UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts, and Media

Journalism, arts, and media converge and flourish at the University of Chicago. Through the University of Chicago’s strong liberal arts curriculum, and the new Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, students may pursue multiple, interdisciplinary realms of knowledge and practice, even as they seek to become experts in specific areas of interest. As part of Career Advancement, UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts, and Media (UCIJAM) provides essential pre-professional opportunities with a focus on entrepreneurial thinking to help students launch successful careers in these fast-changing fields.

One-on-One Advising
UCIJAM provides students ready access to an experienced career counselor who works closely with colleagues across the University. One-on-one advising consists of three main elements:

• Arriving at a mutual understanding of the student’s abilities, needs, and aspirations
• Developing career goals and attainment strategies
• Continual coaching, encouragement, evaluation, and critique

Metcalf Internship Opportunities
The Jeff Metcalf Internship Program provides paid, substantive internships exclusively to UChicago students. Internship opportunities are available to students each year in fields including journalism, arts and culture, business and consulting, publishing, and research. UCIJAM students have interned at organizations including:

• About Face Theatre
• The Art Institute of Chicago
• The Atlantic
• Bloomberg
• Chicago Humanities Festival
• CNN
• Details Magazine
• Field Museum
• Mark Morris Dance Group
• Metropolitan Museum of Art
• MTV
• National Public Radio
• O, The Oprah Magazine
• Paramount Pictures
• Sony Music Entertainment
• Studio Gang Architects

“UCIJAM was a supportive resource for me at UChicago. From the career trek to New York to the 2013 Studs Terkel Fest where I briefly met Ira Glass, its programming helped expose me to rich possibilities in media and journalism via amazing alums and Chicagoans doing work in exciting ways. It was through UCIJAM’s JAMFest that I originally met and co-moderated a career talk with one of my heroes. A year later I’m proud to say I work with her full time and returned to JAMFest to lead my own talk.”

Workshops
Artists, journalists, media professionals, and scholars with industry expertise present on campus and hold discussions throughout the year. Past alumni panels have included the Professional Practices Series, in which alumni in various arts-related fields shared their experiences and answered student questions.

Treks
UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts, and Media students visit organizations in Chicago and around the country globally to explore a wide variety of careers and workplaces. Several treks are available to students throughout the academic year, including destinations such as Chicago, London, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Field Experience
UCIJAM provides hands-on opportunities in the field, such as apprenticeships with mentors in which students may contribute to a professional’s practice in exchange for discipline-specific critiques, experience and career guidance. Students also have the opportunity to interact and collaborate with artists-in-residence.
Student Organizations
Students are exposed to the arts in practice through the professional and student-run organizations that thrive on campus and in the community. From Doc Films and Motet Choir to the Chicago Maroon and the Shady Dealer, over 70 student arts groups and 20 student publications offer students a wide range of venues to pursue their interests.

Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts
In the spring of 2012, the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts opened its doors. The Logan Center evolved out of cross-disciplinary faculty, student, staff, and alumni discussions that are characteristic of UChicago’s culture. Over eight years in the making, the Logan Center is a versatile, state-of-the-art environment for art-making, critical inquiry, and a fruitful interaction between the two. Performance spaces, digital media equipment, studios, and practice rooms provide spaces for all kinds of exploration in the arts and media.

JAMgrants
JAMgrants are part of the Metcalf Program and provide UChicago undergraduates with paid, experiential opportunities in journalism, arts, and media. Successful grantees may work with professionals and small organizations that administer on-the-job mentoring and training in these fields. In many cases, these opportunities provide “below the line,” hands-on experience that students would otherwise not have access to. Grantees work between five and ten hours a week in opportunities that facilitate engagement with working artists throughout the academic year and the summer. UChicago students have completed grants with the artist Pope.L, film-maker Margaret Byrne, In These Times, Redmoon Theater, and many others.

JAMfest
In the fall UCIJAM presents JAMfest. The aim? To build and convene community around a range of shared interests, to draw inspiration from one another, and for UChicago students to gain career insight and guidance from nationally renowned figures who are making significant contributions to their fields. Yearly, JAMfest asks, “What can we all learn from one another, and how might we employ creative partnerships between departments, students and student organizations, employers and creative individuals to foster exciting learning and career-building experiences?” Featured guests have included journalist Samuel G. Freedman, sculptor Simone Leigh, filmmaker Chris Sullivan, drummer and composer Matt Wilson, and more.

Fellowships and Grants
A wide variety of scholarships and grants are available to fund student pursuits in journalism, arts, and media, including:

- Arts Council Summer Fellowships
- Student Creativity Grants
- Claire Rosen & Samuel Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists
- Student Fine Arts Fund

Graduate School and Professional Studies
Students interested in pursuing professional and graduate degrees in the arts and media meet with counselors, faculty, and staff across the University to learn more about the application and selection process.

Alumni Board Externship Program
Students can spend winter or spring break shadowing alumni in a wide range of fields, including writing, arts administration, and broadcast media.

Alumni Leaders in the Journalism, Arts, and Media
- David Broder, AB’47, AM’51, Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary; columnist for the Washington Post
- David Brooks, AB’83, columnist for the New York Times
- Anna Chlumsky, AB’02, Emmy-nominated actress in HBO’s series “Veep”
- Ana Marie Cox, AB’94, founding editor of the Wonkette blog
- Philip Glass, AB’56, composer and musician
- Wolf Kahn, AB’51, artist
- Rick Perlstein, AB’92, columnist and author of Nixonland (2009)
- Nate Silver, AB’00, founder of FiveThirtyEight.com
- Susan Sontag, AB’67, a reporter at ESPN; Sarra Jahedi, AB’09, a writer, director, & actor; and Claire Mazur, AB’06, CEO and co-founder of the fashion website Of a Kind.

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Alumni Directory
The Alumni Directory is an online database of alumni from across the University who are available to provide informational interviews. Students have the opportunity to hear firsthand from alumni who have translated their UChicago educations into rewarding careers in the arts and media.

Taking the Next Step
Each January, the College holds a daylong career-planning event for first- and second-year students. Students attend panels with alumni from around the world and a keynote presentation by a prominent alumni speaker. Hundreds of alumni attend this event to discuss the ways in which they have put their UChicago educations to use. Recent participants involved in journalism, arts and media have included Lester Munson, JD’67, a reporter at ESPN; Sarra Jahedi, AB’09, a writer, director, & actor; and Claire Mazur, AB’06, CEO and co-founder of the fashion website Of a Kind.