The Berkley Conservation Scholarship Program / Award

Application due by: March 1, 2024, Friday, 4 p.m EST

Please review the checklist on p.2, sign as requested, and include as the top page of your application.

Overview
The purpose of the Berkley Conservation Scholarship is to fund internships for YSE students to:

(a) work with organizations involved in the conservation of land in the United States, and
(b) help develop and apply new and innovative strategies for preserving open space.

Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic performance and demonstrated interest in a career involving land conservation.

Award details
An award of up to $9,000 will be made to each scholar. The scholars will then be free to apply the funds to an internship secured with an organization involved in private land conservation in the United States (subject to final review and approval by YSE). Please note that students who are awarded the Berkley Conservation Scholarship will not be eligible for other YSE CPD Supplemental Funds (though they may be eligible for non-CPD YSE, Yale, and external to Yale funding).

To the extent possible, each Scholar's internship work should touch on one of the three major themes of the Berkley Program:

- Engaging new communities in conservation;
- Expanding the conservation toolkit;
- Ensuring the permanence of conservation gains.

The internships should be of value to both the sponsoring organization as well as the broader land conservation community.

The normal length of an internship is 10-12 weeks between early/mid-May and the end of August.

The primary duty of the Scholars is to undertake their summer projects to the best of their abilities and to the highest professional standards.

Following the experience, Scholars will be asked to prepare at least three written products:

(a) one summarizing the results of their work in whatever form is requested by their sponsoring organization;
(b) a more general review of the lessons learned from their project for distribution to the broader land conservation community; and
(c) a short assessment of their experience to be shared with the donors.

Please send your completed application, with the form below as the top page of, via e-mail to Maya Sanyal (maya.sanyal@yale.edu). Please mention in the subject line "Berkley Conservation Scholarship Award, 2024"
Application Cover Sheet: Berkley Conservation Scholarship Award

Application due by: March 1, 2024, Friday, 4 p.m EST

Name of student: ________________________________________________

Expected graduation date: ________________________________________

E-mail address: __________________________________________________

Telephone number: ______________________________________________

Expected YSE degree: ____________________________________________

Joint degree, if any: _____________________________________________

Enclosure/Attachment Checklist (please check off each as you complete the application):

____ This cover sheet
____ Documentation of a secured internship, and/or a list of the top three land conservation organizations with which you would most like to intern this summer, and the types of projects on which you would most like to work
____ One-page description of why and how the acquired internship or with of the listed organizations & topics will advance your career goals, as well as the broader interests of the land trust community (such as one of the three themes of the Berkley Program)
  • Engaging new communities in conservation
  • Expanding the conservation toolkit
  • Ensuring the permanence of conservation gains

____ Unofficial Yale SIS grades report with student’s name written on it for identification
____ Resume
____ List of other financial support (source names and amounts) you have received, or for which you plan to apply for the summer

Post-summer requirements:

1. Send a Thank You letter to Forrest Berkley describing your internship experience, deliverables, takeaways, and relevance to your continued work. Due by Sept. 15, 2024 (please e-mail to Maya Sanyal, and also upload on the CPD tracking survey as requested).

2. Write a short article on any aspect of your summer project that are of value to the broader private land conservation community in the United States;

3. Be available to speak about your project with other interested students;

4. Provide feedback to us for programmatic improvements.

Post-award agreement: I have reviewed the post-project requirements, and agree to abide by them in a timely manner.

Please print your full name and date: ____________________________________________