



# AAPD Fall Internship Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Important Links

- [Fall Internship Program Webpage](#)
- [Application Link](#)
- [Google Document Version of the Application](#)
- [Placement Site Overview](#)

## General Application

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 2019) 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. Do I need to provide disability documentation to apply?  
We do not require you to provide documentation of disability. We are also a cross-disability organization, so we represent all types of disabilities in our program. The important thing is that you identify as disabled or as a part of the disability community.
3. Do you need to have previous advocacy experience to apply?  
Previous experience is not required.
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 [internships@aapd.com](mailto:internships@aapd.com).
5. 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.

6. 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 an AAPD intern.
7. 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.
8. How many people are accepted?  
There are 10 interns in the cohort.
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. 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.
11. 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.
12. How do you recommend preparing for the interview portion?  
The interview will ask a series of questions about your interest in the internship program, your career goals, perspective on leadership, and how you work in a team environment. The best way to prepare for this interview is to reflect on why you are interested, how



you'd like to grow, and any experiences or unique perspectives you bring. We will also ask if you have any questions for us, so you can prepare any questions in advance.

13. 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.

14. What are the major differences between the fall and summer programs?

The AAPD Summer Internship program is full time and provided in a hybrid format, with some interns joining in-person in Washington D.C. and others joining remotely. The summer is 10 weeks long.

The AAPD Fall Internship program is part-time and provided in a fully virtual format. Interns are invited to join in-person only for the in-person gathering in July. The fall is 14 weeks long and interns work part-time for 15 hours a week.

Both programs have the same major goals. All interns are paired with one to one mentors, join virtual community events, and participate in the Disability Advocacy Certificate program in addition to their work at their placement site.

The fall program is great for people who may not be able to work full time, or who prefer to work fully remotely. It is also great for current students who may not be able to work during the summer months.

15. If I am a current student, will this program be too demanding on top of my other obligations?

That depends on your specific situation. We have had current students and recent graduates participate. The program is 15 hours per week at the placement site, plus a bi-weekly 3-hour long course, bi-weekly community events, and 4 one to one mentorship meetings. It can be challenging to balance this commitment with other school, work, caregiving, or other commitments. Please note that people who are studying abroad or who are participating in other large time commitment programs, are not eligible to apply.

## Placement Sites

16. Where have interns been placed before?

Interns have been placed at a variety of different placement sites. Read more about our [past placement sites](#). We sometimes add new placement sites and aim to match people based on their interests.



17. Do we indicate interest in congressional, federal, nonprofit, or for-profit, or can we list any specific placement sites we would prefer?  
The application will only ask what sector you prefer. If accepted, interns can provide more specifics in their program information forms., including ideas for specific placement sites.
18. Do we have to work at national or federal jobs, or can we participate in state or local level organizations?  
You can participate at local, state, or national level organizations. We match based on your career interest and other preferences.
19. 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.
20. 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.

## In Person Gathering

21. Is the in-person gathering in July required?  
No, it is not required to join the in-person gathering between July 24 to July 27, 2024. But we do 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.
22. 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
23. 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.

24. I'm nervous about using public transportation while in D.C. Does AAPD provide any support with transportation?

Yes, AAPD provides some resources for people new to using public transportation. During the gathering, we also try to support all interns in navigating to the different events and activities.