

2023 AAPD Summer Internship Program Question and Answer (Q&A)

The questions from the Questions & Answers portion of the webinar may have been edited for length and clarity.

General Application

1. What if you already applied to AAPD in the past but got rejected?

We welcome people to reapply to the program. We've had interns in the past who weren't accepted the first time they applied, but later became a summer intern.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Where can I share that I am a parent, and would a parenting status prevent me from participating?

Parents with disabilities are welcome to apply. While that is not a demographic we currently collect, we encourage you to share your experiences in the essay responses. To confirm, parents of children with disabilities who themselves do not have a disability, are not eligible for this program. You must identify as a person with a disability to participate.

5. Is there a GPA requirement?

There is not a GPA requirement.

6. How is the application reviewed?

The application is reviewed by AAPD staff. We are looking for applicants that are eager to grow, are passionate and committed to creating change in their workplaces and communities, and who bring relevant skills and experiences to the program.

7. What are the benefits of participating in the program?

This is a paid summer internship, so interns receive a living stipend, housing (in-person), technology stipend (remote), and travel to and from Washington, DC. AAPD summer interns also receive valuable professional and personal development, internship experience, and mentorship opportunities from their participation in the program.

8. If you apply and get accepted, are you committed to doing the internship?

In January of 2023, accepted applicants will receive an offer letter to join the AAPD Summer Internship. They will need to formally accept their spot at that time. Once they sign the offer letter, they are committed to being an AAPD Summer Intern.

References & Letters of Recommendation

9. Would academic references be sufficient if we do not have a professional reference?

We require 2 references. At least one needs to be a professional reference and academic references will count as professional references.

10. What is the difference between a professional and a personal reference?

A professional reference would be a past employer, supervisor, colleague, or professor who can attest to an applicant's qualifications for a position.

A personal reference would be someone that has known the applicant for a while and can share about their character or other non-work characteristics that would make them a good fit for this position. A personal reference could be a religious leader, coach, academic advisor, or volunteer leader for example. Family members and significant others are not appropriate personal references.

11. Does submitting a letter of recommendation instead of just a recommender's information help your chances of getting accepted?

Letters of recommendation are optional. Not submitting a letter of recommendation will not impact how your application is evaluated. A good letter of recommendation can add to your overall application.

Accessibility

12. Does AAPD have recommendations or provide any support for personal care assistance?

In the past, AAPD has covered transportation to and from DC and housing for an intern's personal care attendant. AAPD does not help identify or provide direct personal care services, that is coordinated by the intern. If an applicant's preference is an in-person format, we can discuss specific accommodations that may work for an individual's situation. Many past interns have been able to coordinate needed medical care while in DC as well.

13. Does the internship payment impact disability benefits?

Interns receive a living stipend that is considered taxable income and could have an impact on disability benefits. For Summer 2022, AAPD interns received a stipend equating to \$16.10 for 32 hours over 10 weeks. This stipend covered living, internet (if remote), and meal expenses for the interns for their summer. AAPD will work with applicants to best relieve the impact participation may have. Some examples include spacing out the stipends throughout the year, writing a letter stating what the stipend is for, and so forth. Individual questions can be directed to internships@aapd.com.

The Summer Internship Program

14. What are the approximate dates of the internships?

The AAPD Summer Internship program runs from late May to early August. Exact dates will be confirmed in the coming months.

15. Where can I learn more about the Disability Advocacy Certificate program?

You can learn more by visiting our [Disability Advocacy Certificate Program webpage](#).

16. If we get selected, how do we get to D.C.? Is there transportation?

Yes, AAPD covers the costs of an intern's travel to and from DC and supports coordinating travel accommodations. AAPD does not provide transportation once the interns are in DC. Interns are responsible for covering their own commuting expenses to their placement site. Remote interns are also welcomed to join in-person for orientation, and AAPD will cover the travel costs for remote interns to and from DC.

17. What's dining like in person? Is food provided, what about dietary restrictions?

There is not a meal plan provided with the program. Interns are given a living stipend which can be used to cover the cost of food. Historically interns were placed in suites at George Washington University and the housing accommodations included kitchens. For any food provided during events or meetings by AAPD, we will aim to meet everyone's dietary needs.

If you have any questions, please reach out to AAPD Program Coordinator, Katie Johnson, at internships@aapd.com.