

Job Shadow Program

Program Overview for 2025-26

The **2025-26 Purposeful Work Job Shadow Program** is an opportunity for you to connect with Bates alumni, parents and other friends of the College to learn about professional career options, personal perspectives, and how others have navigated pathways toward purposeful work. Job Shadows are open to students of all four years and do not require any previous work experience. Matches are made based on the level of interest and the impact the experience will have on students' career exploration. After being matched with a sponsor, students will arrange their job shadow for anytime between mid-December and May. The length of each job shadow varies between two hours to two days.

Search and Explore on Handshake

- ✓ Students may log on to [Handshake](#) to view and apply for job shadows between Oct 6 - Nov 14
- ✓ Many opportunities are available. Explore all of the options for the best fit for you in [Handshake](#):
 - Under Jobs, search "PW Job Shadow" or search by label "job shadow 2025/26"
 - View the full list of job shadows being offered within our Job Shadow Index organized by industry at <https://www.bates.edu/purposeful-work/job-shadow-students/>
 - Use the full list of job shadows to identify a specific industry or employer name. Then type that industry or employer name into [Handshake](#).
- ✓ **Students may apply for up to three job shadows.** Please note that if you are matched with several job shadows, you are expected to complete all of them. If you would like to **rank your preferences**, email your rankings to jobshadow@bates.edu by November 14.

Prepare to Apply by November 14th at 11:59pm

- ✓ **Resume:** Your resume must be reviewed by Bates Center for Purposeful Work to apply for the Purposeful Work Job Shadow Program. Once reviewed, a label will appear on your Handshake account: "Resume Reviewed 2025/26"
- ✓ **Statement of Interest:** Conduct thorough research of the sponsor's organization and role in order to develop a tailored and compelling statement that demonstrates your genuine interest. Consider the format of the shadow carefully, as you take into consideration your availability and budget for travel. See page two for a sample Statement of Interest.

Receive your Match by mid-December

- ✓ In December the Bates Center for Purposeful Work will review the applications received.
- ✓ All applicants will be notified of their matching status by December 12, 2025.
- ✓ If a match is made, you will receive orientation materials and introduction to your sponsors so that you and your sponsor can plan your job shadow experience for any time between mid-December and the end of May.

Purposeful Work Drop-In Hours

Mondays - Fridays 1:30-3:30pm
Sundays - Wednesdays 7-9pm
Chase Hall, First Floor

Job Shadow Program

How to Write a Statement of Interest

A statement of interest for a job shadow should succinctly communicate your interest in the opportunity. Your statement should demonstrate that you have read and thoroughly understand what to expect during your job shadow. Ideally, the statement will address (1) your interest in the field/industry/employer, (2) how the shadow will help your career exploration process, and (3) demonstrate your understanding of the possible formats of the shadow.

In three short paragraphs (250-word limit), please answer the following questions:

1. What about you, including your academic and professional interests, make you a good match for this job shadow?
2. How will this job shadow benefit your career exploration?
3. How will you arrange the logistics of your job shadow? Although the specific date(s), location, and format will be arranged in collaboration with your job shadow sponsor, it is helpful to think ahead about your experience. See example below.

Consider your audience: Job shadow applications are reviewed by the staff in the Center for Purposeful Work. Occasionally resumes and applications will be shared with the alumni/parent sponsor.

SAMPLE JOB SHADOW STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Jessica Bates '28
Statement of Interest for job shadow at Hubspot

Always include your name, class year, and the name of the organization that is hosting the job shadow

For me, purposeful work involves building connections and engaging with my community in meaningful ways. During my time at Bates, I have worked as a web editor and graphic designer for a local non-profit as well as several campus clubs. This year, in my role as a Residence Counselor, I have worked to foster community and offer guidance to first-year students. As a result of these experiences, I have cultivated strong communication skills and have learned to be flexible and adaptable when dealing with challenges.

After college, I hope to build my writing, graphic design and general communication skills. Through a job shadow with Hubspot I will gain valuable real-world knowledge that will assist me when choosing career options after college. I will also get to meet people who have been successful in marketing and communications, and hope to acquire insight into how to prepare myself for entering the workforce.

Given that this job shadow could be in-person or virtual, I'm excited to connect with the job shadow sponsor to discuss the best format and timing. If an in-person meeting is possible, I'll be able to travel to Boston during either the winter break (date - date) or February break (date - date). Alternatively, if zoom is the preferred format, my schedule is flexible on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter semester.