Awards for students interested in social justice

Gilman Scholarships: undergraduates with Pell grants can apply for funding for a summer, semester, or academic year abroad. The award includes a service component that must be completed after the student returns to the U.S. Deadlines are in October and March. www.iie.org/gilman

Truman Scholarship: juniors interested in pursuing a graduate degree and career in public service, from any related academic field, can apply. You must have both excellent academic merit and a demonstrated record of community service. The award provides up to $30,000 for Master’s level study. Campus deadline is in December; institutional deadline is in February. www.truman.gov

PeaceFirst: Young people between the ages of 8 and 22 can apply, or be nominated for, this prize of $50,000 given over two years. The application must describe a project that meets the PeaceFirst organization’s three criteria of “compassion, courage, and collaborative change”. Deadline is in April. www.peacefirst.org/prize

Davis-Putter Scholarship Program: This program provides up $10,000 to enrolled students involved in “active participation in struggles for civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity or other progressive issues.” It is also a need-based award, although the most important criteria are the student’s academic potential and demonstrated leadership in social change. Deadline is April 1. http://www.davisputter.org/

Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship Program: juniors and seniors can apply for this program that provides summer service opportunities in Washington, DC and funding toward completion of a Master’s Degree in Public Policy or Public Affairs. The award is particularly geared toward underrepresented students, although any student committed to public service can apply. Deadline is in November. http://www.ppiaprogram.org/

Teach for America: graduating seniors and alumni can apply to teach in poverty-stricken communities across the United States, which includes a full-time salary and benefits. There are five deadlines from August to February. http://www.teachforamerica.org/

For more information, visit the Fellowship Office website at http://luc.edu/fellowshipoffice.