

2020-21 Kott Gerontology Scholars Program Description

Overview: Beginning in 2004, the Russell and Josephine Kott Charitable Trust has provided for paid internships to advanced graduate students with a focus on aging attending Chicago-area universities. The Kott Gerontology Institute administers the internship program. The intent of the Kott Gerontology Scholars Program is to encourage and support graduate students in a variety of professional specializations to develop skills that will prepare them to continue working with older adults after graduation.

The Consortium: The following agencies currently comprise the consortium and may serve as internship sites: Aging Care Connections (Lagrange), Center for Disability and Elder Law (Chicago), Concordia University, DuPage County Senior Services (Wheaton), North Shore Senior Services (Northfield), Oak Park Township Senior Services (Oak Park), Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council (Palatine), PLOWS Council on Aging (Palos Heights), Age Options (Oak Park), and Rush University Healthy Aging Services. Several of the agencies have been designated by the Illinois Department on Aging as Case Coordination Units (CCU), and all of the agencies assess the needs and either arrange for or directly provide community-based services to seniors. Five of the agencies are Elder Abuse Provider Agencies for specific service areas. Each agency offers a set of core assessment and case management services, and individual agencies provide a range of other services that include adult day care, senior protective services, home delivered meals, homemakers, caregiver support, legal services, counseling and information and referral. Agencies offering placements may change yearly based on the availability of appropriate internship opportunities.

Scholarship Terms: Kott Gerontology Scholar Program provides a \$10,000 scholarship for a complete academic year, paid directly to interns' universities for deposit into their personal student accounts in three equal payments. Interns are expected to be registered as full-time students during their internships. Partial and part-year scholarships are not offered. The funds are for use by individual Kott Gerontology Scholars to defray academic expenses, including tuition, loan repayment and other expenses. It is the responsibility of interns to ensure that payments are deposited into their accounts by their respective universities. **Interns are required to participate in no less than 720 hours of on-site field experience, regardless of the field work requirements of their respective academic institutions. Interns will not receive field credit from consortium agencies until these hours have been completed in total.** Interns who fail to receive a passing grade in their field experience from their respective academic institutions for any grading period, withdraw from or change academic programs, voluntarily withdraw from the Kott Gerontology Scholars Program, fail to maintain adequate placement hours to complete the internship academic year, or are terminated by their consortium agency for any reason, will not receive the balance of any remaining scholarship payments. **Internship site assignments are the responsibility of consortium members, who take into consideration agency needs, interns' preferences, and commuting time in making assignments.**

Kott Scholars Profile: Kott Gerontology Scholars represent a range of professions that have included social work, psychology, counseling, law, and dance movement therapy. The Kott Gerontology Institute strives to expand through its internships the range of professionals that will continue to serve seniors after graduation. Advanced students enrolled in graduate university programs in the Chicago area and accredited by the professional organizations that they represent are considered for internships.

The Internship Experience: The Kott Gerontology Scholars Program provides intensive training. Interns are assigned to a primary agency for a placement that requires 720 hours of on-site participation over a complete and continuous academic year, or approximately three full days per week from September through May.. In order to encourage interns to learn from each other and share their experiences, Kott interns meet together as a group on several occasions during the school year, participate in a dinner for all previous Kott Scholars, and are required to complete a project that meets the needs of the agency in which they are placed . Most students spend some time working at their respective agencies during school vacations to complete their hours and to provide continuity of services to clients. Because Kott consortium agencies serve clients in broad geographic areas, interns are required to provide their own automobile transportation and submit documentation of personal insurance for vehicles upon acceptance to the program. Interns do not transport clients in their work.

2020-21 Kott Gerontology Scholars Application Guidelines

Application Procedures: To be considered for admission to the 2020-21 Kott Gerontology Scholars Program, applicants should complete the following steps in the on-line application process. Applications are available **starting Jan 1, 2020** and must be received **no later than April 1, 2020**.

Applications will be reviewed continuously in the order that they are received.

1. Complete the Kott Gerontology Institute Scholars Program Application. Applications are available on our website <http://kottinstitute.org>

2. Submit a resume that includes educational history, employment, and practicum and volunteer experiences.

3. Request two personal references. One reference must be submitted by a faculty member of their current academic program who is familiar with the applicant's academic performance and interest, preparation and experience in gerontology, or other experience relevant to the internship. The second reference should be from an individual who has supervised the applicant outside of the academic setting. **For applicants who previously have completed or are currently involved in a practicum experience, the second reference must be provided by the applicant's supervisor from that placement.** References will be accepted by e-mail attachments with electronic signatures, or in pdf format that includes a signature.

Submit application materials and references by e-mail, with attached documents in pdf or MS Word-compatible format, to:

Trish Abbey, LCSW
Executive Director
Kott Gerontology Institute
kottapplications@kottinstitute.org

4. Applicants will be informed by e-mail when their applications are complete.

5. Kott coordinators from consortium agencies will review applications in the order that they are received and select candidates for individual, in-person interviews with representatives from the agencies.

6. Based on applicants' work and field experiences, academic records, statements of interest in gerontology, references and personal interviews, the consortium coordinators will select potential candidates to be contacted and offered internships.

For additional information on the Kott Gerontology Scholars Program or questions regarding the internship application process, please contact Trish Abbey at kottscholars@gmail.com