

Rerooted - Summer 2024 Fellowship Announcement

About Rerooted

Rerooted is a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and exploring Armenian identity in communities around the world and advocating for their just and safe futures. We produce accessible, digital collections of testimonies, photographs and documents to be used to create resources that display the resilience of our Armenian communities and tools to advocate for their prosperity in the face of modern day challenges.

Our two main focuses are identity and justice. With regard to identity, we aim to catalyze the past to shape our collective future. For us, identity preservation involves both saving history for the future and, perhaps more importantly, creatively utilizing our collections in the present. In this way, we host collections of testimonies, photos, and documents in our digital archive and produce interactive resources. Whether you are a researcher, artist, community member, teacher or more, you can use our collections to enrich your work. You can also contribute your stories and projects to us, as we create a platform for multi-disciplinary work regarding Armenian identity, stories, language, cultural heritage, and more.

With regard to justice, our view of justice is holistic. Any justice effort we undertake is guided by the needs and requests of affected communities. For this reason, we explore both retributive and restorative justice avenues for accountability and recognition, including report writing, case building, submissions to international legal bodies, memorialization, and more. We partner with law school clinics, student groups, the UN, and NGOs to bolster justice efforts for Armenian communities. You can use our resources to inform your work, join our existing projects, or partner with us to build new initiatives together.

Although we started with a focus on Syria, we have now expanded to begin oral history collections of Armenian communities around the world. You can explore some of our collections here, and you can help us expand our collections by serving as a volunteer for us **this summer!**

About the Summer Opportunity

We are looking for a commitment of 3 weeks **minimum** in which you would travel to a city of your choice (to be confirmed in consultation with us) where there is an Armenian community. We would expect you to spend your time there interviewing members of the Armenian community. We would teach you how to do the interview before you travel, and we would work together to set up interviews, or at least some community contacts, before you arrive, so that you can hit the ground

running once you're there. We would provide you equipment and training, though we expect you would seek public interest funding from your institution for the travel and lodging and any other per diem expenses your school would be willing to cover. If you'd like to discuss different public-interest funding options at your institution, we are happy to speak and let you know what has worked for other students in the past. So far, we have had students travel to Argentina and Lebanon to conduct these interviews, though we are open to considering many other communities and hope that you will come to us with your proposal, based on any potential language skills or familiarity with the region that you might bring. We then can discuss options together and come to a decision together of where would be a good place to travel. Some Armenian communities¹ of interest include in Jerusalem, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Turkey, Chile, Uruguay, Ukraine, Jordan, and more, though these are not the only ones. Particularly, if you have Spanish or Arabic language skills, you could be a great asset to the project. Beyond interviewing, the position may also require that you lightly edit the interviews you collect to remove any interruptions that may have occurred, or any pieces the interviewee asked for removal, and may also require transcription of the interviews you collect.

This fellowship position is a tremendous opportunity for you to gain practice in fieldwork on the ground with individuals of affected communities and to hone your interviewing and interpersonal skills. If you are further interested in adding in any other component to the experience, such as writing or analytic legal skills, we can discuss that as well.

To apply, please fill out the following (very short) <u>form</u>, by Sunday, March 31, 2024. Please feel free to email us with any questions: <u>rerooted.archive@gmail.com</u>

¹ Pending approval from your institution that they would allow you to travel there