The Obermann Graduate Institute is an intensive, weeklong, interdisciplinary seminar in which UI graduate students explore how public engagement can enhance teaching, research, and creative work. Participants discuss theories of engagement and meet with experts, including former Graduate Fellows, faculty members, UI administrators, and potential community partners. They also develop their own engaged projects, reconceiving their art, scholarship, and teaching to address community needs.

The 2018 Institute meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., January 8–12.

Obermann Graduate Fellows should plan to focus fully on the Institute during the week in January and prepare in advance for daily readings and assignments.

This experience reinforced the importance of collaborative work and the impact engagement can leave on whatever research I do during my career.

—Tala Al-Rousan, Lown Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, & 2014 Obermann Graduate Fellow

Al-Rousan’s research on vulnerable populations and burdened public health systems recently led her to Jordan, where she worked with Syrian refugee women to assess their health needs and to co-create proposals for more effective forms of support.

Learn more about the work of Graduate Institute alumni at graduateinstitute.wordpress.com.