

USF Summer Hosted Housing Internship – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the USF Summer Newcomer Housing Internship?

This internship is a collaborative effort between the San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), the University of San Francisco (USF), and IM4HI to support asylum seekers through temporary summer housing at USF dorms. Since 2024, this program has provided 8 weeks of housing for asylum seekers each summer, with USF interns playing a key role in their experience.

2. What are the main responsibilities of interns?

Interns provide essential case management and assist asylum seekers by:

- Connecting them to community-based services (e.g., food banks, medical care, legal aid)
- Helping guests obtain SF IDs and enroll in ESL classes
- Teaching guests to use Google Maps, BART, and other transit tools
- Organizing community activities and social integration efforts
- Partnering with pro bono legal teams to assist with asylum and work permit applications
- Programming support such as communicating with USF staff and creating written materials to support the program

Additionally, volunteers from the community assist with food deliveries, organizing donations, move-in day, and move-out day. Together, we create a welcoming and supportive community for asylum seekers.

3. What qualifications or skills are required?

This program is open to all USF students, regardless of major or year. While bilingual fluency in English-Spanish would be helpful, the most important qualities are:

- A commitment to social justice
- An interest in community engagement
- A willingness to learn and support asylum seekers

4. Where is the program located?

The majority of the internship takes place on-campus at USF in San Francisco to develop stronger relationships with the guests, with some work from home and some activities occurring off-campus as interns help asylum seekers navigate the city.

5. What is the time commitment?

- Program duration: 8 weeks (Tentative dates: April- August 2025; Exact 2025 dates TBD)
- Weekly hours: 10-15 hours per week (Flexible scheduling available)

6. Is the internship paid?

We offer a \$599 stipend to interns for the entirety of their hours.

7. Is summer housing available for interns?

No, summer housing is not available for interns. Asylum seekers (guests) will live on campus, but interns will be responsible for their own housing.

8. Can I participate if I return from study abroad on May 31st?

Yes. The housing itself will begin in early June (8 weeks June -July), so students returning from study abroad should still be able to participate. Any intern hours before June will be programming support, not direct case management.

9. What are the program's goals and impact?

This initiative aligns with USF's values of "Change the World from Here" by:

- Providing safe, temporary housing for asylum seekers
- Empowering interns with hands-on experience in advocacy and humanitarian work
- Linking asylum seekers to vital services and support networks
- Promoting awareness and social justice around immigration issues

Im4HI's vision is an act of resistance. We envision a world where prisons, jails, and detention centers are transformed into centers of healing, culture, and beauty. We embody a world with love, compassion, safety, belonging, and dignity for ALL. We envision a world where migration from land to land is welcomed for all. We embody a community where nourishment and healing connect people to our common humanity as the antidote to separation. We are creating a space where people can feel healing here, opening hearts and space for others.

10. What kind of training or curriculum is provided?

Interns will participate in:

- Training sessions on asylum policies, trauma-informed care, and case management
- Workshops on storytelling and advocacy.
- Discussions and reflections on the broader asylum-seeking experience

11. Can I hear from past program participants or asylum seekers?

Yes! The program includes built-in opportunities to hear testimonials from past interns and participants.

12. Are there any application requirements or major preferences?

There are no restrictions on majors. All students are welcome. However, we do have a preference for students studying in the fields of migration, social work, or other service-oriented studies.

Applications will be sent out in late March to those who have expressed interest via our interest form.

13. Are there roles that don't require bilingual fluency?

Yes! While Spanish or other language skills are helpful, there are many roles that do not require bilingualism, including:

- Logistics coordinations
- Social media and outreach
- Event planning and administrative support
- Photography and documentation of program