Why journalism?

When a high school junior applied to the Institute, she admitted she “wasn’t sold” on a journalism career – even though she already was the top editor of her school newspaper.

However, she knew she wanted to become “a more organized, more coherent and more forceful writer.” Also, she said she wanted to learn more about digital media as well as to experience college living and dorm life “before I make a (four-year) commitment to any university.”

Most students come to the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute with similar goals. And most students go home, as she did, wanting a career in journalism and knowing a lot more about life on a college campus.

This summer about 80 high school journalists from around the country and abroad will be immersed in the news media, the world of ideas and college living. The program takes place in a residential college setting – a community of scholars – where students learn by doing and by careful evaluation of their work.

Educational philosophy

The program is designed for students who wish to become better writers and editors for print, online and broadcast. Much of what you learn you can apply to your school newspapers and websites. But the program is broader than a workshop for high school editors. You’ll study journalism from a “professional’s perspective,” learning from top-notch practitioners and distinguished college teachers.

The training you will receive in writing clearly, concisely and accurately will serve you for years to come, no matter what your college major or chosen career. Also, you’ll study with people from around the world (last year, students came from 22 states and Washington, D.C., as well as China [three], Qatar, South Korea and Vietnam). Frequently, students form lasting friendships with classmates and teachers.

Course offerings

- Lab sessions to sharpen journalistic skills (such as reporting, writing and editing for print, broadcast and digital media; writing editorials, columns and blogs; taking news and feature photos; and recording audio and video news).
- Seminars with university professors and outstanding journalists to discuss subjects such as ethical considerations, interviewing techniques and investigative reporting.
- Workshops to teach freelance writing, sports reporting and magazine publishing and to discuss issues concerning high school journalism, among many other subjects.
- Field trips to famous sites in Chicago as well as a Lake Michigan boat ride.
- Discussion sessions to analyze contemporary journalistic issues.
- Special classes to study story-telling forms such as podcasting and video blogging.
- Film showings to review works of and about journalism.
- Weekly one-on-one sessions with teachers to evaluate and analyze writing assignments. (The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.)
What some 2018 students said:
I am so grateful for the experiences I had and I will never forget the lessons I learned.

Anya Tullman, Missouri

The caliber of students, as well as their passion for journalism, blew me away from the very first day.

Alex Dangas, New York

The journalism staff was incredibly friendly, passionate and willing to help with anything… The lessons and skills I learned were invaluable and have helped me grow not only as a writer but also as a person.

Drew Schott, Connecticut

What made this summer rich and rewarding were the kindness and care we, the students, shared for each other. My peers exceeded my expectations both in terms of accomplishments and unselfish collaboration.

Aidan Duffy, New Jersey

Thank you so much for a program that taught me about being brave, being tenacious and being the best writer and journalist I can be.

Angela Liu, California

It was great being with students who are as passionate about journalism as I am.

Kirsten Huh, South Korea

The journalism staff was amazing! They were accomplished, approachable and gave extremely engaging lectures.

Jason Beeferman, New York

I made so many friends who are now my family. Thank you for the summer of a lifetime.

Jessica Langer, New Jersey

My instructor’s incredible work ethic warmed my heart.

Linda Shi, Georgia

Next year’s cherubs will be some of the luckiest people in the world. I wish I could go back and do it all over again.

Anna McNulty, New York

About the Institute
The Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute is the nation’s most prestigious university-based summer program for high school journalists. It was established in 1934 as the “National Institute for High School Journalists” and for many years was known as the “National High School Institute, Journalism Division.” Over the years, students often have been called “Cherubs,” a tradition that began in the 1930s.

Campus living and fun
While on campus, you will share a Northwestern residence hall with the program’s other participants, as well as with faculty and staff. Your meals will be eaten in a University cafeteria located nearby. Meals offer you a wide selection, including vegetarian options, and University dietitians are happy to accommodate special dietary needs. Living, dining and learning together, you will have ample opportunity to get to know your fellow participants and to make lasting friends.

Just 12 miles north of Chicago, the Evanston campus stretches for a mile along Lake Michigan’s western shore and offers you jogging trails, a beautiful private beach and a state-of-the-art fitness and athletic facility.

Admission requirements
To apply to the Institute, you must:

- Rank academically in the top quarter of your high school class.
- Submit a current high school transcript and letter of recommendation.
- Submit results of the PSAT, SAT, ACT and/or other standardized tests.
- Complete your junior year of high school in May or June of 2019.
- Meet a high standard of character, dependability and intelligence.
- Give specific evidence of background and/or special ability in journalism.

Admission is competitive; decisions are based on ability and merit.
Faculty

Professor Roger Boye is director of the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute. For nearly 20 years he was assistant dean of Northwestern’s Medill School, one of the nation’s most distinguished journalism programs. He has taught in the Institute since 1971.

The program’s full-time teachers have rich and varied backgrounds in journalism. Lecturers include journalists from the media in Chicago and elsewhere, as well as Northwestern faculty members. Past guest speakers have included television journalists, newspaper editors, columnists and award-winning reporters.

Application deadline

Applications, recommendations and transcripts must be received by 4 p.m. on March 18, 2019. Decision letters will be mailed to applicants on or before April 1, 2019. Students are strongly encouraged to submit three to five samples of their work, such as stories published in high school newspapers (see list of items at bottom of application form). The Institute does not accept applications by fax or email.

Fees

The basic fee for this program is $5,900. The cost includes tuition, room, board, health service, field trips and group events. Any additional expenses are at your discretion.

Scholarships and financial aid

The Institute has about $100,000 available for scholarships and financial aid. If you wish to apply for assistance, you should complete and return the financial aid section of the application form. Grants are made on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

In addition to grants made directly from the Institute’s budget, these special awards will be available:

Joan Beck and Ruth Moss Buck Journalism Scholarships
Norma Kinsel – Linda Foley Cherub Scholarship
Mary Lou Song Cherub Alumni Scholarship
Diane Granat Yalowitz Memorial Fund Scholarship
Jeffrey Zucker Medill Cherub Scholarship

For more information

If you are admitted to the Institute, you will receive information about housing arrangements, when to arrive on campus, what to bring and transportation to Evanston. To receive additional copies of this folder, contact:

Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute
Northwestern University
Medill School
1845 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208-2101
Phone: 847-491-2069
Fax: 847-491-3956
Email: r-boyer@northwestern.edu
Web: www.medillcherubs.org

Note: All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the website prepared by 2018 Institute students at: www.medillcherubs.org

Typical daily schedule

9 am Attend lecture by Northwestern professor
9:45 am Write editorials
11:45 am Lunch
1 pm Discuss reporting with multimedia journalist
2 pm Conduct interviews for feature articles
4:30 pm Free time
6 pm Dinner
7 pm Write television news scripts to go with video

Northwestern University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions regarding the law with respect to nondiscrimination should be directed to Director of Equal Opportunity and Access, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4500, Evanston, IL 60208, phone 847-491-7458; eeo@northwestern.edu.

Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. This includes harassing conduct affecting tangible job benefits, interfering unreasonably with an individual’s academic or work performance, or creating what a reasonable person would perceive is an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence.

While Northwestern University is committed to the principles of free inquiry and free expression, discrimination and harassment identified in this policy are neither legally protected expression nor the proper exercise of academic freedom.

Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this folder concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula, and courses.
“In just five weeks I felt so close to my fellow students. It’s as if I had known them for years!”

Quan Pham, Vietnam Institute student