

Applying to the Race and the Professions Fellowship

The Race and the Professions Fellowship is a year-long program inviting Duke graduate and professional students to explore challenges of racial inequities and the work of anti-racism in the professions.

In the spring of 2020, COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd laid bare longstanding racial disparities in the United States. In a period of a few weeks, these twin events further exposed the vulnerability of people of color to both the systemic injustices of poor health care and poverty, and to overt acts of violence, lending new energy to the longstanding struggle against racism.

The Fellowship on Race and the Professions stands alongside other efforts at Duke to confront racism, by focusing on the role the professions and professionals play in both maintaining and combating racial injustices. Because racism is built into the professions and the institutions they represent (e.g., companies, courts, legislatures, churches, cities, and hospitals), students pursuing a profession (business, law, public policy, ministry, engineering, medicine, and nursing, among others) are especially well-placed to take a close look racial injustice in the professions, and to consider how to be *good* professionals in the face of systemic racism.

Over the course of the year, fellows meet about a dozen times across the Fall and Spring semesters to engage with scholars, activists, artists, and practitioners working on issues of race. Conversations move between analyzing the structures of racial injustice in various fields and reflecting on how one might be antiracist within one's chosen profession.

All graduate and professional school students at Duke may apply. Fellows receive a stipend of \$3,000 for the academic year and are invited to apply for additional funding to support summer projects that give them a sense of the possibilities for purpose in their profession through "on-the-ground" experiences of antiracism and racial justice work. Fellows who pursue a summer projects are asked to showcase their work the following fall semester.

Applications for 2021-2022 will open in Summer 2021.