



Student-Powered Policy Research

More real work per capita than any student-powered think tank

Information Session II: Autumn 2018

The Paul Douglas Institute

Agenda

Overview

Who we are

Our projects

Application details

Think tanks use research to raise attention to important causes



Members	Focus	Research	Funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• industry professionals• academics• regulators• lobbyists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• issue-based• advocacy/impact-driven• regional focus• university affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• relevant, current topics• member-originated• at request of partners• multiple projects/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• governments,• private organizations (political parties)• PACs• individuals

Established think tanks

BROOKINGS



COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS



Agenda

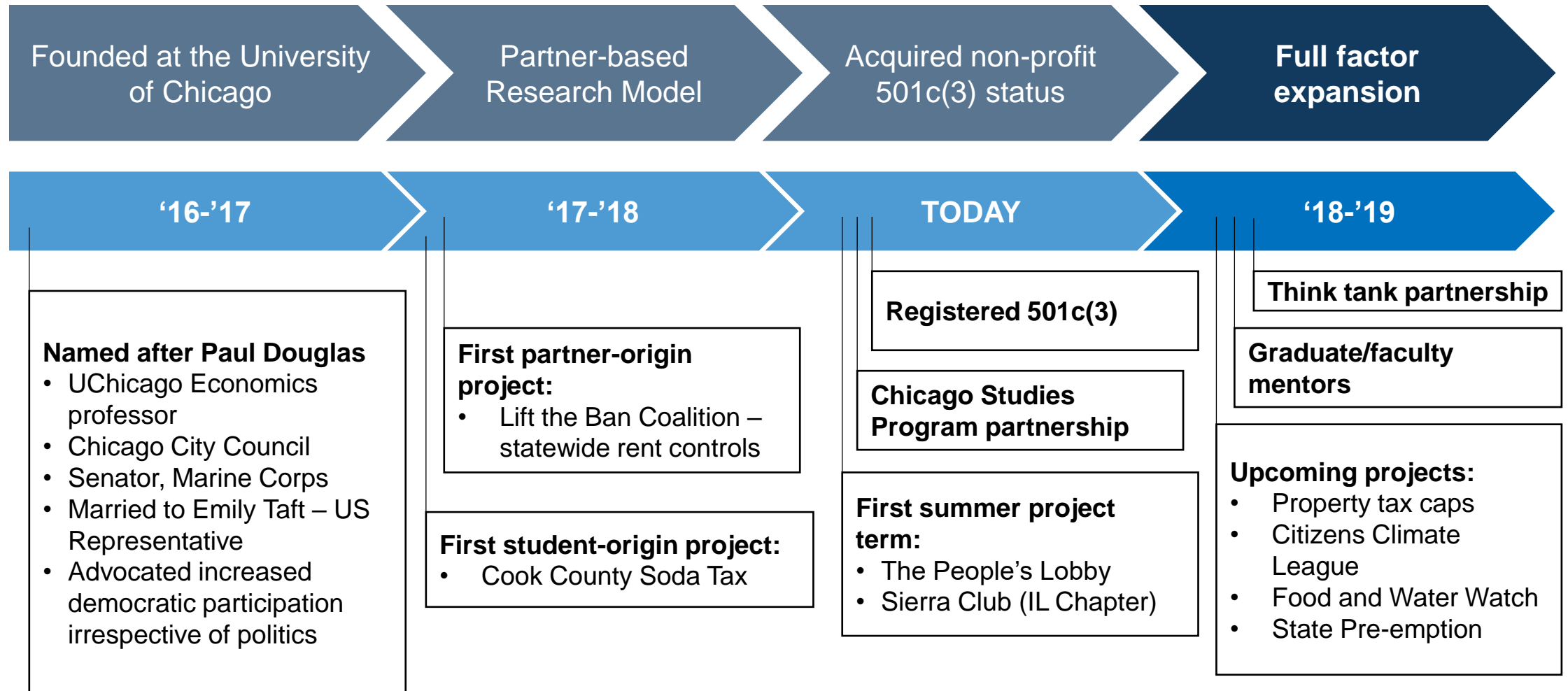
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We are a student-powered, public policy think tank



Our mission is to hone passionate students' research skills through relevant, hands-on, real-world experience



- **Student Origination**
- **Partner Origination**
- **Literature Review**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Expert Interviews**
- **Progress Reports**
- **Write-up**
- **Website launch**
- **Press release**
- **Partner presentation**
- **Legislator meetings**

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Summer Project 1: Devising a global minimum wage formula to counter the 'race to the bottom'

Partner

THE PEOPLE'S LOBBY

- Context: seek to influence 2020 Presidential race
- Initiated conversations in May 2018
- Given sub-project requests across 5 topics:
 - Global minimum wage
 - Corporate tax reform
 - Corporate accountability
 - Informal sector labor protections
 - Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform

Solution

- **Qualitative analysis**

Conducted literature reviews, expert interviews, and advising meetings with UChicago Professor

- **Quantitative analysis**

Analyzed national income, minimum wage and poverty data

- **Deliverable**

Platform summary + 4 individual issue white papers

Students authored papers independently

Summer Project 2: Impact analysis for Chicago's mayoral pledge to become 100% renewable

Partner



- Context: Ready for 100% national campaign
- Met with Chicago chapter coordinator in March 2018
- Developed research plan to quantify renewable energy transition benefits
- Goal: create report to deliver to Mayor's Office of Sustainability

Solution

- **Qualitative analysis**

Case studies of successful cities / countries, Chicago renewable energy policy mapping

- **Quantitative analysis**

Projected future energy demand, built datasets for energy assets, and interviewed local policy experts

Modelled job creation, emissions reduction, etc. based on implementation scenarios

- **Deliverable**

Recommended policies and implementation

Impact analysis

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RESEARCHER RECRUITMENT:

www.pauldouglasinstitute.org/contact

Who should apply

REQUIRED:

- Commitment: 4-8 hours / week
- Interest in public policy: NO major requirements
- Desire to make an impact

NICE-TO-HAVES:

- Previous research experience: classroom / extra-curriculars / otherwise
- Technical skills: writing / computer / modelling / mathematics

Important dates

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Updated resume (1-page, 1-sided)
- Writing sample (1-page, 1-sided)

STEPS

- Online application – **14th October, 11:59PM**
- Interview – **15th October – 20th October**

Chicago Studies Program Partnership



WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate Program open to students of all majors• Opportunity to integrate academic inquiry with city-wide impact in Chicago• Intensive research experience culminating in recognition by the Chicago Studies Journal
HOW *fulfilled by PDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory civic impact training*• 200 hours direct community engagement*• 1 capstone project*• 3 Chicago-focused courses
WHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Preparation for social impact work, or Chicago-centric work• Tailored academic involvement in a social issue of your choice• Environmental and Urban Studies majors: internship/field work fulfillment
INFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website: chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/certificate



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