

Student Employment Office

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HARVARD SEO



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SPOTLIGHT

.....

SPRING JOB FAIR

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STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF
THE YEAR

Contacting the Student Employment Office

For the safety of our staff and students, the Harvard Student Employment Office will be conducting all business online while our staff works remotely. We are dedicated to answering your questions and will be available by email or phone to assist. Please email **seoweb@fas.harvard.edu** or call **(617) 495-2585**.

January Student Spotlight

Meet **Nina Foster**! Nina is an undergrad student with a concentration in English. She is an Ambassador at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

How did you find your position? (I.e SEO Job Database, Word of mouth) Please detail your experience.

"I knew that I wanted to work at an art museum this semester, so I started researching open positions when I first arrived on campus. The MFA Ambassador Program stood out as an inclusive and interesting opportunity, offering an introductory position at one of the greatest museums in the country."



What made you apply for your position?

"I was thinking about pursuing a career in museum publications and wanted to determine whether I enjoy working in a museum environment. I figured the MFA would be a great place to spend time off-campus, having gone to the museum multiple times as a visitor. I also have extensive experience in customer service, so I knew that the responsibilities of the position wouldn't be too far out of my comfort zone. As a bonus, the time commitment wasn't overwhelming at just 10-15 hours per week. The position sounded like the perfect way to explore the art world, save money during the semester, and connect with a new community."

How have you been able to balance your schoolwork and work responsibilities?

"Keeping a consistent work schedule has been the best way for me to balance schoolwork and work responsibilities. Every week, I work a four-hour shift on Friday morning and a seven-and-a-half-hour shift on Sunday. Blocking this time out in my schedule allows me to plan my work in advance. I tend to be tired after my shifts, so I try to get as much schoolwork done beforehand. I also do my best to read on the 40-minute commute. If I have a lot of schoolwork to do on a workday, I make sure to give myself a break between the end of my shift for dinner and Netflix before delving into assignments."

What are your personal keys to success and what challenges or hurdles have you encountered?

"Time management is my main key to success. Google Calendar has been a lifesaver, along with my planner. I try to keep a balance between academic work, shifts at the MFA, and non-work activities. These non-work activities are essential for overcoming hurdles like burnout, writer's block, and feeling overwhelmed. Some of my favorite breaks from work have been taking part in clubs; I am a leader in the Harvard Outing Club and a Staff Writer for the Harvard Crimson Arts Board. As an Outing Club leader, I get to take members of the Harvard community into the outdoors. Dedicating a day every once in a while to getting outside, connecting with new friends, and exploring the area is crucial for maintaining my mental health. Writing for the Crimson allows me to connect with my community both within the newspaper and beyond. This past semester, I reviewed live theater, covered new exhibitions at museums like the Gardner, and had numerous conversations with people who are just as passionate about art as I am. I also took a pottery course at the Harvard Ceramics Program across the river, which ended up being a wonderful way to de-stress. Working with such a physical art form let me leave all my worries behind and focus on the moment at hand."

"This position is an incredible opportunity for anybody interested in exploring the art world. Working as an Ambassador has allowed me to connect with a variety of museum faculty, members of the local community, and visitors from far and wide, all while deepening my understanding of the MFA's collection and museum operations as a whole."

Describe your typical day at work? (I.e your job responsibilities, and things you are allowed to do on the job.)

"I start my workday by checking in with coworkers and preparing the Sharf Visitor Desk for opening. What follows is a rotation from one position to the next throughout the museum – sometimes we are stationed at the desk or in the busy rotunda, and other times we roam the exhibitions, looking for people who have questions or need some guidance. We are typically scheduled to spend half an hour to an hour in each spot, which keeps the day interesting. My responsibilities as an Ambassador include monitoring the needs of visitors, assisting in the planning of their visit, answering visitors' questions, and resolving visitor complaints. Additionally, all Ambassadors attend training and enrichment courses that pertain to art interpretation, museum operations, and customer service. My favorite training sessions are those in which we are walked through an exhibition by its curator, who reveals the intricacies of the exhibit's design and included artworks."

How does it relate to what you are learning at Harvard (major, concentration, etc.)?

"This position may seem unrelated to my English concentration. However, many of the same principles that I apply to analyze literature can be applied to art. Just as I can close read a text, I can close read an artwork, paying attention to every detail of a piece in an attempt to decipher its significance. Much like literary criticism, art can be viewed through specific lenses, such as a feminist lens or a queer lens. Working at the MFA has helped me refine these analytical practices for art specifically, and in turn, has taught me to dive even deeper into the literary works of art that I explore in class each day."

Spring 2022 Job Fair

The Spring 2022 Job Fair will be held **virtually** on the SEO Job Database, on **February 3rd, 2022 from 4-6 PM EST**. Visit this **link** for more information:

<https://seo.harvard.edu/spring-job-fair>

Employers can register by using this form:

<https://seo-harvard-csm.symplicity.com/events/2737249bc1db703359d9ffdabbce946f/regform>

Students can register to attend using this form:

<https://seo-harvard-csm.symplicity.com/events/2737249bc1db703359d9ffdabbce946f/overview#jobseeker>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at **seoweb@fas.harvard.edu**



Student Employee of the Year

The Harvard Student Employment Office is happy to announce the return of the Harvard Student Employee of the Year Recognition Program (SEOTY). This program provides our campus with a wonderful opportunity to recognize and reward the vital work that our student employees perform both on and off-campus, in a variety of different roles.

Nominations Are Open Now for **Harvard's 2022 Student Employee of the Year!**

To nominate your student worker **please complete and submit the Nomination Form on the SEO's website. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for nomination and we will choose one winner from each category.**

REASONS TO NOMINATE YOUR STUDENT WORKERS!

1. BEING NOMINATED IS A GREAT **RESUME-BUILDER AND MORALE BOOSTER** FOR STUDENTS.
2. THE STUDENT SELECTED TO BE HARVARD SEOTY/GSEOTY WILL RECEIVE A **HARVARD ENDURE BOTTLE AND A HARVARD SWEATSHIRT FROM THE HARVARD SHOP**, AND BE ENTERED INTO THE STATE SEOTY COMPETITION.
3. THE SEOTY STATE WINNERS RECEIVE A **\$100 CASH AWARD**.
4. THE TOP 3 REGIONAL WINNERS, THROUGH THE NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION FOR STUDENT EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATORS (NEASEA), RECEIVE A **\$250 CASH AWARD**, AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION'S (NSEA) NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM.