Doctoral Internship Policy & Procedures

Fellow to Fellow Dinners

Purpose
There are many ways in which psychology fellows in the Department of Psychiatry’s Doctoral Internship in Clinical and Community Psychology get to know each other. This occurs through work-related and social experiences. Nonetheless, since this is a large internship program, a fellow may know some of his or her peers in the internship less well, particularly if they work in a different institution or in a different placement or building in the same institution.

In previous years, the internship’s Fellow Advisory Committee (FAC) implemented a strategy to deepen the personal connection between fellows who have not gotten to know each other well during the first half of the academic year.

Method
Each member of the FAC will invite one to two members of the internship class that they know less well to a lunch or dinner. The FAC will coordinate the invitations so that all members of the class will be included and will participate once. A minimum of 90 minutes will be set aside to dine together. The schedule and commitments of each participating fellow will be taken into consideration in selecting the date and time. This is a voluntary experience, though the FAC encourages all fellows to participate.

Historically, each participating fellow has been asked to come to the meal with two questions that they might like to ask the other fellows in order to get to know them better. These questions should be more personal than professional. The FAC member hosting the meal will come prepared with a variety of strategies for using the questions to facilitate discussion (e.g., each fellow gets to ask one question; the group decides on which questions to discuss). The FAC host will select the strategy and guide the discussion.

Cost
The internship program will cover the cost of these meals to a maximum of $50.00 per fellow inclusive of tip and tax. The FAC member hosting the meal will pay for the meal and submit for reimbursement through the Student Coordinator. Alcohol expenses during lunches on weekdays will not be reimbursed. Alcohol expenses will be reimbursed for dinners and weekend lunches, with a two drink maximum per person. To submit for reimbursement, the Student Coordinator will require an itemized receipt (displays the drinks and food items—not just the total) and list of participating fellows, including the FAC member.

Miscellaneous
The Fellow Advisory Committee will subsequently debrief and discuss the value of repeating this Fellow to Fellow experience in future years. Sensitive information discussed during the meals will not be shared.