



Moelis Scholars Program

The Moelis Scholars Program in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania trains African-American and Latinx students to be the next generation of leaders in the field of urban planning. Prospective students who intend to pursue careers in public/private development or community and economic development are particularly encouraged to apply.

PennPlanning's Master of City Planning (MCP) degree combines a robust skills toolkit with applied, real-world experience that equips students to take on the most vexing challenges facing our world. In a context of increasing inequality, we prepare our students to tackle these challenges while ensuring that the solutions work for everyone, not just a select few. Our program is rooted in a strong sense of social justice and equity planning.

We pride ourselves on our strong, flexible curriculum that focuses on inclusivity, the individual attention we give to each student, our cutting edge faculty, and our connections within the larger university and across Philadelphia.

Moelis Scholars will gain the quantitative, qualitative and digital skills they will need to analyze complex problems and visualize alternative futures for communities. They will learn how historical and institutional contexts shape planning practice, as well as how to work with community members to leverage their knowledge and skills.

Philadelphia has long been one of the country's great urban laboratories in which to test new ideas. It is the sixth largest city in the U.S. and also a city of neighborhoods.

Our faculty are closely connected to community and city leaders, and our students benefit from the hands-on projects we do in Philadelphia, across the larger region, and around the world.

Moelis Scholars will also benefit from the rich resources of the University of Pennsylvania. Students can take classes and earn degrees and certificates at the Wharton School of Business, The School of Social Policy and Practice, PennLaw, and other parts of the university.

The program covers full tuition for two years for students pursuing the Master of City Planning degree, and offers the following additional supports:

Recruitment: Moelis Scholar finalists will receive a stipend to cover costs associated with attending our spring admitted students day.

Research Stipend: Each Moelis Scholar will receive a stipend to work with a faculty member on a research project during his or her first year of the program.

Summer Internship: We will work with each Moelis Scholar to find an appropriate paid internship.

Networking Support: Moelis Scholars will receive funds to attend the annual American Planning Association conference during each of their two years at Penn. In addition, they will receive a one-year membership to the American Planning Association for the first year after they graduate.

Mentorship: Moelis Scholars will receive mentorship in two forms. First, each scholar will be matched with a faculty member based on his or her mutual interests. Second, first-year Moelis Scholars will be mentored by second-year Moelis Scholars who will provide guidance on academic life at Penn.

TO APPLY: Prospective students must complete the application for admission, on our website at:
<https://www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply>. In addition, they must submit a 550-word essay that responds to the following question:

Describe your “dream job” when you get out of school, and ten years into the future. What was the process that led you to have this dream, and how will a Master of City Planning degree help you get there?

Finalists will be interviewed by phone or Skype. Scholars will be chosen on the basis of their academic record, relevant work experience, and letters of recommendation. Preference will be given to those who plan to concentrate in Community and Economic Development or Public Private Development.

Please direct questions to: Prof. Lisa Servon, servon@design.upenn.edu.