



# BRIDGE BEYOND CAROLINA:

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### **OUR MISSION: *To bridge the gap between academia and industry for graduate students***

The Bridge Beyond Carolina program will provide graduate students with paid summer experiential learning opportunities in non-academic settings such as business, government, healthcare, technology, and more. Bridge Beyond Carolina is an investment in the professional growth of graduate students, and a platform to develop a pipeline of well-prepared, aspiring professionals who are ready to support the needs of our state.

While the transition from academia to industry can be challenging, experiential learning opportunities provide graduate students with the practical experience, industry connections, and skills development required to excel in professional roles. Through experiential learning, graduate students from a range of disciplines will have the opportunity to complement their academic knowledge with real-world experiences to develop practical skills that are essential in today's job market, build valuable networks that can lead to future job opportunities, and gain a better understanding of their career interests to make informed decisions about their professional trajectory.

### **EXPANDING A SUCCESSFUL MODEL**

Bridge Beyond Carolina will build on a successful pilot program that The Graduate School ran from 2015-2019. The pilot program provided graduate students from disciplines ranging from economics and education to biology and health behavior with internships across non-profits like the Alase Center for Enrichment and government agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the World Health Organization. Through these internships, students went on to accept full-time positions or used the program as a bridge toward their current position.

### **SUPPORTING THIS TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAM**

Your support will fund stipends for graduate students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their ability to pursue opportunities. Since many graduate students must work to ensure their financial stability, your contributions will allow students to gain experiential learning that wouldn't be attainable otherwise. You can choose to make a one-time donation, endow an internship, endow the program as a whole, or explore other ways to partner.

*"I didn't realize that I would learn about a job opening (that I eventually accepted!) on just my third day of [this program]. That position nurtured me and led to further opportunities that also aided me in finally completing the Ph.D. Had I not applied to [this program], I might have withered on the vine."*

— Thomas Phillips II,  
Ph.D., Romance Studies '18

### **A gift of any amount will help support opportunities for graduate students**

**\$8,000** – Supports 1 named summer experiential learning opportunity

**\$176,000** – Endows 1 named summer experiential learning opportunity

**\$200,000** – Supports 1 full summer, i.e., 25 named summer experiential learning opportunities

**\$1,000,000** – Creates an endowment for the program and opportunity to name the program

**Co-funding and co-sponsoring opportunities also available**

### **Contact:**

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