John Gardner
Public Service Fellowship Program

John W. Gardner
After earning his B.A. and M.A. in psychology from Stanford University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, John W. Gardner launched an exceptionally distinguished career in public service.

He served under six presidents, including as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Lyndon Johnson from 1965 to 1968. As Secretary, Gardner successfully implemented a wide range of Great Society programs targeting the elimination of poverty and racial injustice.

Gardner later became Chairman of the National Urban Coalition. In 1970, he founded Common Cause, a prominent citizens’ watchdog organization. Eight years later he launched Independent Sector, a philanthropic coalition of over 600 corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Gardner received countless awards for his service, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civil honor in the United States. He also authored several books, including Self-Renewal (1968) and On Leadership (1990).

Gardner passed away in February 2002, leaving behind a rich legacy of public service. The John Gardner Fellowship Program is honored to be part of that legacy.

Past Placements
Annie E. Casey Foundation
American Enterprise Institute
California Governor Gavin Newsom’s Office
Center for Reproductive Rights
Children’s Defense Fund
Corporation for National and Community Service
Council of Economic Advisers
Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, State, and Treasury
Environmental Defense Fund
Federal Communications Commission
Grameen Foundation USA
Greenlining Institute
Human Rights Watch
Initiate Justice
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Refugee Assistance Project
International Rescue Committee
Kaiser Family Foundation
Mayor’s Office, Newark, N.J. (Corey Booker)
Mercy Corps
National Public Radio
National Resources Defense Council
San Francisco Foundation
United Nations Global Pulse
United States House: Offices of Howard Berman (D-CA), Vic Fazio (D-CA), Lee Hamilton (D-IN), and Mel Levine (D-CA)
USAID
U.S. Senate: Offices of Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Bob Dole (R-KA), Gary Hart (D-CO), and Pete Wilson (R-CA)
World Wildlife Fund

Applications are available online at igs.berkeley.edu/matsui-center/fellowships/john-gardner-fellowship

Deadline: January 29, 2021
Program Overview
The John Gardner Fellowship Program encourages outstanding students to pursue careers in public service alongside distinguished leaders in the public sector. Gardner Fellowships provide new college graduates with opportunities to invest their talent, energy, and training in public service.

John Gardner Public Service Fellows are selected each spring. Over the 10-month fellowship period, they are provided a $35,000 stipend and a placement in a government or nonprofit agency. In addition, each fellow is assigned a mentor to guide his or her professional growth over the course of the fellowship.

Eligibility Requirements
To apply for the Fellowship, you must:
• Be a graduating senior from UC Berkeley in the current academic year (December or May)
• Have a strong commitment to public service

We encourage applicants from a diverse pool of students with a wide variety of service experiences.

Application Process
Applications are available online at: igs.berkeley.edu/matsui-center/fellowships/john-gardner-fellowship
You will need the following to complete the application:
• Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a faculty member familiar with your college-level work
• A resume
• Official academic transcripts
• Responses to three short essay questions about your experiences with leadership and public service

Selection Process
Once the applications have been submitted:
• A selection committee chooses 10 finalists to interview.
• Interviews are held in February/March.
• Up to three fellows and one alternate are selected.

Applicants are judged by the following criteria:
• Demonstrated commitment to public service
• Record of academic accomplishment
• Leadership potential
• Creativity, energy, and initiative
• Personal integrity and responsibility

Contact Information
For more information, email Terri Bimes at bimes@berkeley.edu

In the words of our fellows . . .
“I was absolutely transformed by this year. I have a much stronger analysis of how different functions of social movements fit together; how human rights as a discourse has changed, developed, and re-examined itself; and where I might have a career path as an aspiring researcher.”

Sagaree Jain
Human Rights Watch

“In the first three months of my Gardner Fellowship, my most meaningful experience has been the chance to help write memos for the president and some of his top economic advisers. The opportunity to see public service leadership up close has inspired me to continue to work in government. Perhaps most importantly, I now have renewed confidence in my ability to contribute, and I continue to develop my views on leadership based on the people I meet and the challenges I overcome.”

Pedro Spivakovsky-Gonzalez
Council of Economic Advisers