

# Athlete Leadership University Graduate Program

## Program Overview

The ALU Graduate Program is a two-year program that includes four two-day training sessions and two one-year internships.

The Graduate Program will offer:

- Courses from Special Olympics International Advanced Leadership series.
- Advanced courses that complement SOIN Athlete Leadership curriculum.
- Paid Internship opportunities within SOIN.
- Unified Leadership opportunities to lead projects within SOIN or in the community.
- Personality assessment (e.g., DISC or Clifton Strengths) and self-reflection to expand understanding of team dynamics and leadership roles.
- Mentorship to prepare interested leaders as future SOIN Board of Directors candidates and program management teams.
- Capstone projects at the end of each year that leads to the development of a work portfolio and/or a professional development plan, and an in-depth reflection on the work or professional experience gained during the internship.

Training sessions are offered virtually. Internship requirements for onsite presence and virtual work vary depending on topic area and responsibilities. Four to 8 internships are available depending on number of qualified candidates accepted into the program.

Successful completion of all components of the two-year program including internships and capstone project may lead to a paid position in the Special Olympics Indiana State Office.

## Candidate Submission Requirements

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Current SOIN athlete in good standing at all levels of the organization
- Graduate of Athlete Leadership University or an accredited higher education institution

Candidates must submit the following items:

- Resume
- Cover letter explaining the area of interest for an internship position
- Updated personal mission statement
- Letter of recommendation from County Coordinator

Submissions accepted between **May 15 and May 30, 2022**. Use the form on the SOIN [Leadership Opportunities webpage](#) under ALU Graduate Program to submit your materials.

## Internship Areas

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Candidates should choose an area of interest for their internship on which to base their supporting materials. The following areas of focus are available in the SOIN State Office:

### Strategic Projects

- Project 17
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- CHAMPS
- Women in Sports
- Unified Fitness Clubs
- Healthy Athletes

### Planning & Implementation Projects

- Summer Games
- Fundraising Events
- Souvenirs & Equipment Management
- Database & Information Management

### Community & Outreach Projects

- Special Olympics Ukraine Support
- Athlete Leadership Councils
- State Conference
- Volunteer Management

### Team Support Projects

- Athlete Leadership University
- Leadership Alumni Newsletter
- Social Influencer

## Selection Process

After a candidate submits their resume, cover letter, and supporting materials the next steps are:

- Submission review by June 30.
- Interview by members of the SOIN Board of Directors' Program Mission Committee and staff.
- Approval of final list of graduate students by the SOIN President and the Director of Organizational Development.