

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Fahima Begum Harvard College

Fahima was a student employee at the Mindich Program of Engaged Scholarship. The most rewarding part of her job was being in the community with the individuals they work with and the people they were able to meet. By working with Mindich, Fahima was able to be introduced to some fantastic individuals both inside and outside of Harvard and sustain connections with them for years to come.

Read more about Fahima in the Q&A on the following page.

THIS WEEK

JOB FAIR

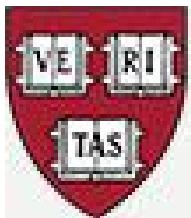
Join us on Thursday, 9/9 from 3-5pm EST for the Fall Job Fair.

**Undergraduate,
Graduate, and continuing
education students are all
welcome to attend!**

**Find more info on our
website [here](#).**

**The fair will be held
virtually via the
platform Congregate.**

**Students can register
[here](#).**



Student Employment Office

Q&A WITH FAHIMA BEGUM

1) What made you apply to your job while being a student?

I am extremely passionate about the foundations of community-based research, global health policy, and equity as a whole, and I wanted to intentionally spend my time in spaces where I could learn more about the aforementioned while also adding to what I was learning in the classroom (often in a more applied, hands-on matter). I found myself in spaces like PBHA and Mindich Program of Engaged Scholarship (MPES) because it challenged what I learn in the classroom and adds to the work that I do as a director of an afterschool program. I knew these positions would make me a better student and a better director, which is ultimately why I decided to apply to these programs and dedicate my time to these initiatives.

2) Where did you find your job (SEO Jobs database, word of mouth, a department, other, etc.)?

I currently volunteer as the Director of the Franklin After School Enrichment Program (FASE), and while being in that space I was introduced to this position by a peer and colleague. I also took time to take engaged scholarship classes, which led me to interact with the Mindich Program and ultimately working there.

3) How have you been able to balance your schoolwork and work responsibilities? What are your personal keys to success and what challenges or hurdles have you encountered?

This is a great question-- and one that has a different answer each time! It's important to frame my job as an intellectual addition to the classes that I am taking, so I find that I hold my work and school responsibilities to the same importance as one contributes to another. I typically try to schedule my week out in advance (Google Calendar is quite actually my best friend) and use a physical agenda to write down assignments that I have due. I also make sure to schedule at least an hour in the morning for myself-- this includes trips to the gym, walks, or reading in the quad lawn. This has been integral to sustaining my mental health and making me really excited about the work that I do. Of course, balancing work and school comes with various challenges, ones that I face frequently. I burned out various times throughout the semester, especially with the transition to virtual learning and the absence of spring break. In moments like these, I try to take a step away from my computer as much as I can and communicate my needs with those I work with-- which has worked in many cases, as everyone faces the same challenge following the pandemic. It's forever a learning process for me and a balance that I am still trying to perfect.

4) What does your typical day look like at work? What do you love the most about your position?

Most of my work at Mindich (MPES) is independent, so on days that I set aside time to work on the initiatives at MPES, I play some music and spend a couple of hours forming a student handbook or coding through the program's course offerings. Once every other week my supervisor and I set a time to meet and talk about progress and concerns, and once a month the MPES team gets together to troubleshoot and plan events collectively. I genuinely love working both independently and collaboratively, so I find that the structure of this position is suitable for my schedule and preferences! I also love the individuals I work with-- they're all wonderful individuals who have amazing perspectives logically and about service.

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

Currently, I am completing a concentration in Sociology and Global Health and Health Policy. This specific position allows me to critically examine the barriers to accessing resources and information inside and outside of Harvard, while also introducing me to the foundation of engaged scholarship and the various ways in which classes integrate the idea of community-based learning. I found that looking at the various levels of community-based scholarship, while also observing barriers to accessing information, compliments what I study in my classes and relates it to broader, more structural issues that many individuals face both in education and beyond! I find that I relate a lot of the concepts I talk about in my sociology and health policy courses to the conversations I have with my supervisor and vice versa, which has really allowed me to dive further into both my classes and my job.