Your future career is waiting. We’re here to help you find it.
At Harris, you’re more than a student. You’re a candidate for your next role in policy leadership and changemaking.

Studying at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy offers versatile career opportunities. But we know that finding the best fit can be a challenge.

Whether it’s your first job or your next move, whether you’re looking to advance in your current organization or pivot to a new field, the Harris Career Development Office (CDO) is here for you.

Our Career Development team assists you from the moment you arrive on campus. By offering one-on-one coaching appointments or organizing on-campus interviews with industry-leading organizations, CDO gives you the resources you need to pursue your future with clarity and confidence.

“CDO’s vision is to ensure 100% of interested candidates secure summer internships and full-time employment within six months of graduation. We equip you to take personal ownership of exploring, developing, and achieving meaningful careers in an ever-changing global economy. Our career readiness team facilitates this ownership through personalized career coaching and building meaningful relationships with you.”

ADAM McGRiffin
Director of Career Development & External Partnerships
The Career Development Office is here for you.

We believe your career path isn’t linear—it’s cyclical. That’s why we’re here through it all, from your years as a student to your life after Harris.

“Our career coaches are here to understand your experience, plans, and career potential. We will personalize your tools to network confidently and negotiate your offers effectively.”

NICK FAHNDERS
Associate Director, Career Readiness

We offer the following support throughout your career journey:

- One-on-one career coaching sessions
- Résumé and cover letter review
- Exclusive on-campus recruiting (internship and full-time roles)
- Preparation for traditional, non-traditional, and virtual interviews
- Salary and employment offer negotiation support
- Employer engagement opportunities, from info sessions to real-time policymaking contributions
- Peer-group career development with student organizations
- Access to databases with internships, fellowships, and jobs

Harris Employer Highlights

BROOKINGS  S&P Global Ratings  WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION  THE WORLD BANK  Deloitte

Office of the Mayor of Chicago
Featured Master of Public Policy Alumni

**Manuel Aragonés**  
**MPP’16**  
Founder & CEO, deep_dive

Manuel wants to help organizations address how to organize, process, and examine billions of bytes of data in a meaningful way with his Mexico City-based start-up deep_dive. The company collects massive amounts of unstructured data and applies state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms to provide actionable insights.

While earning his dual Bachelor’s in Economics and Political Science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Manuel worked as an analyst for Marketing Group Mexico, conducting political analysis and strategic planning for a presidential campaign.

**Manuel is committed to using data science to reshape public policy and make a positive impact.**

As part of this commitment, Manuel is helping government authorities address one of the gravest issues facing modern-day Mexico: the disappearance of more than 30,000 people at the hands of drug cartels since 2006.

Manuel believed he could help by establishing a digital registry and applying data science to provide insights on open cases. He connected with the Executive Commission for Victims’ Assistance (CEAV), a federal agency for victims of disappearances, kidnappings, and crimes committed by government authorities.

After months of bureaucratic delays, Manuel took it upon himself to purchase a scanner and enter a small number of files to demonstrate the concept. Seeing the potential, CEAV jumped all in. Needing more support, Manuel reached out to Harris. After an extensive interview process, he brought in Elana Badillo Goicoechea, MSCAPP’19, and Vishwanath Emani Venkata, MPP’19.

Harris offered a life-changing experience for Manuel, and in turn provided a deeply meaningful and enriching opportunity for Elana and Vishwanath.

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**Becki Planchard**  
**MPP’17**  
Senior Early Childhood Policy Advisor, NC Department of Health and Human Services

From Durham, North Carolina, Becki had always planned to pursue a role in public service. Her father is a doctor and her mother was the director of the medical center library at Duke University. Everyone in Becki’s family is service-oriented, and she cares about committing her daily work to doing something that helps others.

Becki has always been motivated by serving children and women—a drive she developed after losing her mom when she was young. Early childhood policy has been a natural way to unite both of those interests.

Before coming to Harris, Becki completed her BA in Spanish and History with a minor in Political Science from Duke University, served in Teach for America for four years, and was an instructional coach in Texas.

Becki had completed some statistics courses prior to Harris, but she was looking for an opportunity to improve her quantitative skills. While at Harris, Becki also built her network and grew as a leader, through roles such as president of Women in Public Policy.

After graduating from Harris, Becki worked in the Mayor’s Office in Chicago. Her work included building the infrastructure and systems for universal pre-K. Her current role has allowed her to achieve her goal of committing to helping others in her daily work.

**Becki’s work on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Early Childhood Action Plan, which focuses on ensuring children grow up healthy, in a safe and nurturing environment, and ready to learn and succeed, influences the lives of thousands of children across the state.**
In February 2017, Lea founded Allies for Educational Equity. The mission of the non-partisan, grassroots-funded political action committee is to bring together the political voice, ideas, and actions of education reformers to create a system in which demography is not destiny.

Through Allies for Educational Equity, Lea wants to use the power of organizing to improve educational opportunities for all kids. The PAC has members from across the spectrum of education policy.

The founding of Allies for Educational Equity marks the latest accomplishment in a career path that has often centered around education. Upon receiving her undergraduate degree in 2003 from Claremont McKenna College, Lea joined Teach for America. She went on to teach and work abroad before returning to the U.S. in 2006 to begin working toward her Master of Public Policy.

After Harris, Lea spent time in both the public and private sectors. In 2009, while still working to implement a public-private partnership in Chicago, Lea dipped her toes back into education, starting the Young Professionals Board for KIPP Chicago, a charter school network in the city.

The taste of being back in education reignited her passion, and she decided she needed to do more. Lea joined StudentsFirst, a national advocacy organization. From there, Lea became deputy director of Democrats for Education Reform. Lea’s final post before founding Allies for Educational Equity was senior policy advisor for the United States Department of Education during the Obama Administration.

Lea and her Harris classmates share a common interest in achieving systemic change in their work. That idea is present in Allies for Educational Equity; the members work together to determine how contributions can be best utilized.

From a suburb of northern Detroit, Eric has always been fascinated with economic policy, specifically at the intersection of capital markets. How do you create policies that promote economic growth, social inclusion, and rising living standards? What financing mechanisms can you build to attract private capital to a public project? What is the optimal meeting point of fiscal and monetary policy?

Eric completed a dual BS in Finance and Economics from Oakland University. Attending Harris provided Eric the opportunity to combine policy studies with coursework and seminars in the Booth School of Business and Law School. This interdisciplinary academic approach allowed Eric to personalize his policy degree to best suit his career goals.

After graduating from Harris, Eric joined BlackRock as an investment analyst within the firm’s Global Fixed Income platform. He provides primary and secondary market credit research on state and local healthcare and project finance debt securities. His role involves supporting fund managers investing on behalf of institutions throughout the world that depend on BlackRock to be stewards of their capital. This requires detailed financial analysis and meetings with management teams, investment bankers, and rating agencies across the U.S. to determine risks and opportunities within each investment decision.

In a role that would traditionally be viewed for an MBA versus an MPP graduate, Eric’s policy background has offered a unique perspective and approach to the investment process that has provided value for his organization’s team and clients.
At Harris, we’re just as focused on your job satisfaction as helping you find a job.

First and foremost, we are here to help you find employment.

At the same time, we strive to ensure the highest level of job satisfaction for each graduate. It’s why 82 percent of students answered they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” in our 2020 Career Outcomes Report.

The Career Development Office is here to help build your professional brand, determine areas of career interest, and support your job search from application to offer negotiation—as a student and throughout your career.

“The CDO team finds meaning in helping you discover an employer and role that align with your identity, values, and where you want to put policy to work.”

COURTNEY THOMPSON
Assistant Director, Career Readiness
HARRIS TALENT STATS*

**Work Experience**

- **22%** with 1–3 years
- **32%** with 5+ years
- **16%** of students have previous Master’s degrees

- **97%** of the Class of 2020 found summer employment
- **96%** of graduates secured employment

**Top Policy Areas**

- ECONOMIC & FISCAL
- HEALTH
- FINANCE & TRADE
- ENERGY

**A Sample of Our Employer Partners**

**Private**
- Anderson Economic Group
- CityBase
- Deloitte
- Huawei Enterprise (China)
- Mathematica Policy Research
- S&P Global Ratings
- West Monroe Partners

**Nonprofit/NGO/IGO**
- Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA)
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- The World Bank
- J-PAL
- Results for America
- The Urban Institute
- Ideas42

**Public/Government Agency**
- China Development Bank
- Cook County State’s Attorney
- Japan Ministry of Finance
- Mexico Ministry of Finance
- Office of Inspector General, Chicago Board of Education
- U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- California State Auditor

*Data from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy 2020 Career Outcomes Report. The Harris Career Development Office surveyed students in the Class of 2019 at the time of graduation and six months after graduation. CDO also surveys students in the Class of 2020 before their summer internship, with a follow-up survey after their internship.*
Advance your career with Harris.

We believe an internship is an important piece of putting your education to work. For this reason, Harris invests in funding unpaid and underfunded internships in the public and nonprofit sectors. That way, you can focus on meaningful policy work at the right organization, without the pressure of securing a salary.*

And alongside your degree, Harris helps you achieve your career goals with work experience through internships at some of the most influential organizations in cities like Chicago and Washington, D.C., such as the World Bank, the Sunlight Foundation, Oxfam America, the Urban Institute, and City of Chicago Office of the Mayor.

To ensure flexibility that allows students to pursue the best opportunities for their future career, CDO developed a new process in 2019 for part-time and underfunded** internships.

Harris provides a limited number of $3,000 Harris Midway Fund stipends, which are available to students doing degree relevant and career-advancing unpaid summer internships in the public and nonprofit sectors.

Thanks to the generosity of Harris alumnus John Bartlett, CDO has two stipends worth up to $5,000 each available to students pursuing unpaid or underpaid summer internships in energy or environmental economics and policy.

The France Chicago Center’s partnership with Harris offers students the opportunity to apply for a stipend worth up to $4,000 for a summer internship in France.

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*Internship funding is acquired through a competitive application process.
**CDO defines ‘underfunded’ internship offers as those that range from $1 to $2,999 in the public or non-profit sector.
Grow with your new global network.

Our outstanding alumni are driven to tackle society’s toughest challenges using innovative, data-driven solutions.

Backed by the strength of UChicago’s Alumni Association, our close-knit network of more than 3,500 Harris alumni is made up of policy advisors, program officers, campaign chiefs of staff, financial analysts and consultants, economists and research specialists, government officers, foreign exchange traders, and directors at major organizations worldwide.

Wherever you want to be, there’s a good chance the Harris global alumni network is represented there.
Bringing rigorous analysis to bear on pressing policy questions is more vital now than ever. The exceptional scholarship and academic programs of Harris have positioned it as a leader in this crucial work.”

Katherine Baicker
Dean and Emmett Dedmon Professor
Harris Public Policy, The University of Chicago
The Keller Center is UChicago’s home of public policy.

Inspired by the Harris ethos of positive social impact, the Keller Center showcases our enduring commitment to intellectual openness, inclusivity, and bold innovation.

At a time when policy is needed more than ever, the Keller Center offers a world-class destination for scholars, policymakers, and civic leaders to learn, work, and collaborate in confronting the challenges facing our city and the world.
“

The students who come to us from Harris have the ability to do deep quantitative thinking and analysis, and yet have this great way of linking that to discussion and conversation and storytelling. The students from the University of Chicago who I see have this amazing ability to link the two of them.”

Kevin Hartman, MBA’98, MPP’98
Head of Analytics, Google