

HOBBY FELLOWS provides University of Houston undergraduate students the opportunity to learn and serve as government interns in Austin during the biennial Texas legislative sessions.

Hobby Fellows are assigned to offices of members of the Texas Legislature and work full-time from January through May while the legislature is in session.

They gain first-hand knowledge of the legislative process by observation, participation, research, and writing. They also attend meetings, committee hearings and meet with constituents and lobbyists in addition to completing traditional office duties.

Hobby Fellows are provided with a monthly stipend which are given through corporate and private sponsors.

For more information, please see the [Hobby Fellows](#) webpage.



Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a junior or senior at the University of Houston during the fall 2026 semester (before January 2027). Students graduating fall 2026 are eligible for the program and must enroll as a post-baccalaureate student if selected for the program.

Ideal candidates will possess

- Outstanding academic achievement
- Strong writing ability
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated dedication to public service through volunteerism in school and/or community activities
- Government internship or campaign experience

Personal interviews, academic achievement, writing ability, community and school activities, previous internship and/or professional experience, and financial hardship are factors in the selection process.

Program Requirements

Hobby Fellows work a minimum of 40 hours per week, participate in seminars, and complete various academic assignments, making them eligible for 3-12 academic credit hours. All Hobby Fellows must be enrolled for the appropriate hours/classes at the University of Houston before the initial stipend is issued. Proof of enrollment is required.

Application Packet

- ☐ Typed application form
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Personal statement
- ☐ Proof of financial aid status
- ☐ Sealed academic transcript(s)
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation (up to 3 will be accepted)

Submit your application to

Jessica Ruland O'Connor

jlruland@cougarnet.uh.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026

Applications must be typed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**HOBBY FELLOWS
SPRING 2027 APPLICATION**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Current Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Alternate Telephone: _____

Age: _____ People Soft Number: _____

Major(s): _____ Minor(s): _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Classification: _____

Projected date of graduation: _____

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

What courses have you completed that are relevant to a state legislative internship?

List experience in political campaigns, governmental internships, and/or community service.

List any technical skills that you have which may be beneficial to a legislative office including all software proficiencies.

List and describe any leadership roles you have held on campus, with community organizations or in employment.

Are you a first-generation college student (your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have not completed a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university)?

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Explain why you are applying to Hobby Fellows in an essay no more than two pages or 500-750 words (submit as a separate document).

Discuss your interests in *specific public policy issues and community service projects*. Describe how the internship will benefit your current academic endeavors as well as your long-term career plans. Also describe how you could be an asset to a state legislative office.

CONFIRMATION

The information given above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any misrepresentation will result in the disqualification of my application. I hereby give permission to the members of the Hobby Fellows selection committee to review this information for purpose of evaluating my eligibility for a position as a Hobby Fellows intern.

Signature _____ Date _____

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For more information about the Hobby School of Public Affairs and its activities, go to www.uh.edu/hobby.



Hobby School of Public Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON**

The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation except where such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title I of the Educational Amendment of 1972 and all other federal and state regulations.