

Resources for Undocumented Students

Undocumented students are among the most resilient and diligent students in the country. Despite myriad barriers some gain admission into institutions of higher learning where they are presented with another wave of unique concerns. As an undocumented student, you may face legal and financial struggles that may make it difficult to access career-related opportunities. At times you may feel like people do not understand your situation and are unable to help you obtain the pre-professional resources that you qualify for and need to advance your career. Regardless of your immigration status, OCS advisers and staff members are ready to hear about your career aspirations and point you toward relevant resources. Upon meeting with you they will help you research and identify resources that both suit your interests and are made available to DACAmented and/or undocumented students. In addition, OCS joins Harvard's ongoing efforts to increase our awareness on how to support our undocumented students. Our office strives to become well-equipped to answer any questions you may have about accessing jobs, internships, fellowships, and graduate school programs. We are here to walk with you throughout your career journey and will do our best to help you take advantage of resources and opportunities offered by Harvard and beyond.

Below is an overview of possible career-related challenges that undocumented students may face and a reference to helpful resources. We recognize that the undocumented student experience is a diverse one and that students' experiences may vary. We are also aware that some undocumented students may also be low-income, first-generation, and/or students of color. These intersected identities may result in more challenges, but also in new opportunities.

- ***Undocumented students may not be aware of internships and other career-related opportunities available to DACAmented and non-DACA eligible students.***
 - As an undocumented student, you may be wondering “What do I qualify for?” While there are some limitations to accessing certain resources and opportunities, there are a growing number of internships, fellowships, scholarships, and graduate schools opening up their admission to undocumented students. Our advisers can help you research and identify opportunities that may pique your interests and help prepare you to apply. Come to our drop-ins or make an appointment to ask questions, and learn more about our services and the career-related resources and opportunities available to you.
 - A great place to get started is to take a look at the following resources from the Latino/a Studies Program at Cornell University—entitled [Resources for Undocumented Students, Scholarships, Grants, and Internships](#)—and the Career Development Office at Pomona College—entitled [Sagehen Career Tools for Undocumented Students](#). In addition, the UCLA Labor Center offers a yearly [Dream Summer Internship](#) for undocumented students and the [Dreamers Job Facebook Group](#) aims to connect aspiring undocumented students with post-grad opportunities to work. Opportunities for non-DACA eligible students can also be found in Harvard College's FAQ [Are Undocumented Students Eligible for Summer Employment?](#)

- ***Undocumented students may benefit from additional support and up-to-date information on how to access professional and graduate school programs.***
 - Undocumented students at Harvard and in comparable educational institutions are already a minority population. The higher you go up the educational ladder, the fewer number of undocumented students you will find. Nevertheless, the increasing number of undocumented students who have successfully completed college has shifted our attention from only thinking about college access to also considering graduate school options. We want you to know that you can pursue a professional or graduate degree as an undocumented/DACAmented student. We will gladly assist you to the best of our ability in finding the best program and school for you.
 - Various undocumented student platforms have already been formed throughout the country in order to help create a DREAMer pipeline into law school, medical school, and other graduate programs. Check out the [Pre-Health Dreamers](#) website, a guide to [Medical School for Undocumented Students](#) provided by Harvard College's Act on a Dream student organization, and this list of undocumented student [Admission Policy for Medical Schools](#). There is also an [informal list of Law Schools](#) that accept undocumented students, the [Dreamers Bar Association Facebook Group](#), and an article about the first-year experience of an [Undocu-Law Student](#).
 - As it pertains to accessing graduate school programs, look through the [Applying to Graduate School](#) tab of My Undocumented Life Blog where you can read student stories. In addition, you can also connect with these [Undocu-PhDs](#) scholars. In addition, these two graduate fellowships can help fund graduate school: the [Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellowship](#) and the [Ford Foundation Fellowship Program](#) are open to DACAmented students.

- ***Undocumented students may struggle to know whether or not to disclose their immigration status with potential employers and recruiters.***
 - Advice on how to navigate disclosing your DACA status with employers can be found in [DACA and Your Workplace Rights](#) and [Employer Rights with DACA](#). In addition, here is a [list of employers](#) interested in hiring DACA students. You may also benefit from sharing this [USCIS Guidance for Employers](#) with your potential employer in order to help them understand the DACA program and to provide instruction on how to fill documents such as the required I-9 Form for Employment Eligibility.

- ***Undocumented students may experience legal and financial barriers that may prevent them from traveling, finding housing, and financing unpaid internships.***
 - Those without DACA may find it harder to participate in international research and internship opportunities because they do not qualify for advance parole. Sometimes even traveling within the US, particularly to and from states that have airport checkpoints and a reputation of being anti-immigrant, can be challenging for undocumented students. While using one's country of origin passport has commonly worked for other undocumented students, here is an archive of recommendations for [Undocumented Immigrants Riding on Planes](#). If you are

considering traveling abroad with DACA, you may want to set up an appointment with the [Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic](#). You may also want to check out this link to [Trip Tips: Traveling Abroad with Advance Parole](#).

- If a summer opportunity requires you to find your own housing, or if you are struggling to cover airfare costs to travel to a career-related opportunity, make an appointment with the Director of OCS to see what funding options may be available to you. We do not want financial impediments to keep you from accessing an internship or fellowship that will help you get to the next step of your career.
- While the financing of some internships require citizenship, you may be able to ask the employer to create a fellowship or stipend as an alternative payment method. Alternatively, you may be able to ask that the position be unpaid and instead find other means of financial support, such as private fundraising or Harvard funding. You may also discuss the option of working as an independent contractor which is commonly done with tutoring. For advice on how to find alternative employment options, to learn more about how to use your ITIN in order to become an independent contractor, and general post-college strategies, we recommend you review these Educators for Fair Consideration resources: [ITIN Guide](#) and [Life after College](#).

Resources@Harvard

- [Office of Career Services](#)
- [Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Act on a Dream at Harvard College](#)
- [Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic: Jason Corral](#)
- [Undocumented at Harvard University](#)

Student Spotlight

- [4 Harvard College students recount their journeys and their hopes](#)
- [Meet Undocumented Harvard Student Daishi Tanaka, Co-Director of ‘Act on a Dream’](#)
- [Alfredo Garcia: Stuck Between Two Lives](#)
- [Carolina Valdivia: Harvard Graduate School of Education Doctoral Candidate](#)

National Networks

- [United We Dream](#)
- [UndocuBlack Network](#)
- [UndocuUndegrads Network](#)
- [National Immigrant Youth Alliance \(NIYA\)](#)
- [Raise: Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast](#)

This guide was prepared by Diana Ortiz Giron, MDiv '17 from Harvard Divinity School