

# URBAN FELLOWS PROGRAM

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THE URBAN FELLOWS PROGRAM IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE CENTER FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF METROPOLITAN GROWTH AND IS HOUSED IN GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF LAW. TOP GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM MANY DEPARTMENTS AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND GEORGIA TECH'S COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND EXPLORE A WIDE VARIETY OF URBAN ISSUES. A MONTHLY BREAKFAST SERIES AND BROWN BAG LUNCHEES PROVIDE STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM TOP DECISION MAKERS WHOSE WORK AND ACTIONS HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT UPON OUR PHYSICAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

## **PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS**

The following departments and programs have been actively involved in the Urban Fellows Program this past year. If your department is not listed, you are still welcome to apply to be an Urban Fellow.

- Business
- City and Regional Planning
- Communications
- Economics
- Education
- Geography
- Geology
- History
- Law
- Policy Studies
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Sociology

## **BENEFITS OF BEING AN URBAN FELLOW**

- Broaden your awareness about urban and environmental issues in Atlanta and the region by attending the exclusive speaker series
- Build your network of professionals with similar interests
- Develop cross disciplinary contacts at Georgia State University and other universities in Atlanta
- Receive guidance and direction to write a paper of publishable quality and earn course credit
- Make connections in the community through volunteer opportunities
- Become privy to job opportunities
- Boost your resume
- Graduate research assistantships sometimes available to Georgia State University law students

## PROGRAM FEATURES AND REQUIREMENTS

### SELECTING A TRACK

The Urban Fellows Program has several components: monthly breakfasts, brown bag lunches, community service, and writing a research paper. To provide maximum flexibility for students and to better meet the needs of non-law students, the Urban Fellows Program has two tracks available.

Urban Fellows students should select one of the following tracks when applying to the program:

1. Attend the monthly breakfasts, brown bag lunches and perform volunteer hours only – no paper, no course credit
2. Attend the monthly breakfasts, brown bag lunches, perform volunteer hours, and write a paper for course credit
  - a. For law students: 2 hours of course credit are available in the semester that you write your paper
  - b. Non-law students may also be eligible to write a paper for course credit and should check with their faculty affiliate. Non-law students are also welcome to register for the Urban Fellows course offered in the College of Law to write a paper for 2 hours of course credit, if they are approved by their department to take a law course.

Urban Fellows may change their track at a later date in the program, as long as they inform the Program Directors.

All Urban Fellows that successfully complete the program requirements will be given an awards certificate from the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth. Successful completion of the program includes attending the Urban Fellows events (attendance is taken at all events), meeting the community service requirement and submitting the service verification form.

### BREAKFASTS

A monthly breakfast series provides Urban Fellows an exclusive opportunity to learn more about urban, growth management, and environmental issues. Distinguished speakers are drawn from academics, government, and private industry to provide students with a balanced perspective on current urban issues.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Attend all breakfasts on time.
  - Be considerate of our speakers. They are taking time out of their busy schedules to help you grow as a professional. And your participation, through both attendance and actively engaging in the discussion, is a reflection on Georgia State University and the College of Law. Additionally, the Center spends considerable time and money organizing the Urban Fellows speaker series. By applying to the program, you are committing to attend the breakfasts for the entire academic year.
  - Breakfasts are held once a month from 7:45 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. on a Tuesday. Breakfast is served at 7:45 a.m., and the speaker begins at 8 a.m. The speaker will take a break at 8:50 a.m. for students that need to leave for class, and then the question and answer period will begin.

All breakfasts are held in the faculty conference room in the College of Law on the fourth floor of the Urban Life building unless otherwise specified.

- *Absences.* One absence during the academic year is permitted. If you know you cannot attend, please notify the program administrator at least 24 hours in advance.
- *Tardiness.* Traffic in Metro Atlanta, MARTA, and campus parking can be unpredictable. Please allow sufficient time to accommodate for this. Speakers begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. If you are late, please enter the room quietly.
- Participate in the Question and Answer session following the speaker's presentation.
  - Students are provided with information about the speaker and the topic ahead of time. Spend a little time before the breakfast familiarizing yourself with the topic. You are expected to ask questions and have a discussion with the speakers. Remember, your participation is a reflection on Georgia State University and the College of Law.

## BROWN BAG LUNCHEES

Brown Bag Lunches are often done in conjunction with other groups in the law school such as the Environmental Law Society, or even other departments in the university. These lunches provide an additional opportunity for students to learn about urban issues, growth management, and environmental law and policy in a less formal setting than the breakfasts. Brown bags are generally held from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the College of Law in the Urban Life Building.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Attend at least two brown bag lunches per semester.
- Attend the History of Atlanta Brown Bag Lunch (required of new Urban Fellows only).

## Research Paper

Urban Fellows are encouraged to write a research paper of publishable quality on any urban, growth management, or environmental law and policy issue. Although writing a paper is not required to participate in the program (if you select Track 1), writing a high quality paper is a great way to build your professional image, showcase your knowledge in a particular area, or illustrate your writing skills. You may even be able to publish your paper in a journal, or submit your paper to a student writing competition.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Select a topic and faculty member to oversee the completion of your paper.
- Notify the Center Directors of your paper topic and supervisor. This should be done before the registration period ends for the semester that you will write your paper.

### POTENTIAL RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

- ADVOCACY & HUMAN RIGHTS
- ANIMALS & ENVIRONMENT
- CIVIC & COMMUNITY
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- ENERGY
- HEALTH
- HOMELESSNESS
- HOUSING
- HUMAN SERVICES
- LEGAL
- POVERTY
- RACE
- TRANSPORTATION

- Many departments allow students to receive course credit for their research papers. Georgia State University law students can receive 2 hours course credit by registering for the Urban Fellows course (LAW 7494). Non-law students may also register for the Urban Fellows course and receive 2 credit hours for writing a paper, if your department approves you taking this course. Some departments allow students to register for Independent Study Credit. Talk to your Faculty Affiliate about your options. You should register for the course the semester that you intend to write your paper.
- Urban Fellows are encouraged, but not required, to participate in a working group to obtain feedback about their research paper. Talk to the Center Directors to coordinate this, or feel free to form your own group.
- You may be asked to present your paper at a Brown Bag Lunch.
- At a minimum, papers will be published on the Center's website so that they are accessible to students and others in the community who are interested in your research topic. However, students are encouraged to write papers that could be published elsewhere.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Urban Fellows demonstrate their commitment to community improvement by applying what they have learned in their respective studies and from the Program to an area service project or organization. Students may participate in service projects organized by the Program to fulfill this requirement or select a project on their own.

For Georgia State University law students, these hours may count towards your Pro Bono Hours for Pro Bono recognition at graduation.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Participate in 5 hours of service related to Urban Fellows each semester.
- At the end of each semester, students must submit a Service Verification Form to Karen Johnston, the Assistant Director for the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth.

## FIELD TRIPS

Students are encouraged to participate in the field trips offered throughout the school year. Past field trips have included a tour of the Atlanta Beltline and a tour of Serenbe including a tour of the organic farm and the sustainable community.

## BUILDING YOUR PROFESSIONAL IMAGE AND NETWORKING

Participating in the Urban Fellows Program provides many opportunities for students to build their professional image and network.

The breakfasts and lunches are a great opportunity for Urban Fellows to meet professionals who are working in their area of interest. Volunteer to help setup a breakfast or lunch with someone you'd like to meet or get to know better; this little bit of extra effort and communication can give you an excellent reason to get to know the speaker better. Or, take the opportunity to learn more about the speaker's topic - ask informed questions and differentiate yourself. Arrive early or stay a few minutes late to introduce yourself to the speaker, get their contact information, and setup an informational interview with them to

learn more about their job and how they got there. Our speakers know that students are trying to establish themselves professionally – they are open to talking to students! Keep in mind – statistics show that most people get their jobs through networking.

Volunteering provides an excellent opportunity to make a difference in the world – and it can help you meet professionals with similar interests. When you volunteer, get to know the other volunteers – where do they work, what do they do, what is their job like on a day-to-day basis. Get their contact information, and ask them if they'd meet with you for a coffee sometime to talk more.

Writing a paper can be a great way to build your professional image. Pick a topic that really interests you. Use your paper topic as a way to network with professionals in that practice area.

Graduate Assistantships may be available to Urban Fellows law students. Find out if there is an upcoming project or assignment that you can help out with this semester.

Get to know the other Urban Fellows! You may be from different departments, but you all have similar interests. And you never know how your paths may cross in the future!

The Center is exploring more ways to improve their use of social networking. Join the Urban Fellows LinkedIn network of past and present Fellows. Stay informed of upcoming events and news, and contribute your own knowledge and ideas. If you have ideas on how we can improve our use of social media, let us know!

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Urban Fellows Program strives to provide value to all students and the Metro Atlanta area. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the program, please consider the following opportunities:

- Suggesting speakers and meeting topics for breakfasts and brown bag lunches
- Volunteer to help greet fellows and speakers at events
- Participating in a paper working group even if you are not writing paper to provide feedback to peers
- Organizing a volunteer event for fellows
- Notifying peers of research, volunteer, scholarship, learning, and professional opportunities
- Helping with an initiative to communicate the value of the program to peers, faculty, and leaders in Metro Atlanta
- Suggesting ways the program can better serve part-time and evening students

If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities or have additional ideas, please contact Karen Johnston, Assistant Director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth.

## HOW TO APPLY

### Who can be an Urban Fellow?

- Graduate students with an interest in urban affairs and the interrelatedness of social problems, who are in good standing, are eligible to apply to be an Urban Fellow. This includes but is not limited to MA, MSc, MPA, MBA, MCRP, JD and PhD candidates.

### How long do I remain in the Program?

- It is anticipated that once selected as an Urban Fellow, a student will remain with the Program through his or her matriculation. However, a minimum commitment of one academic year is required.

### Application Steps

- Read through this program guide carefully to ensure you understand the program requirements. Attend an information session if you can. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Johnston.
- Select a faculty affiliate from your degree program. Faculty affiliates agree to receive communication about the Urban Fellows Program, attend breakfasts and lunches when their schedule permits, and supervise a student's research paper if the student elects to write a paper. The Center is happy to provide students with information on past faculty affiliates.
- Select your program track: (Note: You can change your program track in the future; this is just to give the program a rough estimate of the number of papers to expect.)
  1. Attend the speaker's events and perform volunteer hours only – no paper, no course credit
  2. Attend the speaker's events, perform volunteer hours, write a paper for course credit
- Complete the application form and turn into Karen Johnston no later than Friday, March 30 at 5 p.m. You will be notified of a decision by Thursday, April 5.
- We will host a lunch and introductory meeting for all newly accepted Urban Fellows – date to be determined.

## METRO GROWTH CENTER CONTACTS

### DIRECTOR

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### WEBSITE

[HTTP://LAW.GSU.EDU/METROGROWTH/INDEX/PROGRAMS/URBAN\\_FELLOWS\\_PROGRAM](http://LAW.GSU.EDU/METROGROWTH/INDEX/PROGRAMS/URBAN_FELLOWS_PROGRAM)

**URBAN FELLOWS PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
Applications Due by Friday, March 30, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Note: Please carefully review the program requirements before applying to the Urban Fellows Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

University (GSU or GT): \_\_\_\_\_

College/Department and Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list one faculty member in your department who agrees to be affiliated with the Urban Fellows Program. Note: If you choose to write a research paper, this does not necessarily have to be the person to supervise your work.

\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe what topics of study interest you for the Urban Fellows Program:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which track do you intend to pursue? Please note that you may change in the future.

1. Attend the speaker's events and perform volunteer hours only – no paper, no course credit
2. Attend the speaker's events, perform volunteer hours, write a paper for course credit

Why do you wish to become an Urban Fellow? Please describe in 150 words or less how this program fits into your areas of interest, past experiences, and career goals. Please attach your response on a separate sheet of paper with your name and department.

Please submit the following with this application:

1. A current resume or curriculum vitae
2. A list of grades received in all coursework (transcript may be provided, but is not required)
3. The name and contact of a faculty reference (reference letters are not required)
4. A list of your extracurricular and/or community service involvement.

You may submit your application by email to Karen Johnston at [kjohnston3@gsu.edu](mailto:kjohnston3@gsu.edu), or turn in a hard copy on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Urban Life Building (College of Law). If submitting a hard copy, please have your application time stamped at the reception desk. [Applications are due by Friday, March 30 at 5 p.m.](#)

*By submitting this application, I agree that if I am selected, I will participate fully as outlined in the program requirements. (Please sign or provide an electronic signature).* \_\_\_\_\_