

Rappaport Public Policy Summer Fellowship



HARVARD Kennedy School

RAPPAPORT INSTITUTE
for Greater Boston

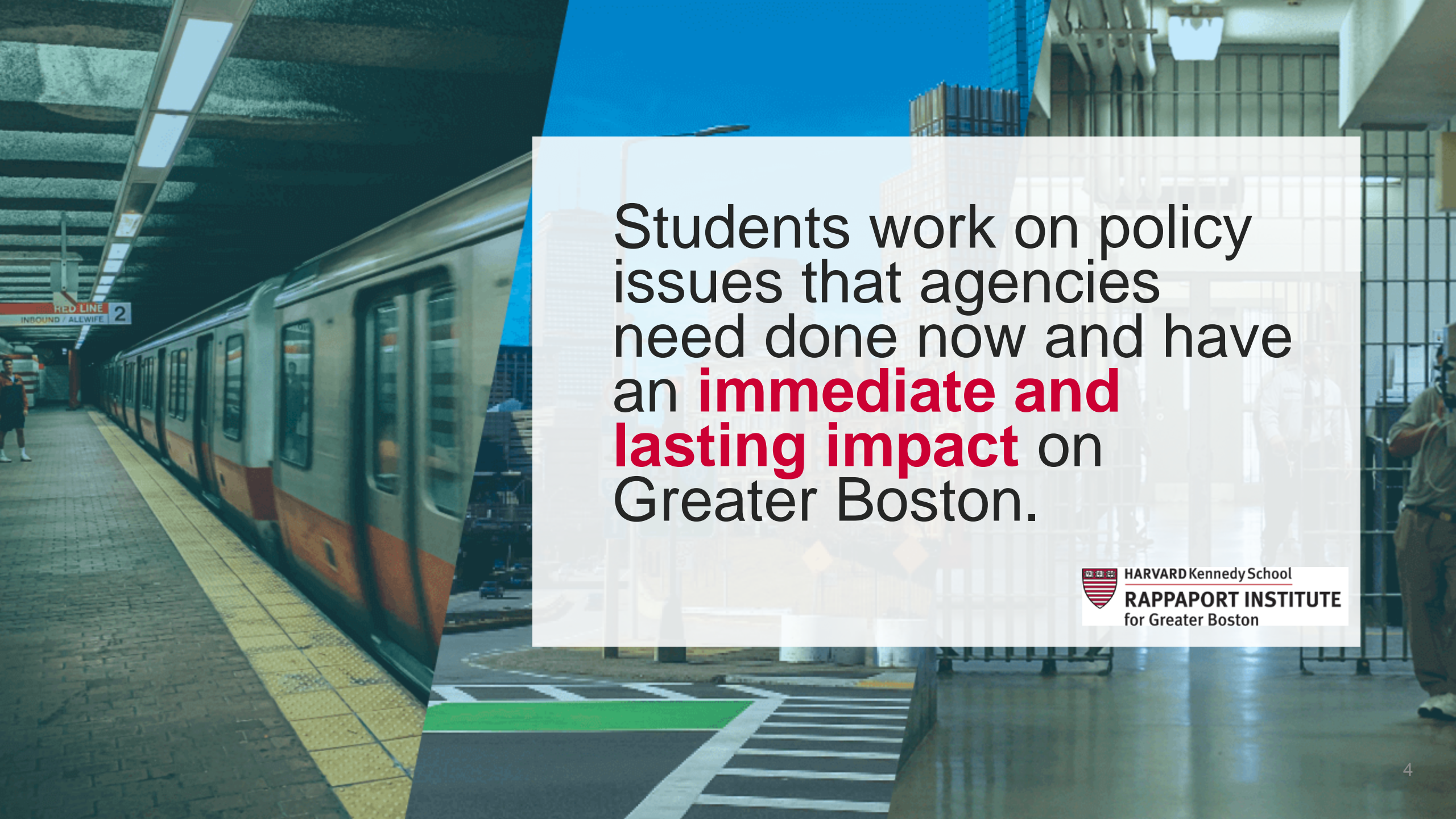
The Rappaport Institute does three things:

- + Events
- + Research
- + Summer Public Policy Fellowship



Rappaport Public Policy Summer Fellowship offers students:

- + \$7,000 stipend for 10-weeks
- + Opportunity to work on real policy issues
- + Weekly sessions to see behind the scenes of public policy in Greater Boston
- + Two mentors to help you network
- + Opportunity to make friends from different schools and policy issues
- + Chance to meet law fellows from our sister program at Boston College Law School



Students work on policy issues that agencies need done now and have an **immediate and lasting impact** on Greater Boston.

What kinds of policy issues have students worked on?

- + Creating a program to use smart phones to pay for commuter rail tickets on the T
- + Assisting the MA COVID-19 Response procurement and testing teams
- + Broadening Boston's efforts to combat wage theft in immigrant and low-wage communities
- + Researching Boston's growing digital divide amid the coronavirus pandemic
- + Detailing how Boston can implement a temporary transitional housing program for returning citizens
- + Evaluating the first round of TDI Local COVID Emergency Grants that were distributed to small businesses

Summer sessions

- + Students meet weekly with their cohort to look behind the scenes at how policy works in the area.
- + Places they have been include:
 - + MBTA Control Center and the Central Artery Tunnel Vent Building
 - + Conversations with Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu and Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins



Mentors

- + Students receive two mentors
 - + 1 advisory board member
 - + 1 former Fellow
- + Mentors help with networking, troubleshooting, and advice

Why apply to this fellowship?

Alumni network

Career path

Experience

Control in choosing your placement

Our alumni network

- + There are over 400 alumni from this program
- + They are located in over 50 U.S. cities and 5 international cities
- + They mentor current fellows and help recruit new fellows
- + They serve on our advisory board and our selection committees

The Fellowship has a positive, significant effect on future work in the public sector in the Boston area.

34%

of former fellows work in the public sector compared to 22% of students who did not receive the fellowship. (12% difference)

54%

of fellows work in the public sector at some point in their careers, as opposed to only 36% of runners-up. (18% difference)

Former fellows, as compared to runners-up, have a higher probability of working in the public sector in the Boston area across a variety of outcomes. These results suggest that the program is not only managing to target aid to students who are likely to serve, but also increasing their likelihood of working in government.

The fellowship offers students a chance to work on policy that they might not ever get again.

- + Some students use the fellowship to get a deeper knowledge of a specific policy issue.
- + Others use the program to work outside of their comfort zone and not related to their current course work.



Students choose their own placements.

- + Rappaport Institute staff helps you find potential placements and projects.
- + **BUT** the final decision on the placement is up to the student.
- + Students interview potential agencies and supervisors for the match that is right for them.



How do I apply for the fellowship?

Students need to submit:

- + Cover letter
- + Resume
- + Writing sample of 3 – 5 pages
- + Personal Statement of 2 – 3 pages

In general:

- + Be careful of typos- get our names, the Institute's name correct
- + Make sure you list eligible agencies
- + Know some general context of what is going on in Boston currently

Cover Letter

- + Introduce yourself – name, degree, school
- + Your policy interest – do NOT give us a list of potential policies you are interested in, three maximum
- + List of potential agencies for your placement – Non-profits and businesses are NOT eligible.

Resume

- + We look for students who are motivated, self-starters, have a track record of accomplishing things, have a thirst for knowledge, and want to work in the public sector.
- + Previous public sector work is NOT required.
- + You do not have to be the “top dog” just be the best at what you do.

Writing Sample

- + 3 – 5 pages in length, single or 1.5 space
- + Does NOT have to be policy related
- + Should show that you can take an issue, analyze it, and offer recommendations
- + Can be repurposed from a class

Personal Statement

- + 2 – 3 pages in length
- + Strong opening
 - + Give us a good intro to who you are, grab us in with your narrative, **but** be careful transitioning from who you are to your experiences
- + Your experience
 - + NO hyperbole
 - + Make every word count
- + Potential project description
 - + 2 or 3 paragraph description of a potential project you would like to work on at your agency
 - + Should tie into your personal narrative and experience
 - + Most likely will NOT become your project

Where can I get ideas for a project description?

- + Alumni section of our website
 - + <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/taubman/programs-research/rappaport/student-opportunities/public-policy-summer-fellowship/alumni-of-the-program>
- + Talk to current fellows
- + Set up an appointment with me - https://calendly.com/rappaport_fellowship
- + Check out eligible agencies
 - + <http://www.mass.gov/portal/global-agency-list.html>

Application Deadline

- + Must be in hand on January 15 at 5 p.m.
- + Online Application will be online starting in November. But applications **WILL NOT** be read until the January 15th deadline.

Selection is in two parts.

- + Students find out by the first week of February if they have made it to the second round.
- + Students in the second round, then submit two recommendation letters.
- + Applicants usually find out by late February or early March if they have received the fellowship.

Fellowship timeline

- + Students then work with me to find potential projects, supervisors, and agencies to work at during the summer in **March**.
- + Students also meet their colleagues at two information sessions in **April and May**.
- + They then meet their mentors at an opening reception in **May**.
- + Most students begin at their agencies in **June**, but the actual start and end dates are flexible.

Thank You!

For more information

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