

KOHN²⁵ SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

FAQ

What is the Kohn Summer Intern Program?

The Kohn Summer Intern Program is an innovative 8-eight week program that provides college undergraduates, who are interested in the Jewish community, the opportunity to work in Jewish communal service. The Kohn program, sponsored by Jewish Vocational Service, is geared toward students who may attend colleges all over the country, but whose primary residence is the Bay Area. Placed in professional positions at leading Bay Area Jewish communal agencies, participants gain valuable work experience and receive supervision and mentoring from Jewish community leaders. Additionally, participants are introduced to volunteer opportunities in the Jewish community, and are exposed to issues currently facing the Jewish community. The summer of 2010 marks the 25th year of the Kohn Summer Intern Program.

The primary objectives of the program are for participating interns to:

1. Develop professional and practical skills by performing fieldwork in a Jewish communal agency.
2. Evaluate opportunities for future professional or volunteer involvement in the Jewish community.
3. Increase knowledge of current events related to Israel and the Jewish community.
4. Gain familiarity with the structure of local Jewish agencies.
5. Form a community of their peers within the Jewish Community.

Who is eligible for the program?

The Kohn Summer Intern Program is a highly competitive program. Applicants must be:

1. Residents of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, the Peninsula or the Greater East Bay (1 intern placement position available for the East Bay).
2. Undergraduates who have completed at least one year of college.
3. Interested in exploring the Jewish Community.
4. In good academic standing, with demonstrated leadership qualities.

What are the key dates for the 2010 cohort?

Friday, June 18	Intern Retreat
Monday, June 21	Mandatory Orientation
Friday, August 13	Culmination Luncheon

Is the internship paid? Is there a stipend?

Yes! Each intern will receive a stipend of \$2,500. This will be paid in either two or three installments. Please note that this is taxable income; your take-home pay will be less than \$2,500.

Will I be reimbursed for possible commuting/transportation costs during the program?

We do not have the capacity to reimburse interns for the daily commute to and from their placement site. However, if you are asked to commute *during* your work day by your agency, they will reimburse you for your travel expenses.

What types of work will interns do?

Interns have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to, marketing, public relations, finance, journalism, Israel advocacy, event planning, and direct service with youth or the elderly. Interns will collaborate with their supervisors and Kohn Program Staff to ensure a productive and meaningful work experience at their placement agencies.

How do interns get placed at their field work sites?

Kohn Program Staff will match interns to work sites according to expressed areas of professional interest and skills. JVS cannot guarantee placement at specifically selected Jewish agencies. Each year a different group of agencies host Kohn interns and, therefore, JVS cannot predict if an agency that hosted in the past will apply to host again in the future.

What is the structure of the Kohn Summer Intern Program?

The Kohn Program is comprised of six components

- I. **Retreat on Friday, June 18** – Interns and program staff will spend the day getting to know one another in a relaxed and fun environment. The retreat focuses on forming a unified intern community and cohesive group before the internships begin the following week.
- II. **Mandatory Orientation on Monday, June 21** – Details about specific events, what to expect, seminar topics, and logistics for the upcoming summer.
- III. **Field Work Placements** – Interns work four full days a week in field placements at designated Jewish community agencies, supervised by agency staff members.
- IV. **Seminars in Professional Development and Jewish Communal Service** – Each Friday, interns gather as a group to develop professional skills and examine important issues facing the Jewish college population and the broader Bay Area Jewish community. Friday Seminars are led by Kohn Program Staff and Jewish Community Leaders.
- V. **Community Building Among Interns** – In addition to building group dynamics in Friday seminars, three special social events for interns take place. They are: a Shabbat Dinner, Dinner and movie night at the Jewish Film Festival and a one day retreat midway through the program. With the help of a social committee made up of your fellow Kohn Interns, other social events will be planned throughout the summer. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to get to know your fellow interns.
- VI. **Culmination Luncheon on Friday, August 13** – Kohn Summer Interns invite their friends and family to share in the summer's successes at a Culmination Luncheon held at the SFJCC.

What is the application process?

1. Fill out and submit the 2010 Intern Application Form with your signature by April 1, 2010.
2. Submit two short-answer essays by April 1, 2010.
Each essay should be no more than 300 words. Please double-space your essays and submit them on separate pages in 12-point Times New Roman font. Your name and the number of the essay should be put on the top right-hand corner of each page.
3. Have two letters of recommendations sent directly from the sources to JVS by April 1, 2010. At least one recommendation should be from a current or former supervisor, if possible. The other recommendation can be from an academic reference, an extracurricular reference, or any other reference that can comment on your potential to succeed in a professional environment.
4. Selected candidates will proceed with an interview in person (preferred) or via Skype with Kohn Program Staff and a panel of Jewish community professionals and lay leaders. Interviews will take place between March 26 and April 30. It is preferred that interviews take place in person, either over spring break or during a visit to the Bay Area. If it is not possible to conduct a face-to-face interview, interviews will be conducted via Skype. Interviews cannot take place until the JVS office has received and reviewed your application and recommendations in full.
5. Please consider: if you will be in the Bay Area for Passover or spring break, submit your complete application at least 2 weeks before your visit, to provide the opportunity for an in person interview, if selected.
6. Kohn Program Staff will contact you regarding acceptance decisions.

To where do I submit applications, essays and letters of recommendation?

JVS – Attention: Kohn Intern Program
225 Bush Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94104
or via email to jewishprograms@jvs.org

What is the deadline for applications?

We accept applications via mail or email. Applications must be in-hand at JVS by April 1, 2010.

Can students attending a Birthright Israel Seminar participate in Kohn?

As Birthright Israel Trips run from May through August it *is* possible to participate in Birthright and be a Kohn Intern. Please check the Birthright website at birthrightisrael.com for trips that return *before* Kohn begins and leave *after* Kohn ends. Given that Kohn is only an eight week program, **it is not possible** to leave for ten days to attend birthright while Kohn is in session.

Who can I contact for more information?

We look forward to answering your questions! Contact Rebecca Goodman, Jewish Programs Coordinator, at rgoodman@jvs.org or 415.782.6225.

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