



We Are Called

The Campaign for Yale Divinity School

Social Justice Research and Internships

At YDS, students are eager to meet humanity's challenges head-on. Whether working toward racial justice, immigrant care, improved mental health outcomes, educational opportunities, or housing solutions for all, the next generation of leaders embraces the daunting future.

For students exploring service through nonprofit organizations, our **Social Justice Internship Program** provides crucial training and the financial support of a stipend. The summer or semester internship experience—where theological reflection and the practices of work intersect—is one of the most direct ways we prepare students to positively change the world.

Our internship program is led by Alison Cunningham '84 M.Div., the Director of Professional Formation. Before returning to Yale, Alison was CEO of Columbus House in New Haven and was recognized as one of the foremost advocates for people experiencing homelessness in Connecticut. As part of the Office of Vocation and Leadership, she is the primary contact for students interested in internships set in the nonprofit world.

YDS internships contain three essential components: site-associated practice, a practicum with peer reflection, and a qualified supervisor and mentor. Whether working with Alison from a list of social justice



The YDS Internship program provides the opportunity for students to explore their vocational direction by working on social justice issues in a non-profit setting. Many students emerge from their internships with greater clarity and a sense of calling to work toward justice in this way. Others who are called to parish ministry find that an internship focused on social justice expands how they see the role of the church in the world. Through the social justice internship program, YDS is equipping its students to minister to the needs of a suffering world.

- Alison Cunningham '84 M.Div., Director of Professional Formation

organizations where students have previously interned or by finding a new site to better meet their goals, students pursue opportunities that fulfill their needs for learning and vocational direction.



Gabe LePage, M.Div. '23 with StillMeadow PeacePark

In turn, YDS students provide New Haven's vital nonprofits with creative energy, knowledge, and passion. Here at home and beyond, interns serve in case management roles, as points of entry for new clients, as leaders of group work, as development and communications associates, and much more. Some transition into career roles with the same nonprofits after graduation. All experience real-world issues and challenges that will help them discern their future paths and strengthen them in their work.

Because we wish for our students to pursue their chosen internships without financial worry or distractions from part-time employment, we are fundraising for a goal of \$500,000 to support the Social Justice Internship Program. By ensuring that our students have the resources they need to commit fully to study and service, we free them they to set their paths based on calling, not financial constraints.

Social Justice Research Initiative

Additionally, Yale Divinity School has recently launched a competitive fund to support student research on social justice issues in New Haven and beyond. This fund will facilitate partnerships with faculty and students in Yale's other professional schools and support justice-related research that is, as well as research engaged in justice work in creative and interdisciplinary ways.



"Through the resources and support of YDS, I was able to connect with Squash Haven, a local educational nonprofit that empowers students to achieve both academic and athletic success. Through this program, I've discovered a love for teaching and for educational justice that I know will considerably shape my future vocation after YDS!"

- *Seth Greer '22 M.A.R., now a teacher and mentor on Norway's Sørlandet, an international boarding school on a tall ship sailing the world*

Managed by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, grants will be awarded to successful student applicants as well as to their faculty supervisors. This initiative, for which our fundraising goal is \$500,000, has great potential for collaboration and synergy with the Social Justice Internships. More detail on the Social Justice Research Initiative can be found on a standalone fact sheet available from the Office of Development.

Recent Internship Sites Include:



“My bi-vocational internship at Harmony Community Church and Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago was transformative. I was able to experience firsthand how faith can practically impact and meet the needs of individuals in historically neglected communities, and I am forever grateful.”

- *Nia Campinha-Bacote '21
M.Div., now a community
outreach specialist*

To Learn More

For Humanity is Yale’s most ambitious fundraising campaign yet, guided by a mission to improve the world for future generations.

For more information about how you can support Social Justice Research and Internships at Yale Divinity School, please contact:

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