

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2025

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Horizons at Foote
<i>Provide the primary physical address where the Fellow will be working during their placement</i>	50 Loomis Place, New Haven CT 06511
<i>Organization's mailing address (if different)</i>	50 Loomis Place, New Haven CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/horizonsatfoote">https://www.instagram.com/horizonsatfoote</a> <a href="http://www.horizonsatfoote.org">www.horizonsatfoote.org</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's Direct Supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Rashana Graham
<i>Title</i>	Executive Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	203-443-1884
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:horizons@footeschool.org">horizons@footeschool.org</a>

#### **What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?**

- Send an e-mail with questions

OR

- Send an e-mail to set up a 15-meeting phone call to discuss

Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 27, 2025 through Friday, August 8, 2025)

June 16 to August 8, 2025

**Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?**

Placement dates are firm.

**Proposed work schedule (*work week should equal (and not exceed) 37.5 hours per week*)**

Monday 8am-3:00pm

Tuesday 8am-3:00pm

Wednesday 8am-3:00pm

Thursday 8am-3:00pm

Friday 8am-3:00pm

**If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:**

N/A

**Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 1,000 characters or less*)**

Horizons at Foote advances educational equity through a robust academic and enrichment program that builds on long-term partnerships with families and communities to provide a joyful, safe, and inspiring learning environment that empowers students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Horizons at Foote addresses the needs of New Haven public school students disproportionately affected by educational inequity. The foundation of Horizons at Foote is our six-week summer program for students in grades K-8. Our project-based educational model blends high-quality academics with cultural enrichment and confidence-building activities like swimming, music and sports. In small

classes led by professional teachers, students dive into a curriculum focused on literacy and STEAM. We make a 9-year commitment; students attend the program every summer from kindergarten to the summer after their eighth grade, building continuity of experience, expectations, relationships, and skill development.

**Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (500 characters or less).**

Work with a Horizons at Foote head teacher in a classroom of 16 students during a six-week summer academic and enrichment program to help and lead small group activities, and work with students on skill development and additional classroom needs. As Needed: rotate/float in classrooms, and support administrative tasks of the Executive Director.

**Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.**

Position Summary: Horizons at Foote is looking for a dedicated, flexible, and enthusiastic Fellow who loves working with children, works well in collaboration with others, and takes initiative. A strong commitment to the Horizons at Foote mission and an interest in being involved in our community during the six-week summer enrichment program is key, as well as an interest in social justice.

Our summer program runs from the last week of June through the first week of August, from Monday to Friday. In summer 2021 we reached full capacity for the program in grades K to 8. In summer 2023 we expanded to accept students from the former Horizons at Albertus program, bringing our total max summer enrollment to 174. Our project-based model uses a blend of high-quality academics with cultural enrichment and confidence-building activities like swimming, arts, and sports. Programming includes intentional and targeted academic skill-building and opportunities for student choice. We partner with other community organizations within the New Haven area to provide enriching experiences in coding, cooking, music, and more. Students receive essential support at Horizons – for both academic and social-emotional development.

Our 4:1 student to teacher ratio at Horizons means students always receive individual support, with consistency from teachers they have known over multiple years. Working with students individually and in small groups, our full-time social worker helps students deal with some of the stresses and adverse experiences in their lives during the pandemic. We use the RULER program to help students

process the long-term effects of the pandemic on their social-emotional health; students and staff identify their feelings and moods each day and communicate them verbally, with teachers providing space and time to allow students to learn to regulate their emotions in productive and collegial ways.

Swimming, at the heart of Horizons at Foote, is not only a fun summer activity - it's a life-saving, confidence-building skill. Most students come to Horizons at Foote as non-swimmers who are afraid of the water. When their teachers and peers join them in the pool, they build trust and self-esteem, and those qualities carry over into the classroom. All our enrichment activities - sports, sewing, yoga, cooking, music, art and more - are designed with this goal in mind. When students have the opportunity to explore new subjects and discover talents, it empowers them in school and life. (Note: while swimming is an essential part of our students' Horizons experience, it is optional for Fellows to join the students in the pool.)

### **Duties:**

- Work with head teacher in a classroom of 16 students during a six-week summer enrichment program
- Develop and lead small group activities
- Help plan and present class lessons if applicable
- Work with individual students to support identified skill development
- Help prepare and gather materials for lessons and projects
- Assist with monitoring students at recess and specials
- Attend three off-campus field trips
- Participate in shared breakfast and lunch with students daily
- Attend Family Night, faculty meetings and other duties as assigned
- Attend one week of orientation and set up prior to the start of the program

### **Outcomes:**

We implement several tools to evaluate our success, which the Fellow's work will directly impact:

- STAR assessments of student math and reading levels pre- and post- summer
- Attendance data; we report attendance to Horizons National, and use it to ensure students receive the full benefit and resources of our program

- Surveys from, and personal feedback meetings with, students and families on program impact and quality
- Individual teacher reports on both students' educational and social-emotional progress

Fellows serving at Horizons at Foote will act as a teacher, mentor, and guide to the students in their classroom, and act as a resource to the head teacher. Through flexibility and humility, they will enrich the program and help accomplish the goals outlined above. In addition, it is our goal to likewise enrich the Fellow's skills through participation in professional development and training, and increase their understanding of New Haven and the students and families who live here.

### **List any specific skills/experience required for the project**

- Experience working with elementary and/or middle school children
- A passion for learning and working with children
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Swimming skills a plus
- Able to accept accountability and give critical feedback
- Inclusive to the school community
- Show creativity and positivity

**Additional requirements (e.g. a car, weekend working hours, a background check). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement. If a background check is required, share how far in advance this must start before arriving to work at your site. Please note that your organization is responsible for any costs associated with the background check process.**

Having a car is useful to ensure arriving on time, but not required. In addition to the regular hours, attending the weekly staff meeting once a week until 4:00 pm is preferred.

**Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.**

Since our first Yale Presidential Public Service Fellow in 1996, Fellows have worked intensively with a Head Teacher in a child-centered, activity-based classroom: planning lessons, developing curriculum according to interests, supervising small reading groups, working with individual students as needed. In the two weeks before students arrive on campus for our summer program, Fellows have 1) participated in a week-long training for all staff prior to the start of the summer, and 2) had the opportunity to assist with pre-summer testing for Horizons students and support the Executive Director with planning.

In summer 2024, our Yale Fellow worked in one of our fourth-grade classrooms to help students create projects centered around protest and their dreams for the future. She also integrated engaging word games and songs into the class's routine, bringing the class closer together and encouraging them to actively participate in academics.