

To apply for a GPE Fellow position: Submit an updated resume and cover letter to gsasprofessionaldevelopment@yale.edu with the subject header “[Name of Fellow position]” by July 7, 2023.

Strategic Initiatives Fellow at [Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale \(Tsai CITY\)](#)

Graduate Professional Experience Host Office Description

Tsai CITY’s mission is to inspire students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to seek innovative ways to solve real-world problems. We serve students from across Yale’s campus through programs, funding, and mentoring. We employ a co-curricular and process-oriented approach to our programming, which is intentionally broad since there are many possible pathways to engage in innovative thinking. <https://city.yale.edu/>

Host Mentor

Zoe Hunter
Managing Director
zoe.hunter@yale.edu

Graduate Professional Experience Fellow Responsibilities

Tsai CITY operationalizes its mission (see above) through co-curricular programming, mentorship, and grant funding for special projects, initiatives, and ventures. Tsai CITY has identified five “innovation pathways” to help students navigate our resources in pursuit of their own goals: entrepreneur, intrapreneur, creative, civic innovator, and explorer. These pathways also provide a useful organizing framework for our programming.

There has been a growing body of research and substantial media attention over the past 5+ years on the lack of progress for under-represented founders (entrepreneurs) and funders (venture capitalists) in the innovation ecosystem in the U.S. Based on the research and recommendations compiled last semester, Tsai CITY is seeking a Strategic Initiatives Fellow to begin executing on the efforts to improve our own work in this area.

Working closely with mentor Zoe Hunter, managing director of Tsai CITY, the **Strategic Initiatives Fellow** will support the coordination and implementation of recommendations to improve Tsai CITY programs and resources tailored toward supporting under-represented students. This population includes women, nonbinary people, and individuals who are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). In a student population it may also include first generation low income (FGLI) students and students with disciplines underrepresented in Tsai CITY's existing work.

The Strategic Initiatives Fellow will also incorporate an intersectional approach regarding this under-represented population that has historically faced disproportionate obstacles to obtaining funding for their new ventures or to breaking into decision-making, or check-writing roles as investors. In addition, the Strategic Initiatives Fellow will continue the work of understanding literature and stay continually educated on this topic, so that Tsai CITY can formulate an evidence-based approach to new program development to increase support for this population. The success of this role will be determined by the successful implementation of agreed upon programs and initiatives for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Graduate Professional Experience Learning Objectives and Opportunities

- Collaborate with members of the high-performing innovative team at Tsai CITY.
- Develop an understanding of the U.S. entrepreneurship ecosystem that is wrestling with ways to address inequities faced by under-represented founders and investors, based on aggregated research and accompanying recommendations
- Ideate, coordinate, and execute on a new evidence-based program or initiative that supports traditionally under-represented founders.
- Gain knowledge of practice-based solutions (e.g., specialized accelerators, venture capital firms, and community programs), conduct research into the companies and individuals supporting these efforts, and explore the extent to which the frameworks being used are guided by research.

Desired Qualifications

- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent project management skills.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively, adhere to deadlines, and ask questions.
- Strong interest in entrepreneurship, innovation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Knowledge of systems and organizational structures will be helpful.
- Ability to apply research findings to practice-based programs and educational frameworks to support program creation.

Duration of position

Full academic year preferred, open to Fall 2023 applicants