



AAPD Fall Internship Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who can apply?

1. Who can apply?

This program is for students and recent graduates with disabilities. You must be a current student or recent graduate (graduating after Fall 2020) of a U.S. based college or skills based program. This includes students across a variety of degrees and majors. Students from colleges, universities, community and technical colleges, and skills-based transition programs can apply. This includes graduate and doctoral students as well as non-traditional students.

2. Are there internships geared toward people with all types of disabilities?

Yes. The program is cross-disability. We have people of all types of disabilities participate in our program.

3. Do I need to provide disability documentation to apply?

We do not require you to provide documentation of disability.

4. Can international students or DACA students apply?

AAPD does not require U.S. citizenship to apply. You must have the required work authorization documents. Some placement sites may require U.S. citizenship so your status may impact what placement site you are matched with. If you have specific questions, please email info@aapd.com.

5. Can people from other countries who are not from a college in the United States apply?

Unfortunately, no. You must be a current student or recent graduate from a U.S. based college or program.

6. If you receive public benefits such as SSI can you still apply?

AAPD has been able to accommodate people who receive public benefits such as social security. Some of these programs have income and asset limits. AAPD is able to provide documentation or make accommodations to the payment schedule in order to accommodate and prevent impacts to your benefits.



7. Do you need to have previous experience?
No, you don't need to have previous work experience. If you are feeling like you don't have a lot of experience, we encourage you to think about other experiences that you bring beyond work experience that may be relevant to the program, such as volunteer work, advocacy, student organizations, caretaking, etc and share about them in your resume and essay responses.
8. What if I'm not sure if I can apply or I need help with the application?
Email info@aapd.com or call 202-521-4316.

Application

9. What expectations or guidance is there for the resume?
The application requires a resume in a standard format. Resumes should usually be one page long, and no more than two pages. The resume should highlight relevant and more recent experiences. We ask the resume be submitted in an accessible format.
10. Do we need to submit a cover letter?
No, we don't have a cover letter requirement and don't accept cover letters. The three short essay questions are a great place to share more information about yourself and why you want to be in the program.
11. What advice do you have for the essay questions?
Applicants must respond to all three essay questions. Please include details and specifics in your essay responses. Please respond to the full essay question. We don't have examples of essays to share, but aim to get to know your interest, passion, and unique perspective.
12. Do the essays need to be in a PDF format?
No, the essays need to be submitted as text in the Survey Monkey. You can copy/paste from a word document your essay responses.
13. Do we need to be specific about our career goals?
It is helpful to hear about your goals for what you want to get out of the internship program. If you are not sure of your career goals, exploring that more through an internship could be a great goal. We just want to learn more about you, where you are at in your career, and how you see this program as beneficial to you and your growth.



Selections

14. How many interns are accepted?

We will have 10 fall interns this year.

15. How many people usually apply?

Our application numbers and competitiveness vary considerably from year to year. Our application numbers have been growing though, due to our diversified outreach and increasing accessibility. So while we don't know how many people will apply, we receive significantly more applications than there are open spots to participate in the program.

16. What does your ideal candidate look like?

We are looking for candidates who are looking to grow their leadership and advocacy skills and are passionate about issues related to disability. We aim to have a diverse cohort that represents the diversity of our community. We encourage individuals from historically excluded groups to apply.

17. When would you contact my references?

We contact your references if we need to conduct a reference check. We may want to learn more about you as a candidate to help us make decisions about who we will accept for the cohort. We do not contact everyone's resumes.

18. What should I tell my references?

You can let your references know you are applying for the AAPD internship program and ask if you can include their contact information as a reference. You can let them know we may or may not reach out to them, but if we do they can expect to receive an email from AAPD asking to set up a time to call.

19. When will we hear back?

Everyone should expect to hear back either way by the end of April 2025.

20. What would the next steps be?

After you apply, we review the applications and then conduct interviews with finalists. If needed we conduct a reference check after the interview before we make final decisions.

Placement Sites



21. What if I want to work in-person and not remotely?

This program is fully remote. There are some rare cases where you may be able to work in-person based on the placement you are matched with. You can express your preference for in-person work, but since interns can join throughout the country and the program is remote, we cannot guarantee you will be able to match with an in-person opportunity. If that is a requirement for you, we encourage you to apply for our Summer Internship Program which has in-person opportunities.

22. Also are we allowed to work other jobs/positions while being a part of the internship?

The Fall Internship Program is part-time, so it is okay if you have other commitments during the fall. Interns should assess their school, work, and other commitments to ensure they can commit fully to the program. As a fall intern you work 15 hours a week, and in addition to the work at placement site we have bi-weekly classes that are 3 hours long, bi-weekly community events, meeting with your mentor, and completing a group project. Some commitments such as a full-time job or study abroad are not compatible with the Fall Internship Program.

23. Is the schedule for the 15 hours at the placement site pre-set or is it flexible?

Interns will work with their placement site supervisor to set a schedule that works for your other commitments and time zone. Some or most of the internship hours should take place during the working hours of the office to ensure you get a full experience and can connect with your supervisor or other staff at your placement site.

Stipend

24. How much do interns get paid?

2025 Fall Interns will be paid a stipend equivalent to \$20/hour for 15 hours a week for 14 weeks.

25. How is the stipend distributed?

The stipend is typically paid in three installments via direct deposit or check.

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In Person Gathering

27. Is the in-person gathering in July required?

No, it is not required to join the in-person gathering the week of July 21. But we strongly encourage you to join, since it is an amazing opportunity to start to build relationships within our cohort and across AAPD in advance of the fall.

28. Does AAPD pay for the in-person gathering?

Yes. AAPD provides travel and hotel accommodations during your time in Washington D.C. AAPD also provides significant support and shares resources for interns that are nervous about traveling due to their disability, or have other barriers to participating. AAPD can also help coordinate accommodations

29. If I need a PCA during the gathering, will AAPD help with that?

In the past, AAPD has covered transportation to and from DC and hotel accommodations for an intern's personal care attendant. AAPD does not help identify or provide direct personal care services. That is coordinated by the intern.

Program Impact

30. Do any AAPD interns get jobs following their internships?

Some AAPD interns have been offered full-time positions following their internships. Others have been offered to continue their internships or have found employment through connections they made during the program.

31. Can you speak some more about the mentorship part of the program?

When you are accepted into the internship program, you share a lot of information with us about your career goals, interests and what you are looking for in a mentor. With that information, we match you with a mentor who best matches you and conduct an introduction through email. We have advice on topics and structure for those meetings, and interns typically do 3-4 meetings with their mentor throughout the internship, getting advice and career support in the process.

32. Would we receive a full schedule of community and networking events ahead of time?

During the fall there will be a lot of different opportunities to join events and activities as part of the internship program. We will share those opportunities out over email and calendar invitations throughout the fall. In addition, Fridays during the fall we will have community events specifically for the fall cohort.