**Please see below for a unique Internship opportunity for**

**QC Undergraduate Psychology Majors**:

**The Lakowitz Internship and Clinical Psychology Prize**

Every year, two outstanding Queens College undergraduate Psychology majors are awarded the **Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Prize**, to recognize and support students who identify as individuals from underrepresented backgrounds (broadly including age, race/ethnicity/nationality, socioeconomic status, membership in a historically marginalized group, interest, and/or perspective), *and* who aspire to pursue graduate studies for becoming a clinical psychologist. All students who may possibly be interested are encouraged to apply!

Lakowitz-QCPC Interns will participate in an internship position for the fall and spring semesters (3 hours per week) at the Queens College Psychological Center (QCPC). Awardees also receive $500 and are recognized during spring graduation exercises with a plaque. QCPC will award a $100 stipend to each as well. Internship activities allow undergraduate students who are interested in clinical psychology to experience a behavioral health environment, gain a greater understanding of clinical work, engage in mentorship, and meaningfully contribute to the community.

* **Responsibilities**: Participating in community mental wellness outreach projects and psychoeducational programs, enrichment activities for children, developing and implementing community awareness/mental health destigmatization efforts, helping patients fill out forms and measures, creating patient educational handouts, assisting with the identification of resources for patients, reading to and playing with children awaiting appointments, engaging children in creative activities in the waiting room, assisting doctoral students and faculty, and helping with other daily operational tasks in the clinic (e.g. answering patient’s calls for information, entering data).
* **Opportunities**: There will be many opportunities for experiential learning and mentorship. Interns will receive extensive training and have the opportunity to observe clinical meetings (e.g. case conferences, didactics), engage in mental health/psychology related activities, receive mentorship from current clinical psychology doctoral students and faculty, and as appropriate observe psychologists and doctoral students in their everyday clinical work.

**Rationale**: The QC Department of Psychology and the Clinical Doctoral Program are deeply committed to creating a more diverse profession and discipline to serve a diverse public. This internship looks to ramp up support and opportunities for QC psychology undergraduates from diverse backgrounds who have demonstrated resilience and aspire to careers as doctoral level Clinical Psychologists. Doctoral programs in clinical psychology are competitive, require extensive preparation, and hands-on experience (such as volunteer work in clinical settings with diverse populations, and clinical research in laboratories). Often, this valued credential of “experience,” is not financially compensated, rendering such participation a hardship for many students. This award aims to provide some financial support and mentorship to promising students who seek relevant, mental health related experiences with community populations, along with formal and informal mentorship, to enhance their preparation for graduate school and strengthen their applications for admission.

The number of psychologists from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds remains low, contributing to ongoing disparities in access to high quality mental health care. In the evolving landscape of psychology, higher education, and healthcare, dissemination of evidence-based practices and behavioral interventions requires skilled community engagement, diversity competencies, and communication with a diverse public.  Offering culturally responsive and competent psychological services to all members of the public, especially to those from traditionally marginalized groups, is strengthened by efforts to encourage and support a diverse workforce of health service psychologists.

**Queens College Psychological Center** (QCPC) is a community mental health service, as well as an academic center operated by the Queens College Department of Psychology, Clinical Psychology at Queens College Ph.D. Program, City University of New York. The QCPC offers compassionate, high quality, evidence-based, psychological services for children, adolescents, and adults.  Consistent with Queens College’s commitment to being a community-engaged institution and a valuable resource for Queens and New York City, all services are made available regardless of ability to pay. QCPC encourages families and individuals who have historically been denied opportunities to apply for their services. QCPC is a structured and organized clinical learning environment where competencies, as specified by the profession and its credentialing bodies, are introduced, developed and achieved. It is in this hybrid academic clinical setting, that the theory and research encountered in the classroom and laboratories of the doctoral program connect to application. Psychological services are provided by doctoral candidates in our Clinical Psychology at Queens College Program, who are carefully educated, trained, and closely supervised by experienced, and licensed psychology faculty.

**Application information**:

* **Eligible applicants must**:
	+ Be a matriculating Psychology major
	+ Identify as an individual from an underrepresented background (broadly including age, race/ethnicity/nationality, socioeconomic status, member of historically marginalized group, interest, and/or perspective)
	+ Aspire to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology
	+ Submit:
		- The QCPC-Lakowitz application, which includes a personal statement addressing how your diverse life experiences have influenced your aspiration to become a clinical psychologist
		- Submit your application to Dr. Yvette Caro at yvette.caro@qc.cuny.edu Please note on the subject line “Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Prize”
* Five finalists will be invited for a brief interview. Students who are not selected for the Lakowitz Prize may be considered for other program opportunities, and should indicate their interest in such opportunities on their application. The most rewarding reasons to intern cannot be measured. Interns get to help other people and see the difference they can make in a person’s life. Interning can help you gain valuable experience, get out of your comfort zone, learn new skills, and meet others who share the same values and interests. Other benefits include: building leadership skills, learning about your potential, exploring new interests, and developing contacts in the mental health field.

Comments from prior QCPC-Lakowitz Prize Winners:

**~ Darling DaSilva Ortiz, 24-25 QCPC-Lakowitz Intern**
“As a Psychology major with a minor in Anthropology, I was thrilled to be selected for the Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Internship at the QCPC. I anticipated it would be a valuable opportunity to deepen my understanding of the field, but I could not have imagined how warmly I would be welcomed or how supported I would feel from day one. From Dr. Caro and Dr. Cornwell, to the doctoral students and fellow interns, everyone made me feel like a valued part of the team. This experience has been incredibly rewarding. I’ve had the opportunity to learn, collaborate, and contribute meaningfully in ways that have supported both the clinic and my peers. It has not only been an unforgettable chapter in my academic journey but also a cornerstone in the foundation I am building for my future career. For that, I am deeply grateful.”

 **~ Crystal Diaz, 23-24 QCPC-Lakowitz Intern**

“My internship at the Queens College Psychological Center was a profoundly enriching experience. I participated in the patient simulation program and assisted new volunteers in preparing for their scenarios. With another intern, I coordinated and successfully executed a clothing drive for the local community served by QCPC. Additionally, we served as mock clients for doctoral trainees conducting neuropsychological and WISC-V assessments. Winning the Lakowitz Award and receiving payment for my efforts was highly beneficial as a college student. It alleviated some of the financial stress associated with balancing classes and exams. Given the opportunity to intern at QCPC again, I would do so without hesitation.”

**~ Brittany Pompey, 23-24 QCPC-Lakowitz Intern**

“Being awarded the Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Prize and the QCPC 2023-24 Undergraduate Internship was one of the best experiences I had during my time at Queens College. I gained invaluable hands-on experience, giving me a glimpse of what my future career might look like. During my time there, I collaborated on various tasks with my award partner, doctoral students, and even the clinic doctors. The opportunities presented to me at the clinic were endless. I was able to express my creativity by redecorating the intern office and creating a "Get to Know Me" board. I gained clinical experience by helping score and uploading questionnaires, participating in a standardized patient practicum, doing outreach for events hosted by the QCPC, creating lists of resources, and helping organize a clothing drive and much more. In addition to gaining practical experience, I built meaningful connections with my peers, doctoral students, and clinic doctors. These connections were the most rewarding part of the internship. Without this internship, I would not have the knowledge, experience or connections I have today.”

**~ Natalia Mejia, 22-23 QCPC-Lakowitz Intern**

"My experience as an intern at the Queens College Psychological Center was one I´ll never forget. When I first got the internship, I didn’t know what to expect but throughout the year I gained so much experience, and knowledge and met some amazing people. The doctoral students were extremely welcoming and were always there if I had questions. Being a part of this internship didn’t feel like much work but a privilege. There were also many opportunities to learn and observe such as case conferences or note-taking during an intake session. It´s helped me understand what I wanted to do with my career, and I might consider applying to the doctoral program soon."

**~ Steven Zamora, 22-23 QCPC-Lakowitz Intern**

"As the Lakowitz Clinical Psychology award winner interning at the Queens College Psychological Center I was able to participate in the patient simulation program, while also helping new volunteers prepare for their scenarios. Another intern and I managed to coordinate and accomplish food and clothes drive for the local community that receives services at the QCPC. We also served as mock clients for doctoral level trainees in conducting neuropsychological, and WISC-V assessments. However, one of my most memorable experiences will have to be co-leading a workshop series with other doctoral trainees for the geriatric community at the Pomonok center. We were able to provide education, skills, and an interactive environment to discuss topics such as mental health wellness, coping with loss, anxiety, and effective communication. Being able to interact and help a community that is so easily forgotten is one of my favorite experiences at Queens College. Hearing their stories, and their feedback on these topics is so unique, it is something that cannot be taught in a classroom. It has also influenced me in focusing on the geriatric community when I become a therapist. However, these are activities that I would gladly do as a volunteer, but as a Lakowitz winner I was paid. This was extremely helpful as a college student, focused on classes and exams, being able to receive payment relieves some of the stress we experience throughout the semester. If I were given the opportunity to intern at the QCPC again, I would without question."

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| **QUEENS COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTERQueens CollegeDepartment of Psychology**Queens Hall Suite 170**Application Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Prize & Queens College Psychological Center Undergraduate Internship 2025-2026** |

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| 1. **Applicant’s General Information**:
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| Last Name: |  | First Name**:**  |  |
| Email Address: |  | Local Address: |  |
| Best contact number for text/call: |  | Date of Application: |  |

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| 1. **Please confirm your eligibility**:
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| What is your current academic level at Queens College | [ ]  Freshman [ ]  Sophomore [ ]  Junior [ ]  Senior [ ]  Graduate [ ]  Other, please describe:  |
| Are you a Psychology Major? | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No Other:  |
| Are you currently matriculated at Queens College for the Fall ‘25 semester? | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No Other:  | **Please note**: you must be matriculated for the fall & spring semesters to be eligible to receive the award. |
| Do you expect to be matriculated at Queens College for the Spring’25 semester? | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No Other:  |
| Do you have future aspirations to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology (or advanced degree in a mental health profession)? | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No Other:  |

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| 1. **Brief Diversity Statement:** (500 -1000 words)**:** Please address your commitment to, personal experiences related to, diversity, equity, and inclusion (in any context). How have these influenced your aspiration to become a clinical psychologist. (Write-in or copy/paste into the text box below; or attach as a separate document.) Examples: Could include (but not be limited to) your: potential to contribute to enhancing diversity efforts in psychology; experiences overcoming economic, social, educational disadvantages, and/or other barriers; efforts to encourage equitable access to mental health services for underrepresented populations; potential to bring the critical perspective that comes from your understanding of the experiences of groups historically underserved in and/or underrepresented in mental health services.
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| 1. **Previous Experience** (if any):
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| Volunteer, internship, or paid work experience - include key responsibilities. (You may attach a cv/resume instead.) | [ ]  Please see attached resume 🡪 |
| Special skills, talents, or special interests. | [ ]  Fluent in a Foreign Language(s) specify if you read, write, speak: [ ]  Other: 🡪 |

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| 1. Please write in specific days and/or times you would tentatively be available for an internship if selected:
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| **Summer 2025 Semester** (Not required, but some students prefer to start their experience early.) | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** |
| Morning |  |  |  |  |
| Afternoon |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fall 2025 Semester** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** |
| Morning |  |  |  |  |
| Afternoon |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spring 2026 Semester** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** |
| Morning |  |  |  |  |
| Afternoon |  |  |  |  |
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| **Scheduling Comments** |

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| 1. Are you interested in being considered for other opportunities at QCPC if you are not selected for this internship?
 | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No Other:       |

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| **Reminders**: | Please:* Submit your application via email to Yvette Caro, Ph.D. at yvette.caro@qc.cuny.edu
* Note “APP: Lakowitz Clinical Psychology Prize” on the subject line
* Submit application no later than June 16, 2025 for the 25-26 academic year.
* If possible, please include the name and contact information for someone we can contact to provide a reference for you, ideally faculty or staff in the QC community or the field of psychology.
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| **Additional Comments**: |  |
|  **Signature** (if completed electronically type in name) |