

CAREER RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA STUDENTS



DISCLAIMER: Due to changing nature of this situation, these resources may become outdated or less applicable to any given person. We will make an effort to keep these resources up-to-date, please check on current developments when using the information below. You can also make an appointment to meet with someone in the Career & Civic Engagement Center if you need any additional career-related support.

As an undocumented or a DACA student, you may be wondering, “What do I qualify for?”. While there are many limitations to accessing certain resources and opportunities, there are a number of internships, fellowships, and scholarships opening up their admittance to undocumented students. Below you will find a resource guide with career and academic opportunities for Undocumented/DACA students.

Career Resources

[Immigrants Rising](#): Empower undocumented young people to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional and policy transformation. It contains a resource database with job, internship, fellowship, and scholarship opportunities.

- [2021 Undergraduate Fellowships That Don't Require Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency](#)
- [2021 Undergraduate Scholarships That Don't Require Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency](#)

[My Undocumented Life](#): Provides up-to-date information and resources to undocumented students. They post scholarship, internship, and job opportunities that are open to undocumented students, strategies for navigating the educational system, information on how to apply for DACA, news on immigration policies, and much more.

[Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#): A new digital platform that integrates data, policies, and resources about DACA and undocumented, other immigrant, international, and refugee students to support immigration reform and federal policymaking, fuel change at the state and campus level, and build a diverse movement of partners and stakeholders advocating for these students.

[UPENN List of Employers Interested in Hiring DACA Students](#): As part of a recruitment survey conducted in 2015 by Penn and UCLA, these employers indicated they would like to be included on a list of those specifically interested in hiring DACA students. The survey was conducted again in 2019 and the National Association of Colleges & Employers.

[UndocuProfessionals](#): “Our belief is that an undocumented professional should have a clear pathway to achieving their career goals. We aim to do this by creating an environment of mentorships and community with a sustainability that allows themselves and for the next generations to have the possibility of choosing.”

[Pre Health Dreamers](#): A nationwide network of students, educators, and allies; PHD’s mission is to support undocumented pre-health students through offering peer support, professional development, and shares information on career pathways. PHDreamers’ [Peer Engagement and Enrichment Program \(PEEP\)](#) is a graduate pipeline program for undocumented students pursuing health professions. The program’s design supports students with complex immigration statuses such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protective Status. Participants pursue health-related programs such as medical school, physical therapy, nursing, etc. Each profession has barriers: background checks, restrictive admissions requirements, and inequitable support in schools.

[Dream Bar Association](#): The DBA provides a network for undocumented immigrants who are interested in pursuing a career in law, are pursuing a career in law, or are practicing in this field. This support network seeks to provide a forum where its members can answer questions related to the legal field, and work cooperatively on other issues affecting undocumented immigrant people.

Work Eligibility in the U.S.

Students with DACA can be hired by U.S. employers as long as their DACA is current and the employer does not require U.S. citizenship or Permanent Residency. See these links for employment information regarding DACA:

- <https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/TheDream.US-Employment-Guide-for-DREAMers.pdf>
- <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/employers-interested-in-hiring-daca-students/>

Students without DACA: If a person does not have DACA or their DACA will expire and they are unable to renew, they are NOT eligible to be legally hired by employers. In this situation, the person’s career options include starting a business or joining a worker cooperative.

- **Starting a business** to serve the public directly or to contract their work to a company;
 - Based on BMC staff research, there are 3 potential approaches under this path – all of which are quite nuanced and may or may not work for an individual. It is strongly recommended to work with Leslie Castrejon if you have questions about any of these approaches:
 - Approach 1: Apply to a job through traditional methods and when the job offer comes, ask to be hired as an independent contractor (provided the applicant is already established as an independent contractor).

- Approach 2: Before applying, consider sending a networking email to the recruiter asking if independent contractors are eligible to be considered for the role.
- Approach 3: Create your own business and start finding your own clients/customers.
- **Joining a Worker Cooperative**, which is a business comprised of members who are both workers and owners of the business. Members can control the structure and practices of the work environment.

For more information on these options, see <https://immigrantsrising.org>

Fellowships/Internships

[APS/IBM Research Internship for Undergraduate Women and Underrepresented Minorities](#): The American Physical Society and IBM co-sponsor two undergraduate research internship programs: the APS/IBM Research Internship for Undergraduate Women, and the APS/IBM Research Internships for Underrepresented Minority Students. The goal of these internships is to encourage women and underrepresented minorities to pursue graduate studies in science and engineering. Any student who identifies as a woman and an underrepresented minority is eligible to apply to both internships with no citizenship restriction. Applications open early February.

[New York University Summer Undergraduate Research Program \(SURP\)](#): A 10-week summer program that offers undergraduates with career interests in biological research to be part of research in New York University's Department of Biology and Center for Genomics and Systems Biology. Only DACA students eligible. See website for deadlines.

[Texas Astronomy Undergraduate Research experience for Under-represented Students \(TAURUS\) at UT Austin](#): TAURUS recruits undergraduate students from across the U.S. who have career aspirations in professional astronomy and astrophysics focusing on students from under-represented groups in recognition that professional astronomers demographically are not representative of the U.S. population. No citizenship requirements. Applications open in December.

[UCLA Labor Center Dream Summer Fellowship](#): The Dream Summer Fellowship places participants within social justice-based organizations in order to work closely with their host organization to incorporate and strengthen the role of immigrant issues alongside the organization's social justice work. Dream Summer fellows receive a \$5,000 fellowship award for their participation in the program, leadership and professional development trainings, and become part of a national alumni network of over 650 immigrant rights leaders. Applications open late January/early February.

[Undergraduate Research Program \(URP\) at Cold Springs Harbor Labs](#): A 10-week-program provides an opportunity for undergraduate scientists from around the world to conduct first-rate research focusing on molecular biology & cancer, genetics & genomics, neuroscience, plant biology, or quantitative biology. Open to sophomores and juniors; No citizenship requirements. Application deadline in January.

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[University of Michigan Summer Research Opportunity Program \(SROP\)](#): The Summer Research Opportunity Program aims to expand access and opportunity to diverse students and facilitate their preparation as a pathway to doctoral studies at the University of Michigan. Applicants must be entering their junior or senior year in college; Only DACA students eligible. Applications open early November.

[University of Utah Bioscience Undergraduate Summer Research Program](#): An intensive 10-week research experience under the mentorship of a University of Utah faculty member. The program provides opportunities to gain research experience in a variety of disciplines. DACA and undocumented students (contact program director to confirm) eligible. See website for deadlines.

Scholarships

[Act on a Dream](#): Act on a Dream is a student-led, student-run organization at Harvard College focused on supporting and advocating for the immigrant community on campus and beyond. They have a scholarship database for undocumented/DACA students that is updated regularly.

[College Greenlight](#): A scholarship database that aims to find awards for undocumented, international and immigrant students. Listed are scholarships that have been created specifically for undocumented students with specific areas of interest.

[Golden Door Scholars](#): Their aim is to convince future students that there is nothing that should stop them from applying to college, not even financial difficulties. The foundation is there to help DACA and TPS students who have financial difficulties and cannot pay the expensive educational costs. Applications for Fall open the year prior during the Summer.

[Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#): The HSF Scholarship is designed to assist students of Hispanic heritage obtain a university degree. Must be of Hispanic heritage and DACA or Eligible Non-Citizen (as defined by FAFSA); Applications open in January.

[Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Scholarship Resource Guide](#): MALDEF provides an extensive list of scholarships that do not inquire about immigration status or require a valid social security number. The overview of scholarships provided includes website links that you are advised to visit for more complete details as it is not practical to list every requirement of each scholarship.

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