



## **James Harris-Doug Williams Fellowship**

Standing on The Shoulders Of Giants

### **OVERVIEW**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame (PFHOF) and the Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) have collaborated to provide a prestigious career advancement opportunity at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio to a graduate of a Historically Black College & University (HBCU).

The ideal candidate is an individual who is a creative and strategic thinker and will immerse himself or herself into the Pro Football Hall of Fame culture that is deeply rooted in the important Mission to “Honor the Heroes of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values & Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE!”

### **ABOUT THE BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME**



The BCFHOF was founded in 2009 by two legendary NFL quarterbacks and African-American pioneers James Harris and Doug Williams. Under their leadership, the BCFHOF has continued to grow, providing a meaningful platform to share the history and stories of the greatest HBCU football players, coaches, and contributors.

In 2016, The BCFHOF and the PFHOF entered into a historical partnership. Thirty members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, representing more than 10% of the players enshrined in Canton, attended an HBCU.

As a result, the BCFHOF will have a permanent home at the PFHOF to tell the story of the greatest legends that attended HBCUs. The two organizations will also work together on joint programs and events including: hosting the annual BCFHOF induction ceremony; expanded educational programming and special events at the PFHOF during Black History Month; a travelling exhibition; and post-graduate internship opportunities for graduates of HBCUs. The partnership also includes a BCFHOF Classic to be held at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, and a major permanent exhibition inside the PFHOF.

## FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

The BCFHOF, in partnership with the PFHOF, is dedicated to growing tomorrow's leaders who demonstrate the values of Commitment, Integrity, Courage, Respect and Excellence.

The James Harris-Doug Williams Fellowship at the PFHOF provides a post-graduate fellowship opportunity to two recent college graduates from an accredited HBCU.

The fellowship is a 12-month paid position for two students with high academic standing and moral character who seek to become part of a culture that fosters teamwork and inspirational leadership. Participants will experience hands on projects, networking opportunities with PFHOF management team and industry influencers. The PFHOF and the BCHOF are deeply focused on personal development and growth of the individual(s) granted the Fellowship to ensure post-graduation success. The James Harris-Doug Williams Fellow will perform a variety of tasks by completing rotations through various departments of the PFHOF. The Fellows will work collaboratively with department heads and team members on a multitude of projects, tasks and initiatives.

A specific job workflow will be developed to complement the Fellows areas of interests that will align with the individual's career goals and objectives. In addition, the Fellows will engage and participate in executive level meetings.

Departments at the PFHOF include:

- Marketing/Advertising
- Finance & Accounting
- Sponsorship/ Corporate Sponsorship
- Event Planning (HOF Enshrinement, BCFHOF, SuperBowl)
- Youth and Education Development
- Merchandise
- Hall of Fame Production
- Operations and Facilities Management



*"The James Harris Doug Williams Fellowship is a great opportunity for students seeking a career in the sports world. I am thankful to the Hall of Fame and David Baker for creating a platform like this for HBCU students to advance."*

*- Akil Blount (First James Harris- Doug Williams Fellow)*

## **JAMES HARRIS – DOUG WILLIAMS FELLOWSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

Minimum requirements include:

- A Bachelor's or Graduate Degree from an Accredited HBCU;
- A 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average;
- Ability to relocate to Canton, Ohio for a minimum of one year;
- Willing to work various hours, including some evenings and weekends;
- Successful background check, if applicable;
- Professional and positive attitude;
- Eager to learn and willing to take on challenging projects;
- Demonstrated strong attention to detail and written/oral communications skills are essential
- Demonstrated organized, creative, and analytical thinker
- Demonstrated problem solving skills
- Demonstrated strong research skills
- Strong teamwork skills

Preferred Qualifications:

- Completion of a degree in a sports related field
- A passion for/understanding of football and its role within the community
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft tools (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Keynote)

## **JAMES HARRIS – DOUG WILLIAMS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A Cover letter which includes your name, contact information, HBCU attended, Major/Minor area of study, cumulative Grade Point Average;
- One Professional or Academic Letter of Recommendation;
- One Character Letter of Recommendation;

A maximum 750 word essay sharing your interests in the James Harris- Doug Williams Fellowship and how you believe the Fellowship will help you achieve your career goals.

Submit Application via email: to [Akil.Blount@ProFootballHOF.com](mailto:Akil.Blount@ProFootballHOF.com)  
James Harris Doug Williams Fellowship Application **DUE April 1<sup>st</sup>**