


LABOR SUMMER

UC SAN DIEGO LABOR CENTER

laborcenter.ucsd.edu

What is the Labor Summer Fellowship?


Labor Summer is an 8-week fellowship that connects San Diego and Imperial Valley students with local labor organizations to champion worker justice. In partnership with host organizations, fellows train to become the next generation of labor organizers, researchers, and leaders—building a powerful “School to Movement” pipeline that launches students into careers in social justice and the labor movement in our communities.



2024 Cohort

“The fellowship exceeded my expectations. Being with UFCW was an incredible learning experience. I felt like I was part of the team, not just an intern, and I absorbed so much day to day. It was empowering to see we could directly help workers, resolve grievances, and secure significant backpay.”


Levi Berge-Wells, UFCW Local 135 Fellow



2023 Cohort

“I learned to build deep, trustworthy relationships with union members. This fellowship truly inspired my career path, and I genuinely felt supported by both the union and the Labor Summer staff. Labor Summer will truly impact the labor movement for generations.”


Ana Ramos Ontiveros, UNITE HERE Local 30 Fellow



2023 Cohort

“Labor Summer gave me the opportunity to work with so many amazing and gifted organizers. I had the chance to learn from them to connect with workers in the workplace. This experience gave me valuable skills I can bring to my work in campus organizing and beyond.”

Jonathan Chavez, UAW Local 4811 Fellow



2024 Cohort

“Interacting with the workers and seeing their motivation was super empowering. These are very vulnerable groups of people, and seeing them step into their power and risk so much is something I’ll never forget. It was amazing to witness their willingness to make sacrifices for change.”

Nayeli Ocegueda, United Farm Workers Fellow

TIMELINE

OPENING RETREAT

Three-day opening retreat that trains fellows as organizers, connects fellows across unions, and orients them to the labor movement.

SUMMER PLACEMENT

Eight week fellowship with a host organization and placement with a mentor. 40/hr per week, on the ground experience to train students in organizing, research, communications, or policy.

CLOSING RETREAT

Two-day closing retreat that serves as the School to Movement pipeline. Critical orientation to the region of San Diego and Imperial County, careers in the labor movement, and survival strategies for the long haul as organizers.



UC San Diego

OUTCOMES

2023 COHORT

12 fellows trained with 8 host organizations

8 fellows of 12 working in the labor movement

2024 COHORT

14 fellows trained with 9 host organizations

6 fellows of 14 working in the labor movement (Sept 2024)

5 fellows looking to work in the labor movement post-graduation

PREVIOUS HOSTS

