



SUMMER LINKS:

Launched in 1997, Summer Links is a 10-week social justice education and internship program for 20 undergraduate students committed to service, community-building, and social change.

2017 PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WHY SUMMER LINKS?

Avishi Agarwal

Hometown: Terkunda, India
Majors: Economics and Psychology
Class of 2020



"I wanted to unlearn and learn - things about the city, about its people, about my own self; I wanted to become more cognizant of my own blind spots, biases and limits and go out there and engage in activism, not just in dialogue about activism."

Anna Aguiar Kosicki

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Major: Theater and Performance Studies
Class of 2020



"I chose Summer Links because I think it is my responsibility as a University of Chicago student to engage with the city and understand my new home, and Summer Links was the best way to do that for me."

Jack Balch

Hometown: Great Falls, VA
Major: Undecided
Class of 2020



"I love the city of Chicago and want to spend my time working so that this city presents opportunity and hope to every one of its citizens, and I hope that Summer Links will help me develop the tools to do that for my entire life."

Adam Berger

Hometown: Bainbridge, OH
Major: Public Policy
Class of 2020



"I was drawn to Summer Links because I wanted to immerse myself in the city that's become my new home, to learn and grow collectively with the other members of the cohort, and to learn from and contribute to an organization that advocates for positive social change here in Chicago."

Regina Campbell

Hometown: Dallas, TX
Major: Undecided
Class of 2020



“I joined Summer Links because I knew it would force me to get outside of my comfort zone. I want to connect with people on a deeper and more meaningful level, something I know I wouldn’t get at any general internship.”

Arnav Chatterjee

Hometown: Randolph, MA
Major: Sociology
Class of 2019



“I chose Summer Links because I wanted to spend my summer exploring the professional world of nonprofits in order to learn about their internal dynamics and how I could best fit into a career in social change.”

Ian Grant-Funck

Hometown: Wheaton, IL
Major: Fundamentals: Issues and Texts
Class of 2020



“I have a passion for public service, but do not know how I can apply that passion to be an effective force for change; Summer Links will provide me with guidance, pointing me towards the activities and issues that mean the most to me.”

Alisha Harris

Hometown: Bergh, VA
Majors: Public Policy and Human Rights
Class of 2020



“I chose Summer Links because it provides the opportunity to engage with the city of Chicago that I’ve never experienced before and affords me the amazing opportunity to make connections with the members of the community I am serving and a cohort of like-minded UChicago students.”

Katherine (Katie) Hill

Hometown: Salem, OR
Major: Public Policy
Class of 2019



“I’m excited to spend the summer working to strengthen the communities that make this city so special, and I hope to develop practical skills that I can use to be a more knowledgeable, kind, and helpful neighbor.”

Ayomikun (Ayo) Idowu

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Major: Undecided
Class of 2020



"I decided to join Summer Links because I am passionate about community engagement and I want to spend my summer involved specifically with the city of Chicago."

Julia Jacobs

Hometown: Madison, WI
Majors: French and Anthropology
Class of 2019



"Through Summer Links, I hope to expand my understanding of the issues impacting the Chicago community so that I can not only foster my growth as an individual, as a citizen, and as a leader, but also learn how to help my fellow community members cultivate their own agency."

Ashvini Kartik-Narayan

Hometown: Aurora, IL
Major: Undecided
Class of 2020



"I chose to do Summer Links because I wanted to engage more closely with the city of Chicago, a place that I grew up not too far from but never truly got to know, and I hope to learn even more in the best way that I know how to learn about anything: through service, through experience, through people."

Sanya Khatri

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Major: Public Policy
Class of 2020



"I chose to do Summer Links because I knew that I needed to learn how to reflect and think critically about working in nonprofits while maintaining hope for their mission and I wanted to engage with my city alongside the cohort community which I know the UCSC builds extremely well."

Anne Li

Hometown: Washington, NY
Majors: Public Policy and
Political Science
Class of 2019



"I chose Summer Links because I want to explore and develop ways that I can affect social change, especially by learning from the people around me."

Shree Mehrotra

Hometown: Mountainside, NJ
Major: Environmental Science
Class of 2019



“This summer I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the issues that impact Chicago residents on a daily basis as well as experience in a career that incorporates social change.”

Veronica Myers

Hometown: Camarillo, CA
Majors: Public Policy and Sociology
Class of 2020



“I think one of the primary concerns that myself and many of my peers have in regards to social change is being able to find a career path that directly translates to the issues we care about, but Summer Links provides me with the perfect platform to explore that.”

Khoa Phan

Hometown: Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Majors: Sociology and Fundamentals
Class of 2019



“My academic experience at UChicago has pushed my boundaries in thinking of social issues and social change, and Summer Links will be a space for me to push those boundaries further by bringing my previous intellectual engagements into context and practice.”

Emily Rao

Hometown: Tulsa, OK
Majors: Sociology and Gender Studies
Class of 2018



“This summer, I’m looking forward to learning more about different ways to effect social change, both on the ground and behind the scenes, while I engage in solutions to issues impacting my community.”

Nur Banu Simsek

Hometown: Alexandria, VA
Major: Philosophy
Class of 2019



“I chose to do Summer Links because I wanted to fully immerse myself in the city and be involved in the social change scene full-time and not as a volunteer from week to week as is the case during the school year.”

Katherine Vega

Hometown: Plainfield, IL

Major: Public Policy

Class of 2018



“I decided to participate in Summer Links because for my last summer at this school, I wanted to immerse myself in public service, the UCSC programming that I know and love, and the great City of Chicago.”

2017 SUMMER LINKS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Blair

Program Coordinator
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Majors: Comparative Race and
Ethnic Studies and Political Science
Class of 2019



“Summer Links was a really impactful experience for me last summer, and I hope that I can encourage this year’s cohort to engage with Chicago in the way that makes their experience as impactful as mine.”

Cori Tingstad

Program Coordinator
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Major: Public Policy
Class of 2018



“Summer Links helped me to better understand Chicago and service last summer, so this summer I chose to return in order to further develop my own understanding and help the program be as meaningful for this year’s cohort as it was for me.”

Xavier Ramey

Program Director
Senior Assistant Director for Social
Innovation and Philanthropy
Hometown: Chicago, IL



“Summer Links teaches students not only to be excellent and rigorous in their academic inquiry, but to bend their academics along the arc of justice to become proactive in their commitment to others and rigorous empathy—leading to a level of impact and career fulfillment that benefits the whole of society.”