



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



# ODYSSEY SCHOLARS

Congratulations, and welcome to the University of Chicago and to the Odyssean Scholars community! As an Odyssean Scholar, you are one of a select number of students nationwide whose application reflected incredible academic potential, personal strength, and a drive for success in and outside of the classroom. The Odyssean Scholars' community exemplifies the diversity of backgrounds, perspectives, and achievements that defines UChicago students. Scholars benefit from a plethora of opportunities and support provided by the College as they navigate their college journeys together. Odyssean Scholarships were first made possible by the generosity of an anonymous UChicago alumnus who strongly believed that students of all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds benefit from and contribute to UChicago's student community. This gift, along with other generous contributions from alumni and friends of the University of Chicago, funds the Odyssean Scholarship program and related support for Odyssean Scholars.



University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer notes that the Odyssean Scholarship program ***"...ensures that the most talented students, no matter their economic circumstances, will have the opportunity to benefit from the uniquely powerful and rigorous Chicago education...providing access to the College for these students comports with our highest values, is central to our mission, and has the potential to greatly enrich the life opportunities for our students and their families for generations to come."***

As an Odyssean Scholarship recipient, you have an opportunity to earn a funded internship or research experience starting in the summer after your first year. All scholarship recipients who participate in four meetings with their career adviser and complete a special series of professional development programs for first-year Odyssean Scholars will receive a funded internship or research opportunity after their first year.

Odyssean Scholars will have the opportunity to network and learn from a community of peers and foster relationships with students and alumni through various programs in the College. As part of the Odyssean Scholarship program, you will be a member of a dynamic community that empowers the individual while strengthening the whole. Whether you're studying abroad alongside fellow Scholars in Paris, Beijing, or Barcelona; meeting up at a reception to honor Metcalf interns; or considering your next steps after graduation, your fellow Odyssean Scholars will be with you every step of the way during your undergraduate experience. Your personal excellence, intellectual curiosity, and professional passions make you an invaluable asset to the University, and we hope your time here will allow you to fully share your gifts with the world. We look forward to seeing you on campus.

## THE ODYSSEY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Odyssey Scholarship Program was created in 2008 as a pioneering effort to reduce or eliminate loans for students from families with modest incomes through support from an anonymous College alumnus. In 2014, the University of Chicago announced the No Barriers initiative, which further bolsters support for students who are part of the Odyssey Scholarship community.

### BENEFITS

#### All Grant Financial Aid Award

Odyssey Scholars are not expected to borrow student loans as part of their financial aid package. Federal student loans have been replaced with University grant funding which does not need to be repaid. Please note that you may be eligible to borrow Federal Student Loans, but will not be expected to borrow to pay for your education. Contact College Aid if you have questions concerning loans or your award.

#### Odyssey Internship Program

The University of Chicago is committed to providing you with an education that enhances your personal and professional development. To that end, Odyssey Scholars have the opportunity to receive a funded summer internship or research opportunity after their first year in the College. To qualify for the opportunity, you will need to participate in Career Advancement programs and meetings with your career adviser. You will meet with your adviser throughout the year to discuss your academic and career interests to ensure that you're in a strong position to find an internship that fits your interests and goals.

#### Networking

Through programs and events offered by Career Advancement and the Center for College Student Success, students enjoy opportunities to meet with other current Odyssey Scholars as well as alumni who benefited from and support the Odyssey Scholarship program.

#### Financial Life Skills

Financial literacy seminars for Odyssey Scholars will assist students in learning the basics of budgeting a student income, managing personal expenses, and understanding student loans, credit cards, and other consumer debt.

#### Funding for Study Abroad

Odyssey Scholars are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of study abroad offerings in the College. Scholars will receive funding for program fees and housing costs associated with study abroad. Additionally, scholarships available through the College can be used to assist with additional costs related to study abroad, such as airfare to your program site and meals.

#### Assistance with Health Insurance Costs

Students are required to have health insurance while attending the College. You must purchase the University of Chicago insurance plan unless you are covered under another plan (e.g. a parent's health insurance plan). As an Odyssey Scholar, the cost of the University health insurance plan is paid for you by Odyssey Scholarship funds if you do not have other coverage.



*Success at the College should not depend on where a student comes from or on family income, but on the quality of her or his ideas, and on a disciplined and imaginative dedication to learning."*

—John W. Boyer, Dean of the College