

IOP Pritzker Fellows Program FAQs

Who are the IOP Pritzker Fellows?

Our Fellows are typically practitioners in politics and public service who bring their real-world, practical experience and knowledge directly to students. Pritzker Fellows cohorts are diverse and include a wide range of experts - former elected officials, campaign and policy strategists, journalists, civic organizers, pollsters, political appointees and others who are, or have recently been in the realm of public service or politics.

This is **NOT** an academic fellowship. Fellows do not teach a college class but rather participate in an immersive experience supporting students in their public service journey through weekly seminars, office hours and other engagements.

Click [here](#) to view former Fellows.

What are the fellowship dates?

Fellowship dates vary year to year in accordance with the academic calendar. Here's the general timeframe:

- **Fall Cohort**
 - Orientation week is at the end of September/beginning of October, followed by 7 weeks of seminars and office hours. The fellowship ends the week before Thanksgiving.
- **Winter-Spring Cohort**
 - Orientation week is at the end of January, followed by the first 4 weeks of seminars and office hours. After a 3-week spring break, Fellows return for the second 4 weeks of seminars and office hours. Fellowships end in mid-April.

Is a Fellow the same as a Visiting Professor?

No - the IOP is an extracurricular institute on campus and not affiliated with any academic departments.

When constructing a seminar outline, personal experiences are essential to animating your topic; please incorporate real-life stories. For example, note that you were part of a negotiation team, oversaw a specific legislative process, ran a campaign, saw first-hand what you are addressing - as an aide, reporter, activist, lawmaker, etc. The selection process is weighted toward those who can best tell a story about service, politics or policy through their own career experiences.

All seminars are non-credit and are not classes - there are no tests or homework, and suggested readings, podcast episodes, videos, etc. are optional for students.

Where are Fellows housed?

Fellows are provided housing in either our preferred hotel or one of our corporate apartments. Both options are conveniently located in Hyde Park and within walking distance to the IOP. While we encourage all Fellows to consider spending most of

their fellowship with us here in Chicago, many travel in and out weekly from their home states.

What are office hours?

Fellows hold 4 hours of office hours each week. These are 20-minute, one-on-one appointments where current UChicago students come to speak with you about a wide range of topics. As with seminars, you'll see both graduate and undergraduate students across a wide range of majors and interests. Office hours are a great opportunity to connect with students who aren't able to make it to your seminars or want to do a deeper dive into your topic that week.

Who comes to seminars?

Seminars are open to current UChicago students only. Fellows will see a mix of graduate and undergraduate students across a wide range of ages, majors and interests. Seminars are held weekly on the same day and at the same time with minimal exceptions. These conversations are 75 minutes long and are off-the-record. Fellows often opt for conversations with invited guests, simulations, tabletop exercises and other creative formats in addition to standard presentations.

How is my fellowship promoted?

Each Fellow has a dedicated page on the IOP's website during their fellowship. This includes links to RSVP for seminars and sign up for office hours, their biography, and descriptions for each seminar. We do tailored outreach across campus for each Fellow, promote on social media, and our student volunteers and interns do outreach as well.

*****This document will be updated from time to time. Please feel free to reach out to Ashley Jorn, Deputy Director of the Pritzker Fellows Program (ashleyjorn@uchicago.edu) with any questions not referenced here.***