

# Form for "Gap Year Program Application"

*This is the application for the Gap Year Program and Fellows. Please read and complete the following questions. All answers are to be completed by March 14, 2022 at 11:59pm.*

 Before completing the questions about yourself, your interests, and your ideas for a Gap Year, please review what is a Gap Year and the terms of our programs.

 What is a Gap Year?

The American Gap Association defines a gap year (also known as a bridge year) as a structured period of time when students take a break from formal education to increase self-awareness, engage in service, and learn from different cultures. Typically these experiences are achieved by a combination of traveling, volunteering, or interning. A guiding principle is that the year should engage you in new, challenging experiences that encourage you to reevaluate your assumptions about yourself and the world around you. Long popular in the United Kingdom, Australia, and elsewhere, gap years are increasingly common among students in the United States. Examples of gap year programs can be found [here](#).

 What is FSU's Gap Year Program and Fellows?

Through this application, you can apply to be apart of FSU's Gap Year Program, which allows you to complete your gap year and to enroll at FSU the following year, as well as a Gap Year Fellow (for qualified applicants), which does the same but additionally provides up to \$5000 in funding for intercultural service-oriented projects. In both programs, you will work with FSU's gap year specialist to design and then reflect on your gap year. You will be expected to attend weekly webinars for the month of June to plan and prepare for your gap year. You will then complete a monthly blog during your gap year, meet with the gap year specialist quarterly by phone/video chat, attend an Engage-100 Reflection Course upon arrival at FSU, share your gap year experience with the FSU community upon your return, help promote the FSU Gap Year Program, and any other requirements of the program.

 What are the specific program policies?

**Be sure to review these policies before starting this application.** Admitted students who are approved to take a gap year may not apply to any other colleges or universities during their gap year, and they should not earn college credit during the year. The Office of Admissions reserves the right to review the status of any admitted student, including those on a gap year, and to rescind its offer of admission if a student's academic and personal record does not meet the conditions of admission to the University. Deferments granted by the FSU Office of Admissions apply to general admission to FSU only. Students also applying to special, limited access, academic programs (dance, film animation, film production, music, studio art, or theatre) would also need to coordinate a gap year deferment with their specific academic program. If there are any policy changes at FSU during the period of a student's gap year, the changes will apply to the student just as they will to all a members of his/her matriculating class. Since you will not be enrolled at FSU, Florida Bright Futures funding would not apply to a gap year. FSU Scholarships awarded to the student will be deferred until the student matriculates the following year. Gap year students should confirm financial deferment eligibility with private or other non-FSU scholarship programs (e.g., ROTC Scholarships cannot be deferred). Gap year students should remember to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1 during their gap year.

 If you have read and agree to the statements above, please proceed to the next page and begin the application.

 In this first section, tell us more about you.

 What is your full name?

If you have a preferred name, write your name in the following format:

First Middle (Preferred) Last

Example: "Mary Jane (Molly) Smith"

 When is your birthday?

Use MM/DD/YYYY format  
Example: 12/31/2020

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 What are your preferred pronouns?  
(i.e. "He/Him", "She/Her", "They/Them")

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 What are you intending to major in at FSU?

If you are considering a few, feel free to write more than one. If you are not sure, FSU offers an Exploratory Major as well. So that may be a great option for you as well.

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 What is your EMPLID (Admissions ID)?

Don't know your EMPLID? Log in to Online Status Check to view. Open in a different window. Link:  
<https://admissions.fsu.edu/StatusCheck/>

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 Next we want to know a bit more about you and your interests. Please limit your responses to 250 words maximum for each question.

 What do you want to learn during your gap year, and how does it relate to what you want to do while at FSU?

Please outline your personal goals or learning objectives for your gap year, and explain how the gap year will support your educational goals at FSU.

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 How are you thinking about completing your gap year?

Think of your goals, and identify 1-2 regions (i.e. "Argentina" or "the desert South West US") and/or topics of interest (e.g., food insecurity or learning a new language). Then explain how you plan on pursuing these interests during your Gap Year (e.g., volunteering, internship, traveling). **You will NOT be tied to your responses. If selected, over the summer, you will plan your official proposal to be approved by CRE before beginning your gap year experience.**

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 Can you identify any organizations, opportunities, or programs which might be helpful to pursue the plan you listed above?

Think back to the interests you talked about earlier. Can you identify 1-2 organizations, opportunities, or programs (e.g., Americorps, Rotary Int., or "a local non-profit in Costa Rica") you could see yourself working with to pursue those interests?

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 Are you planning to pursue funding (up to \$5000) to assist with your gap year experience through FSU's Gap Year Fellow's Program?

Please note: to be considered for this funding, applicants must be interested in completing at least 6 months of an intercultural and service-oriented experience.

- Yes  
 No

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 This final section is only to be completed if you are interested in being considered for the Gap Year Fellows program and accompanying funding (up to \$5000).

Please note: to be considered for this funding, applicants must be interested in completing at least 6 months of an intercultural and service-oriented experience.

 The Gap Year Fellows funding is given to students to complete an experience centered on six months of *intercultural service*. What does "intercultural service" mean to you and how does it relate to your interests, goals, and intended experience(s) for your gap year?

(250 Word Max)

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 Describe an issue you have been passionate about and how you have engaged with it in high school.

(250 Word Max)

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 Tell us about a time when you had a cross-cultural interaction (in the U.S. or abroad). What did you learn about yourself and others from the cross-cultural interaction?

(250 Word Max)

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 Please describe your financial need and/or how this funding will help you achieve your gap year goals.

(250 Word Max)

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 This next section pertains to agreements about academic credit and liability during your gap year experience.

 Are you planning to earn credit for college courses during your gap year?

Per FSU policy, you are not allowed to earn college credit while on a gap year. However, you can take classes for no credit while completing your gap year. Students will receive Formative Experience (a graduation requirement) upon their completion of the Engage-100 reflection course.

Yes

No

 Students that conduct a gap year abroad are often presented with unexpected and unanticipated opportunities and challenges. In order to avoid compromising your independence abroad, it is important to understand that reasonable accommodation laws and regulations are not consistent worldwide for people with disabilities and/or health, mobility and psychiatric impairments. Visiting a foreign country may introduce new barriers to accommodations that you may be accustomed to in the United States. Gathering and critically examining adequate information through research is essential and critical. It is recommended that students utilizing

accommodations in the United States consider the following before engaging in an international internship:· Thoroughly research known available accommodations in each country.

· Examine the socio-cultural differences regarding the perception of disability within the cultural norms of each country. · Confirm regulations for service animal entry into each country.

· Identify and consult with a professional organization in each country.**For example, before traveling to Rwanda a student identifying with a visual impairment may choose to consult with the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) to discuss available accommodations, emergency medical care if needed, and socio-cultural differences regarding the perception of a visual impairment within their country.**In consultation with your licensed medical provider(s), you will need to determine if your intended destination(s) provide(s) your expected, preferred or needed accommodations.I understand not all destinations will provide expected, preferred or need accommodations.

- Agree
- Disagree

 By submitting this application, I understand and agree that I assume full responsibility for initiating a request to defer my enrollment at Florida State University for a period of one (1) year under FSU's 1+4 Option, also known as a "bridge year" or "gap year." I further understand and agree that should Florida State University grant my voluntary request to defer my enrollment under FSU's 1+4 Option, I knowingly accept all risks and agree to relieve The Florida State University and The Florida State University Board of Trustees, including their employees, agents, representative, assigns and successors, of any responsibility, liability or cost for any accident or injury of any nature to me arising from my activities, programs, and/or experiences during said "bridge year or "gap year." Further, I waive any and all claims I may have in the future, including claims of negligence and gross negligence as a result of or arising from my activities, programs and/or experiences during said "bridge year" or "gap year" and give up and forever release any right that I may have to file any lawsuit against The Florida State University, The Florida State University Board of Trustees, the Florida Board of Governors, and the State of Florida, including their employees, agents, representatives, assigns and successors, involving any accident or injury to me resulting from any activity, program, and/or experience associated with the "bridge year" or gap year."I understand and agree with the release of liability statement.

- Agree
- Disagree

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 Before submitting your application, is there anything else that you would like to let the committee know?

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 Thank you for completing your responses to FSU's Gap Year Program Application. Please re-read through your application one final time and hit "mark as complete" to officially submit your application.

You will hear our decision by April 15th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email CRE Associate Director Warren Oliver (boliver@fsu.edu).