

GABELLI PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM



BOSTON COLLEGE

An opportunity for leaders of unusual promise

The Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program is an undergraduate academic merit program that annually awards full-tuition scholarships and GPSP-sponsored summer programs to 15 incoming freshman students.

All applicants who submit their BC applications by the November 1 priority scholarship deadline will be considered. There is no separate application for this scholarship.

The Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program offers the richest academic experience available at Boston College. Reflecting our mission as a Jesuit university, it provides a comprehensive liberal arts education with an emphasis on social justice in addition to specialized study in any academic discipline.

During the summer, Scholars apply what they have learned at Boston College to the world at large by participating in experiential learning programs focused on service learning, independent international study and travel, and professional internships.

By combining academic rigor and challenging cocurricular opportunities, the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program seeks to develop exceptional scholars and leaders for the common good.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Each Presidential Scholar receives a merit scholarship that covers all tuition and a separate award for summer program costs. Students needing additional resources to cover other charges (room, board, fees, etc.) are encouraged to apply for need-based financial aid.

BC.EDU/FINANCIALAID

FACULTY MENTORS

The summer before their first year, Scholars are matched with faculty mentors in their areas of academic interest. Over the next four years, they meet monthly, providing Scholars with a close connection to their academic department and exploring opportunities in and beyond Boston College. Mentors advise Scholars on a wide range of academic and professional matters, from applying to internships, graduate schools, and full-time positions to collaborating on research projects.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Presidential Scholars take the honors track within their chosen field of study, all of which require writing a senior year honors thesis. In addition, during the academic year they meet on Tuesday evenings for a variety of programming.

To complement the emphasis on ideas and ideals in their classes and summer programs, Presidential Scholars also make presentations to their fellow Scholars about their experiences, including study abroad, advanced study grants, internships, and thesis writing.

FELLOWSHIP ADVISEMENT

The Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program has close links with the University Fellowships Committee and offers guidance on many fellowships available to undergraduate and graduate students. Scholars may attend a special workshop to learn about the proposal writing process and how to prepare applications for these opportunities. Scholars have won:

- Barry M. Goldwater Science Fellowship
- Boston College Advanced Study Grant
- British Marshall Scholarship
- Fulbright Grant
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship
- National Science Foundation Computer Science Fellowship
- National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
- Rhodes Scholarship
- State Department Critical Language Scholarship

SUMMER PULSE

During the summer following their freshman year, Scholars live together as a community for six weeks on campus. They explore the problems of hunger, homelessness, and educational inequality in the Boston area in a program that combines study, reflection, and work, fulfilling the Jesuit ideal of service to others.



Based on individual interest, each Scholar is placed for four days a week in two different Boston-area social service organizations, such as the Project Bread Hunger Hotline, Haley House, St. Francis House, the Italian Home for Children, and the Suffolk County House of Corrections.

SOPHOMORE SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

As a group, Sophomore Scholars develop a project that addresses a critical social need and present it to the Boston College community. Recent projects have included a poetry slam highlighting the issue of mass incarceration; a photo exhibit showcasing untold sto-

ries of Boston's opioid crisis, the stigma of addiction, and the road to recovery; and an art exhibit and panel discussion that focused on human trafficking.

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND LANGUAGES

The Presidential Scholars' journey to global citizenship begins during the spring semesters of their freshman and sophomore years. First-year students spend a week in Europe, immersed in a different language and culture. Sophomores travel and learn firsthand the social and economic challenges in a Latin American country. In the summer following the Scholars' sophomore

“It’s humbling to have Boston College invest in my success and personal development in so many different ways. From the community you join, to the mentors you learn from and the ideas you grapple with, the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program has been the cornerstone of my college experience.”

Harry Shanmugam '21





year, each student has an independent eight-week international experience. Presidential Scholars research and arrange their own experiences so that they focus on the language, culture, and country that best meets their goals. Finally, in their junior year, Scholars travel to the Middle East to learn about Islam and environmental sustainability.

STUDY ABROAD

Some Scholars augment their summer international experiences and extend their time overseas by taking part in one of Boston College's study abroad programs during the first semester of their junior year. Scholars over the years have spent the semester in locations throughout the world including Argentina, Ecuador, Australia, China, Nepal, the Netherlands, Russia, Great Britain, South Africa, Germany, France, and Ireland.

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP

During the summer between junior and senior years, Presidential Scholars spend eight to 10 weeks working in demanding professional settings across the United States and around the world. Students research and arrange their own placements, drawing on relationships with Boston College alumni, faculty mentors, and the Boston College Career Center. These internships provide initial exposure to a potential career path, and the opportunity for Scholars to reflect on their development as emerging professionals and leaders. For a list of past internship placements, please visit our website at BC.EDU/GPSP

A SAMPLE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Kick-off retreat at the Connors Center, Boston College's conference center in Dover, Massachusetts*
- Tuesday evening meetings
- Spring break trip to Europe
- Summer: Six-week service-learning experience in Boston

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Kick-off retreat at the Connors Center
- Tuesday evening meetings
- Winter break trip to Latin America
- Summer: Language/cultural immersion experience (8–10 weeks)

JUNIOR YEAR

- Study abroad (for some)
- Kick-off retreat at the Connors Center
- Tuesday evening meetings
- Summer: Professional internship (8–10 weeks) and travel to the Middle East for 10 days

SENIOR YEAR

- Kick-off retreat at the Connors Center
- Tuesday evening meetings
- Completion of Honors Thesis
- Participation in leadership events and mentoring of freshman, sophomore, and junior Scholars
- April New York City trip: Presidential Scholars attend an alumni reception and the Wall Street Council Tribute Dinner (the fundraising event for the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program)
- Commencement reception for graduating Scholars and their families

*Each year begins with the weekend retreat at Dover. All undergraduate Scholars attend, and sophomores, juniors, and seniors welcome freshmen into their community. Presidential Scholar alumni return to share their experiences and run breakout groups.



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