F.A.Q.s

Q: What is the timeline for making decisions?
A: Decisions will be made mid-February and applicants will be notified by March 1.

Q: I don't yet have a project. Can I still apply?
A: Yes, you can apply with just the early stages of an idea for a project.

Q: If I'm an online student with USC can I still apply?
A: Yes, however, this is a residency program, so you must be present for all GCSP sessions.

Q: Who is eligible to apply?
A: All graduate students enrolled in master's or doctoral programs listed [here](#) are eligible.

Q: Can one of my letters of recommendation come from someone who worked with me in the past?
A: Yes, your second letter of recommendation (part B in section 1 of the application) may come from someone who has worked with you in the past, for example, someone at your undergrad institution.

Q: When I write about my past work with the community must it only involve unpaid, volunteer work?
A: No, community engaged work can take many forms. It does not have to have been in an unpaid position.

Q: Can my proposed project coincide with a capstone project for my degree program?
A: Yes, as long as this is acceptable for your degree program.

Q: Do I pay for the course that I register for to be part of the GCSP?
A: No, this course is a non-credit course on a pass/fail basis. You do not pay for it.

Q: Should my project's timeframe run for a specific length of time?
A: Every project will have a different life cycle. Some projects might have more long term, sustainable timeframes, while others will be effective in the short term. However, all GCSP Fellows must showcase their projects at the Discover USC.

Q: What happens if my proposed project plan evolves once I've begun the program?
A: We expect that your ideas will evolve and therefore your project might develop and change directions.

Q: Does my project have to engage with a Columbia-based community?
A: No, however, please note that there is no funding for travel.

Q: Can I propose a project that takes place within the university?
A: Yes, but you must make a strong case for how your project affects the broader community.

Q: Will I need to get IRB approval for my project?
A: If you don't intend to publish work that involves data from your project, IRB approval is not
necessary. However, if at any point, you think you may want to publish material from your project you will need to receive IRB approval. Please also refer to this page from the Office of Research Compliance.

Q: Are international projects eligible?
A: Yes, however, scholars are expected to attend sessions in-person. If scholars do an international project they must be available to come back to Columbia for the meetings or consider allowing virtual meetings for those who are not local to their project.

If you have any other questions, please contact the faculty directors of the program:

**Lucy Annang Ingram, PhD, Lead Director**  
Associate Professor, Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior  
Arnold School of Public Health  
Email: LANNANG@mailbox.sc.edu

**Allison Marsh, PhD**  
Associate Professor, History  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Email: MARSHA@mailbox.sc.edu