

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

Learn. Serve. Reflect. Act.

Alternative Breaks Experience Leader Position Description

AB Experience Leaders (ELs) are the chief coordinators for the Alternative Weekend and Spring Break experiences. They plan and oversee experience logistics, facilitate peer learning around social justice issues, develop educational and orientation curriculum for participants, lead team activities and reflections, and serve as the main contact for their individual AB experience. All Experience Leaders commit to and serve in this role for one complete year (from May 2022 until May 2023).

The AB Experience Leader role is a valuable and unique leadership, personal, civic, and professional development experience for undergraduate students. Experience Leaders will develop valuable transferable skills and learning benefiting them in academic, curricular and future career roles. This role is a structured experience guided by on-going mentorship, training, and feedback focused on EL and participant learning through knowledge acquisition and experience.



"Becoming an EL is one of the best decisions I have made. I wanted to step into this role to continue deepening my understanding of social justice issues and of the meaning of service learning after participating in my first AB experience. As an EL, I have grown so much as an individual, as a leader, and as a citizen of society. In addition to having the incredible opportunity to craft a meaningful experience, I learned how to lead through thought-provoking reflections, analyze root causes, and build community. Without my AB family, my college experience would not be as enriching as it has been." -- Richa Behr '20

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Important Dates & Requirements

- Availability over summer for communication and experience planning work with AB staff and co-leader.
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Fall Experience Leader Retreat:** End of August 2022
 - **Fall Alternative Weekend Experience:** Friday, November 11th, 2022 - Sunday, November 13th, 2022
 - **Fall Experience Leader Trainings:** Fridays, Weekly during Fall & Spring semester; 4:00 - 5:30 PM
 - **Spring Experience Leader Retreat:** End of January 2023
 - **Participant Kickoff Events:** September 2022 & February 2023
 - **Reunion:** April 2023
- Leadership over entire length of an AB Dialogue and Spring Break Experience(s): **Dec. 2022 Graduating seniors may not lead Spring Experiences*
 - **Fall Weekend Experiences** (Friday, November 11th, 2022 - Sunday, November 13th, 2022)
 - **Spring Break Experiences** (Saturday, March 19th - Saturday, March 26th, 2023)

Responsibilities

Fall & Spring Experiences

- **Experience Planning**
 - Research, initiate and serve as main contact for partnerships with community and service agencies
 - Complete Experience Leader assignments according to due dates set by AB staff
 - Asking questions about any aspect of the planning rather than making assumptions
 - Staying positive about the process, AB Program, and experience.
 - Representing UMD, LCSL, and AB in a mature, responsible and positive way at all times.
- **Participant/Team Relations**
 - Recruit and support program marketing efforts
 - Lead reflection and manage team building, group dynamics, and problem solving for your team before, during, and after the experience
 - Ensure that university and program policies are upheld at all times before, during, and after the experience
 - Maintain regular and organized communication with participants providing updates, experience information, education resources, meeting/activity dates, and ensuring adequate preparation for their AB experience
- **Issue Education**
 - Educate self about social issue, its root causes, and its relation to community you are serving
 - Develop and distribute issue education curriculum for AB participants leading to a greater understanding of social issue, root causes, and individual role within the issue (including articles, books, videos, discussions, presentations, mini-projects, blog prompts, advocacy and continued service opportunities)

Dialogue Experience

- **Experience Planning**

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- Plan and facilitate a 5 week deliberative and reflective dialogues addressing global social issues, student participants will exchange and evaluate different ideas and approaches that challenge specific social, political and economic structures of our global community.

Spring Break Experience

- **Experience Planning**
 - Plan day-to-day itinerary for experience, including service, educational and reflection activities, food, and transportation
- **Participant/Team Relations**
 - Plan and facilitate at least four team meetings before the experience focused on orientation, education and training, one pre-experience activity focused on team building, and two post-experience team activities focused on activation
 - Plan, coordinate, and report fundraising efforts
 - Coordinate at least one pre and post experience service activities connecting your team to local organizations/resources surrounding a specific social issue
- **Staff Advisor Relations**
 - Review Staff Advisor (SA) applications and work with AB staff to make Staff Advisor selection
 - Meet with Staff Advisor in person at least twice a month; conduct check-ins (over email, Google Hangout, phone) at least weekly
 - Establish and maintain a strong working relationship with SA including regular/open communication and updates
- **Issue Education**
 - Plan and facilitate 7 deliberative and reflective dialogues addressing global social issues, student participants will exchange and evaluate different ideas and approaches that challenge specific social, political and economic structures of our global community.

Qualifications

- Previous participation in an AB experience or other significant service/leadership experience
- Demonstrated commitment to the vision, mission and values of the Alternative Breaks program
- Willingness to learn and contribute to the learning of peers
- Ability to work well with a team and as a co-leader
- Ability to commit significant and consistent effort and time throughout the entire school year. *Average weekly commitment is about 6 hours*

Benefits

- Gain transferrable skills and experience applicable to future personal, professional, and civic endeavors
- Serve as a valuable voice for student involvement and will have an opportunity to help guide the direction of the AB Experience
- High level of responsibility and unique leadership experience leading peers through experiential education program
- Organizational experience through experience-planning and coordination
- Building close relationships within a community of diverse peers, staff and faculty
- Deeper understanding of social issues, root causes, service-learning, social change and social justice concepts

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- Up to 30% discount on AB experience cost (dependent on full completion of trainings and responsibilities)
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Application Process

- Review the Experience Leader Position Description for information about specific responsibilities and requirements. Complete [online applications](#) by **Sunday, April 24th, 2022 (at 11:59pm)**
- Complete an Interview. You will receive an invite following the submission of your application to sign up for an interview time slot. This will be about 30 minutes of individual questions and conducted by 2-3 AB staff and/or previous leaders. Interviews will take place starting **Monday, April 25th, 2022 - Friday, April 29th, 2022.**
- All applicants will be notified by mid-May.