



Harvard College

## BLISS Program (Build Learning through Inquiry in the Social Sciences) Summer 2024 Application Instructions

The Harvard College BLISS program is a summer residential program for Harvard undergraduates designed to provide a formative and substantive social science research experience and to promote community, creativity, and academic excellence. BLISS fellows conduct research full-time while living on campus during the summer and contributing to an interdisciplinary intellectual, social, and residential environment rich in academic and social activities. **BLISS 2024 is expected to run from Monday, June 3, through Thursday, August 8. (Confirmation of the schedule will be provided later this spring.)**

**\*\*Before applying, please be sure to read the BLISS webpage in its entirety for necessary application information about available projects, expectations, and eligibility: <https://uraf.harvard.edu/uraf-opportunities/bliss>\*\***

### Application Process

Apply via [CARAT](#). Prepare in advance the following materials:

- **Resume (1 page):** Indicate significant activities, achievements, and experiences relevant to your application.
- **Unofficial transcript:** Download your unofficial transcript from my.harvard.edu; it should include your fall course grades and spring course listings.
- **Essays (3):** Include all three essays in a single document with your name at the start and the essay number and question before each response. (350-750 words per response)
  1. **Describe why you are interested in the specific BLISS project(s) you have selected, and how you are prepared and qualified.** Please include a separate short paragraph for each project you have listed.
  2. **Describe how you expect participation in BLISS will inform your academic trajectory and/or contribute to 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, participating 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, team, work group, or volunteer program), with specific examples of your role in contributing to the cohesion and distinctive identity of the group.
- **Evaluation form:** Send your recommender the [HSURV evaluation form](#). Input their contact information in the recommender section of CARAT. Ask your recommender to complete the evaluation form and upload it to CARAT in lieu of a recommendation letter.
- **For independent project applicants only** a mentor confirmation letter is required. Mentors of independent projects must submit their confirmation letter with the subject "BLISS [your last name] Confirmation Letter" to [undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu). The mentor's letter should address the following:
  1. 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?
  2. 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 for any part of the summer, how will you stay in contact with the student?

Please contact Jennifer Shephard at [jmsheph@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jmsheph@fas.harvard.edu) or 617.495.7906 with questions.

**Deadline for all materials: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024, NOON Eastern.**