin an application to the program in tandem with submitting this scholarship application. You do not need to have currently applied or been admitted for the Fall of 2018, but if you wish to apply for this scholarship, you must begin your departmental graduate program application before the first scholarship decision date (June 11).*
- *Undergraduate Students interested in the scholarship must be Junior or Senior status, and must apply to enter the Department's accelerated "4+1 Master's Degree Program" (in the New Directions program). This 4+1 Program allows students to enter our graduate program, even while still completing an undergraduate degree.*

Community Leaders and Scholars Program. This scholarship facilitates the completion of a Master of Arts degree in Political Science, in partnership with local community-based organizations. Students in the program will:

Department of Political Science

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- Agree to work approximately 10-12 hours a week through the 2018-2019 Academic Year (September-May) in a professional internship with a community based partner. Students will receive 6 graduate-level academic credits through this learning opportunity, and will thereby complete 20% of all course master's degree program course requirements through this internship.
- Choose to finish a full master's degree program in our Department (8 additional courses, beyond the internship credits) OR to earn a Certificate in Non-Profit, Community or Labor Leadership (3 additional courses, beyond the internship credits).
- Design their final master's degree project around a community-based research project of interest and use to the community partner.

To Apply. Interested applicants should review the attached internship position descriptions, and submit the following materials.

- *A Letter of Interest*, describing your academic background, your relevant professional or community engagement experiences, and your interest in working with the potential community-based partner. Prepare a separate letter for each different community-based partner you might wish to work with. Many details will be the same in each letter, but you should tailor the section on your interest in working with the organization to match the profile of each particular group.
- *Your resume.*
- *Deadline for Submission: June 30th, 2018.*

Submit these materials electronically, to Tony Robinson and Minsun Ji, at the emails below.

Submissions will be reviewed and students will be contacted to complete interviews with organizational partners by June 25th. Decision on scholarship awards announced by July 1st.

Students who received this awards must begin their academic course work and their field internships (for academic credit) in the fall of 2018. The scholarships will apply towards tuition costs of these courses.

Thank you for your interest in this scholarship program. We hope it is a good way to jump start your graduate studies and help you develop your civic engagement opportunities in community and labor leadership! Please contact us at the emails below for additional questions.

Sincerely,

Tony Robinson

Sincerely,

Minsun Ji

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