

Rappaport Public Policy Summer Fellowship



HARVARD Kennedy School

RAPPAPORT INSTITUTE
for Greater Boston

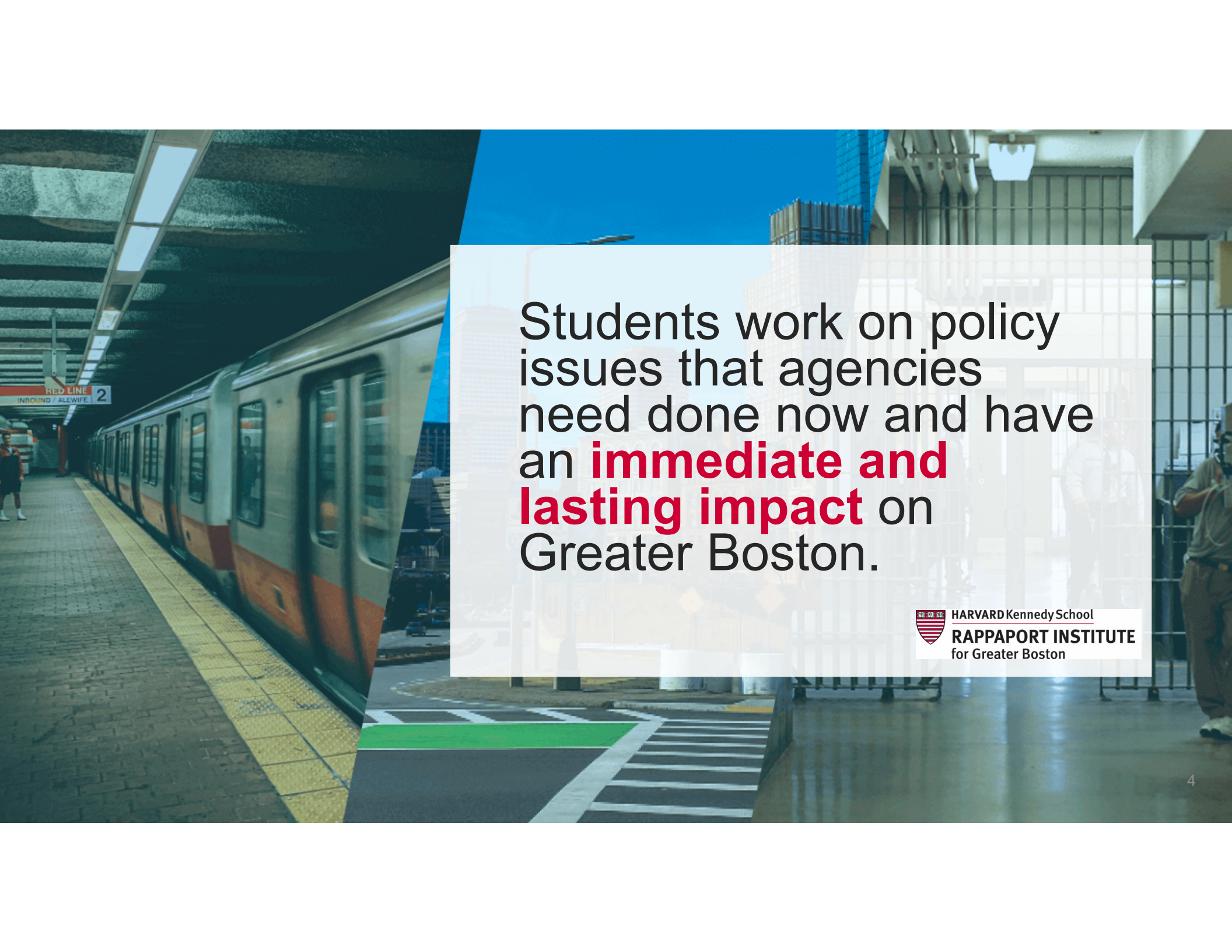
The Rappaport Institute does three things:

- Events
- Research
- Summer Public Policy Fellowship



Rappaport Public Policy Summer Fellowship offers 20 students:

- \$8,500 stipend for 10-weeks
- Opportunity to work on real policy issues
- Weekly sessions to see behind the scenes of public policy in Greater Boston
- Two mentors to help you network
- Opportunity to make friends from different schools and policy issues
- Chance to meet law fellows from our sister program at Boston College Law School



Students work on policy issues that agencies need done now and have an **immediate and lasting impact** on Greater Boston.

What kinds of policy issues have students worked on?

- Creating a program to use smart phones to pay for commuter rail tickets on the T
- Working on the Tuition Free Community College (TFCC) Plan which recently expanded to cover the tuition costs of all students regardless of age, income, and immigration status
- Working at the Governor's Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience with Deputy Climate Chief, Jonathan Schrag, on the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program
- Launching a forgivable loan program to support small business owners in acquiring commercial property as a strategy to improve wealth equity at the Boston Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion .
- Detailing how Boston can implement a temporary transitional housing program for returning citizens

Summer sessions

- Students meet weekly with their cohort to look behind the scenes at how policy works in the area.



Mentors

- Students receive two mentors
 - 1 advisory board member
 - 1 former Fellow
- Mentors help with networking, troubleshooting, and advice

Why apply to this fellowship?

Alumni network

Career path

Experience

Control in choosing your placement

Our alumni network

- . There are over 400 alumni from this program
- . They are located in over 50 U.S. cities and 5 international cities
- . They mentor current fellows and help recruit new fellows
- . They serve on our advisory board and our selection committees

The Fellowship has a positive, significant effect on future work in the public sector in the Boston area.

- 27% former fellows currently work in the public sector
 - 16% more likely to work in MA
 - 13% difference in getting their first job in the public sector
- 56% of fellows work in the public sector at some point in their careers
 - 22% difference from students who do not receive the fellowship
- 37% of their working careers will be spent in the public sector
 - 17.5% difference from students who do not receive the fellowship

The fellowship offers students a chance to work on policy that they might not ever get again.

- Some students use the fellowship to get a deeper knowledge of a specific policy issue.
- Others use the program to work outside of their comfort zone and not related to their current course work.



Students choose their own placements.

- Rappaport Institute staff helps you find potential placements and projects.
- **BUT** the final decision on the placement is up to the student.
- Students interview potential agencies and supervisors for the match that is right for them.



How do I apply for the fellowship?

Students need to submit:

- + Cover letter
- + Resume
- + Writing sample of 3 – 5 pages
- + Personal Statement of 2 – 3 pages

In general:

- + Be careful of typos- get our names, the Institute's name correct
- + Make sure you list eligible agencies
- + Know some general context of what is going on in Boston currently
- + Roughly 80 – 150 students apply for 20 spots

The application process **DOES NOT** include an interview.

Cover Letter: Tips and Strategies

- Introduce yourself – name, degree, school
- Your policy interest – You may have multiple interests, please limit yourself to listing three. Better yet, focus on one specific interest that you are most passionate about.
- List of 3 – 5 potential agencies for your placement – Non-profits and businesses are NOT eligible.
- Consider the cover letter the skeleton of your application. Anything mentioned in the cover letter gets fleshed out in the rest of the application materials.

Resume

- . We look for students who are motivated, self-starters, have a track record of accomplishing things, have a thirst for knowledge, and want to work in the public sector.
- . Previous public sector work is NOT required.
- . You do not have to be the “top dog” just be the best at what you do.
- . Be confident in the transferrable skills that you have even if they are not policy related and highlight those tools.
- . 2 – 3 pages in length. CVs are also allowed.

Writing Sample

- . 3 – 5 pages in length, single or 1.5 space
- . Does NOT have to be policy related
- . Should show that you can take an issue, analyze it, and offer recommendations
- . Can be repurposed from a class. It can also be a piece that was written by a group. Please highlight any sections you had a particular hand in writing.
- . Page total does not include footnotes or endnotes.

Personal Statement: AKA Most Important Part of the Application

- 2 – 3 pages in length. 1 or 1.5 space
- Should cover three main points
 1. Personal narrative – who you are and why you want to work in policy
 - i.e., personal story about your interest in policy
 2. Experience
 - Highlight experiences from your resume that will assist your agencies
 - i.e., transferrable skills, clinical work, personal knowledge of policy
 3. Project Description
- If you were given a golden ticket to do any project at your agency, what would it be?
 - Backwards engineer the project
 - i.e., start with the deliverable – I will produce a working paper, dashboard, streamline small business application
 - Highlight the skills and experiences that will get this project done
 - Wrap your personal narrative around the entire thing.

Where can I get ideas for a project description?

- [Alumni section of our website](#)
- Talk to current fellows
- [Set up an appointment with me](#) – if the Calendly link doesn't work for you, send an email to Paulina.Obrien@hks.Harvard.edu
 - If you are at all interested in applying, I strongly suggest you set up an appointment with me. We can go over interests, potential agencies, former alumni to talk to, etc.
- [Check out eligible agencies](#)
- Read Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Commonwealth Magazine, and MassterList, daily bulletin put out by State House News Service

Application Deadline

- Must be submitted by Friday, January 19
- Online Application will be online starting in December. But applications **WILL NOT** be read until the January 19th deadline. There is no reason to rush to submit your application, take the break to focus on it and submit it in January.

Application timeline

- . Applications due Friday, January 19
- . First round selection committee Friday, February 2
 - . Consists of alumni volunteers who read specific to their area expertise
- . Two recommendation letters are due Friday, February 16
- . Final Selection Committee Friday, March 8
 - . Consists of alumni, board members, former supervisors, etc.
 - . Choose 20 fellows and 5 – 7 alternates
- . Decision Day last day for awardees to confirm participation Friday, March 22

Fellowship timeline

- Students then work with me to find potential projects, supervisors, and agencies to work at during the summer in **March**.
- Students also meet their colleagues at two information sessions in **April and May**.
- They then meet their mentors at an opening reception in **May**.
- Most students begin at their agencies in **June**, but the actual start and end dates are flexible.

Thank You!

For more information

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