PROGRAM INFORMATION
The Harvard College BLISS program was launched in summer 2011, at the recommendation of the FAS Deans of Social Science and of Harvard College, with the goal of promoting community, creativity, and academic excellence among a small cohort of motivated Harvard undergraduates in the social sciences. The Program seeks to create a diverse group of Fellows, including but not limited to, women and underrepresented groups, who are inspired by and committed to social science research. While the acronym originally derived from ‘Behavioral Laboratory in the Social Sciences,’ it now urges students and mentors alike to “Build Learning through Inquiry in the Social Sciences.”

BLISS 2023 will run Monday, June 5th, through Thursday, August 10th. (Confirmation of the move-in and move-out schedule will be provided later this spring.)

COMPONENTS & EXPECTATIONS
Residential programming and financial support are meant to enable BLISS Fellows to form a close-knit community with each other and with the Undergraduate Research Village. Therefore, Fellows are expected to participate and contribute to the community of scholars by attending the lunchtime and evening enrichment activities throughout the duration of the Program. While many weekend social activities are voluntary, the academic and professional development activities are required for all Fellows.

More specifically, BLISS consists of the following components:

- **Research experience**: The intent of the program is to provide a ten-week formative and substantive full-time research experience on a Harvard faculty-guided social science project (selected from an array of BLISS-designated research projects on the application).
- **Residential life**: BLISS Fellows will live with the Harvard Summer Undergraduate Research Village in one of the Harvard College Houses for the duration of the program. Weekday evening meal service, as well as a weekday breakfast cart, will be available. A modest stipend will be available to cover other expenses, including food for weekend meals and weekday lunches.
- **Mandatory programming**: Each week we will host lunchtime and/or evening academic and professional development programming, including lectures and discussions with distinguished faculty and professionals in a wide variety of fields; practical seminars; and research presentation sessions at the conclusion of the summer.
- **Recreational and social programs**: BLISS Fellows are eligible to register for free use of Harvard athletic facilities (including the Malkin Athletic Center, Hemenway Gymnasium, and Blodgett Pool). A calendar of activities will include a range of opportunities to socialize and take advantage of Boston's cultural and recreational summer offerings, including a variety of excursions, Red Sox games, and Fellow-initiated community events funded by URAF.

ELIGIBILITY
- Must be a continuing Harvard College undergraduate student in good standing;
- Must be able to commit full-time* for the entire 10 weeks of the on-campus research program;
- May accept funding for only one Harvard-funded summer experience, per the Harvard College Summer Funding Policy.

*Individuals taking summer school courses, preparing for the summer graduate school exams, or engaging in full-time public service projects are not eligible to participate in BLISS.

NOTE that preference will be given to individuals who have not yet participated in a Summer Research Village Program (e.g., PRISE, SPUDS, BLISS, PRIMO, SHARP, or SURGH).
Harvard College BLISS Program
Build Learning through Inquiry in the Social Sciences (BLISS)
2022-2023 Application Instructions

BENEFITS
BLISS offers a variety of benefits to ensure a successful summer research experience and enable fellows to form a close-knit community:

- A modest living stipend of $3000 for the ten-week program
- Free lodging in designated Harvard housing
- A partial boarding/dining plan

SELECTION CRITERIA
A primary purpose of the program is to build and foster a strong and diverse community of social science scholars. Selection will be based on applicant responses to the essay questions and comments in the letter of reference indicating that the applicant is strongly suited for a successful summer enrichment experience.

A successful application will demonstrate the following:
1. A strong dedication to developing or furthering academic interest and scholarly excellence in social science research;
2. An eagerness to conduct research in one of the designated projects, and articulation of how that experience would enhance the applicant’s current academic goals and long-term post-graduation pursuits;
3. The ability and desire to engage profoundly and enthusiastically in a diverse residential community of scholars, and the likelihood of benefiting from this participation;
4. An academic record demonstrating success in coursework relevant to the applicant’s preferred projects’ prerequisites (some projects do not require extensive prior coursework);
5. A commitment to participate and contribute for the full 10 weeks of the Program.

Evaluation of the applicant will be based on how well the components of the application define and address these qualities and requirements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS
For a list of current projects, please visit:
https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/bliss-current-project-descriptions

NOTE that projects will be added throughout January 2023.

On your application you can select up to three projects of interest.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS can be found on the following page.
PLease read carefully
And organize the following materials for your application

- **Application Form**
  Complete the online CARAT information, which will be compiled and displayed as your application cover sheet. This application will include the list of projects (as described in detail at [https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/bliss-current-project-descriptions](https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/bliss-current-project-descriptions)), and you may select up to three that interest you. **Note:** The CARAT application will open on or around January 20th.

- **Current One-Page Resume**
  Indicate significant activities, achievements, and experiences relevant to your application.

- **Current Unofficial Transcript**
  Download your unofficial transcript from my.harvard.edu, including your fall course grades and spring 2023 courses.

- **Essay Responses**
  In a separate document, please provide responses to the following three statements (350-750 words per response). Please be sure to include your name at the top of each page!
  1. Describe why you are interested in participating in BLISS and how your preferred project(s) (up to 3) relate to your current (undergraduate) academic goals. Please include a separate short paragraph for each project you have listed.
  2. Describe how you expect participation in BLISS to inform your long-term (post-graduation) academic trajectory and/or to contribute to post-college your professional goals. (It is not necessary to include separate paragraphs for each project; this can be a more holistic answer.)
  3. Describe how you will contribute to, and benefit from, participation in a diverse residential community of researchers. You may wish to include descriptions of your involvement in your Harvard house or dorm (or other communities, such as a club or team or volunteer program), with specific examples of your role in contributing to the cohesion and distinctive identity of the group. In addition, consider your involvement in light of the return to campus this fall term. How has your experience impacted you, and what have you done to address the challenges of belonging and contributing to a community in the current environment?

- **Letter of Recommendation**
  One academic letter of recommendation is required. Send your recommender the BLISS Recommender Instructions below, which will provide guidance on the topics we would like addressed in the letter.

  Your letter of recommendation should be written by someone in the Harvard academic community who can comment on your intellectual aptitude and the relevance of this research program to your academic trajectory. This letter should also include brief examples of how you will benefit from, and contribute to, the Summer Undergraduate Research Village residential community. First-year students may consider a high-school recommender.

  **House Recommendations:** Applicants do NOT need to seek a residential letter of recommendation. Yard and House feedback will be solicited directly from UR AF for all BLISS applicants. **If you have a community-based reference who is not in your residential community** (e.g., coach or other extra-curricular leader), please have that person email a brief endorsement to your House Fellowship Advisor (HFA) or proctor so that they can include that information in their feedback.

Social Science Dean’s Office [https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/BLISS](https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/BLISS)
Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Office [https://uraf.harvard.edu/uraf-opportunities/bliss](https://uraf.harvard.edu/uraf-opportunities/bliss)
Harvard College BLISS Program
Build Learning through Inquiry in the Social Sciences (BLISS)
2022-2023 Application Instructions

1. LOG IN TO CARAT USING YOUR HARVARD KEY and confirm that your profile information is correct.

2. “APPLY” TO THE BLISS “FUNDING SOURCE”
   Fill out all required fields.

3. REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS (via “References” tab)
   You are strongly encouraged to reach out to your recommender at least three weeks ahead of the application deadline. Once you have provided name (Last, First) and contact information for your recommender, YOU MUST CLICK “Send recommendation request” in order for CARAT to send the notification to your recommender’s email. “Save and Next” will NOT submit your recommendation requests.

4. UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS
   All documents must be submitted concurrently, in PDF format. No supplementary materials will be accepted.

5. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION (via “Submission” tab)
   Enter your HUID and click “Submit”. The date and time of your submission will be noted, and late applications will not be accepted. Please note that you do not need to wait for your recommender to submit their letter in order to submit your materials.

   If you or your recommender have questions about this application or the online submission process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at (617) 495-5095 or undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu.

   **DEADLINE**: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT 11:59pm EST
Instructions for the Academic Recommender

This applicant is applying to the Harvard College BLISS program (https://socialscience.fas.harvard.edu/BLISS) to participate in the 10-week summer residential community of undergraduate researchers. A critical factor in evaluating the application is evidence of initiative and determination in an academic and/or research setting. The applicant has selected you to provide a letter of recommendation to the BLISS Selection Committee, and we thank you for your effort on the applicant’s behalf. We would appreciate it if you would address the following questions in your letter:

1. In what capacity do you know the applicant?

2. Can you provide brief examples of their initiative, motivation, and persistence in an academic and/or research activity?

3. How would the applicant benefit from, and contribute to, the “summer undergraduate research village” community?

4. If you are a BLISS project sponsor, please comment on the applicant’s qualifications for BLISS generally as well as for your project specifically. Please also explain how this summer opportunity significantly differs from any term-time research the applicant has done with you.

5. If you are mentoring a BLISS Fellow applying to the “independent research” option, please also address the following questions:
   - Is the applicant qualified to carry out the research as described? That is, are the goals feasible within the specified time period, and does the applicant’s workplan seem reasonable?
   - What is your mentoring plan? That is, what will the student learn from you, and how will you oversee their work? If you are away from campus for any part of the summer, how will you stay in contact with the student?

You will receive an email prompt generated by CARAT after the applicant has invited you to submit a recommendation. Simply follow the directions to upload a signed PDF version of your letter on official institutional stationary to the CARAT online link indicated in the invitation.

Please make every effort to submit your letter no later than Tuesday, February 14, 2023 by 11:59pm (EST). If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Shephard, FAS Social Science Dean’s Office, at jmsheph@fas.harvard.edu.