

The Frances Perkins Center 2026 Internship Program



About the Frances Perkins Center

[The Frances Perkins Center](#) inspires current and future generations to understand and uphold the government's role in providing social justice and economic security for all. Our work is guided by Frances Perkins' effective leadership style and one woman's power to change the world.

We are the official philanthropic partner of the Frances Perkins National Monument, located in Newcastle, Maine.

About the Frances Perkins Center (FPC) Internship Program

The FPC Internship Program is an opportunity for undergraduates (rising juniors and seniors) to contribute to the Center's mission while developing valuable professional skills via hands-on experiences. To best fulfill its mission, FPC especially encourages women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and other people from historically marginalized groups to apply.

Responsibilities: Interns work in a fast-paced, collaborative environment with other interns, volunteers, and FPC staff. Their responsibilities vary based on the internship role and the individual's project, but each intern will support the Frances Perkins Center by taking shifts to staff the welcome center and exhibit of the Frances Perkins National Monument and support special programming and events.

All FPC interns are required to complete training on the life and legacy of Frances Perkins and interpretive guidance at the beginning of the internship. Interns are expected to dedicate 30 hours a week, Wednesday through Sunday, during the course of the ten-week internship.

The program also incorporates opportunities for professional and personal growth by inviting interns to participate in staff-wide meetings and training, as well as specialty FPC events (sometimes with [VIP guests](#)!) Interns are directly supervised by a full-time staff member with project support from other FPC staff and local professionals.

Compensation & Location: Because the Perkins Family Homestead in Newcastle, Maine was such an important part of Frances Perkins' life, work, and values, working in-person at the place she considered home and found refuge throughout her life is a core part of the Frances Perkins Center internship experience. Therefore, we do not offer virtual internships at this time.

To reduce barriers for interns, the Frances Perkins Center offers each intern a stipend of \$1,500 and free local lodging in Midcoast Maine for the duration of the internship.

Your university or college may also provide additional financial support and/or college credit for internships, which FPC can help coordinate. Please check with your advisor or internship office before applying.

If you are a Mount Holyoke College applicant, we highly encourage you to apply for Lynk funding; please check your eligibility before applying. The first Lynk funding deadline is February 20, 2026 (an offer letter is not required).

Travel to/from Maine is not provided by FPC.

Newcastle, Maine is a beautiful coastal town in a rural county of Maine; therefore, interns must have a car for the duration of the internship for commuting to/from FPC-sponsored lodging.

Dates: FPC anticipates accepting interns during the Frances Perkins National Monument's summer tourism season, June through August, for a total of 10 weeks. Exact dates TBD based on your availability and FPC's ability to accommodate lodging, to be discussed during the interview process.

FPC occasionally accepts highly qualified interns outside of the summer tourism season. These internships may have different expectations, stipends, and time commitments, which must be discussed before applying. Please contact FPC Programs Coordinator Mary Reid at mreid@francesperkinscenter.org if you are interested in pursuing a 2026/2027 school year internship.

Selection Process: Before applying, carefully read the internship descriptions to determine which role you are best qualified for and most interested in pursuing. The Frances Perkins Center strives to conduct Zoom interviews and extend offers within one month after the application deadline. We review applications on a rolling basis and reserve the right to fill internships before the application deadline; therefore, interested applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2026 for 2026 summer internships

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact FPC Programs Coordinator Mary Reid at mreid@francesperkinscenter.org with any questions

Museum Studies Internship

The Frances Perkins Center Museum Studies Intern, in addition to helping staff the Frances Perkins National Monument, will assist with ongoing archival and collections management work.

The intern will have the opportunity to work directly with a professional archivist to process never-before-cataloged items, photographs, and documents from the [FPC Collections](#). These collections are central to the history of the Perkins family and Homestead. The Museum Studies Intern will have the opportunity to experience both the public-facing and behind-the-scenes roles integral to operating an exhibit and historic site. They will have the opportunity to engage with other professionals in the fields of curation, collections management, archival work, and preservation.

There is no single academic major or background required to apply for this role. Specific projects will be determined throughout the course of the internship and depend upon management needs, so interns should be prepared to help with and be interested in many different aspects of archival work.

The Museum Studies Intern will staff the national monument, complete collections management work, and write a short summary of their experience. Throughout the internship, the intern will learn and practice skills to prepare them for a career in museum studies.

Frances Perkins Center staff will work collaboratively to support each intern's interests and needs. Staff will help interns explore other areas of non-profit work and develop skills relevant to professional, post-college careers—putting these skills to work in real-world, hands-on ways throughout the summer. Whenever possible, staff will help interns identify and access relevant resources, including other professionals and scholars in the FPC network.

Application Materials: To apply for the research internship, you must submit a simple resume and a statement of interest (250-500 words). Please describe any relevant experience you have, why you are interested in museum studies, and how you can help further the [FPC mission](#).

Please send your resume and statement of interest to FPC Programs Coordinator, Mary Reid (mreid@francesperkinscenter.org) using "FPC Museum Studies Internship Application" as the subject line.

Research Internship

The Frances Perkins Center Research Intern, in addition to helping staff the Frances Perkins National Monument, will complete an original research project inspired by, or supportive of, FPC's mission and work.

The intern will have the opportunity to experience both the public-facing and behind-the-scenes roles integral to engaging the public in original research and mission-based work. They will have the opportunity to engage with other professionals in the fields of public history, curation, interpretation, non-profit leadership, public service, policy analysis, advocacy, grassroots organizing, and more.

Potential projects may include exploring:

- the Perkins family and local history
- the ripple-effect of Frances Perkins' work and legacy
- critical moments that shaped Frances Perkins' worldview
- Frances Perkins' unique values, traits, and identities such as feminism, faith, work ethic, social-work training, and personal responsibility she felt for finding policy solutions for people and a country in crisis
- topics related to public policy, advocacy, democracy, civic engagement, social justice, and economic security
- or other areas directly related to current FPC initiatives

The Frances Perkins Center encourages students to think creatively about the above topics and propose a research topic or project that will add a unique perspective to scholarship on Frances Perkins or other areas supported by the Center's mission. Projects may include traditional research papers, art, performance, and more. There is no single academic major or background required to apply for this role.

The Research Intern will staff the national monument, complete their approved project, and submit a short write-up or presentation about the experience. Throughout the internship, the intern will learn and practice skills related to their project and career goals.

Frances Perkins Center staff will work collaboratively to support each intern's interests and needs. Staff will help interns explore other areas of non-profit work and develop skills relevant to professional, post-college careers—putting these skills to work in real-world, hands-on ways throughout the summer. Whenever possible, staff will help interns identify and access relevant resources, including other professionals and scholars in the FPC network.

Application Materials: To apply for the research internship, you must submit a simple resume and research project description (250-500 words). Descriptions do not need to be highly detailed, as projects may change depending on available time and resources; however, the project's alignment with the applicant's professional goals and FPC's mission should be clear.

Please send your resume and project description to FPC Programs Coordinator, Mary Reid (mreid@francesperkinscenter.org) using "FPC Research Internship Application" as the subject line.