



Harvard College

Gaither Junior Fellowships at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 2023-2024 Application for Institutional Nomination

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Each year the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace offers approximately fourteen 10-12 month fellowships to uniquely qualified graduating seniors and individuals who have graduated during the past academic year. Junior Fellows provide research assistance to senior associates working on the Carnegie Endowment's projects. Junior Fellows conduct research for books, co-author journal articles and policy papers, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by scholars, journalists and government officials.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be graduating seniors or alumni who have graduated during the last academic year. No one who has started graduate studies is eligible for consideration. The Carnegie Endowment accepts applications only through participating universities via designated nominating officials.

You need not be a U.S. citizen if you attend a university located in the United States. However, all applicants must be eligible to work in the United States for a full 12 months from August 1 through July 31 following graduation. Students on F-1 visas who are eligible to work in the U.S. for the full year (August 1 through July 31) may apply for the program.

Benefits:

Positions are paid, full-time positions for one year. Junior fellows are currently paid a salary of \$45,000 per year. A full benefits package is also provided.

Selection Criteria:

The application process is highly competitive. Approximately 5% of applicants are ultimately selected for positions. Applications are judged on the quality of the written essay, related academic study and/or work experience, grades, recommendations, and personal interviews. Students may only apply under one program. The list of programs can be found on the Carnegie Endowment [James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program Bulletin](#).

**Refer to the application instructions in CARAT.
The following pages contain a copy of the instructions in CARAT.**

<https://carat.fas.harvard.edu/applicant/newApplication?applicationPurposeId=4&fundingSourceId=6065>



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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND ORGANIZE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- **APPLICATION FORM**
Complete the online CARAT information, which will be compiled and displayed as your application cover sheet. We highly recommend that you start your application in CARAT as soon as you know you want to apply.
- **CURRENT RESUME**
Indicate significant activities, achievements, and work experiences that demonstrate your interests and potential achievements. Maximum 2 pages.
- **CURRENT UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**
Download your unofficial transcript from my.harvard.edu.
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT**
Explain why you would like to become a Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment. Maximum 1 page, double-spaced, 12 pt font. Include your name and “personal statement” at the top of the page.
- **TOPICAL ESSAY**
From the list below (pages 3 and 4), find the essay topic that corresponds to the primary area of interest in which you hope to work at the Carnegie Endowment, and then address your essay to that topic. Essays should be thought pieces, not research papers. Maximum 3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font. Include your name and topical essay question at the top of the first page. While candidates may indicate a second research program choice on the application, the Carnegie Endowment encourages candidates to tailor their application towards their first choice.
- **TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
At least one letter should be from a professor in your concentration. Both should comment on the suitability of your interests in becoming a Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellow, as well as on any relevant personal attributes. Letters should be addressed to “The Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowships Selection Committee” and submitted online via CARAT. Start your application early to trigger the recommender invitation.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. **LOG IN TO [CARAT](#) USING YOUR HARVARD KEY** and confirm that your profile information is correct.
2. **BROWSE FOR THE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY AND CLICK “APPLY”**
Fill out all required fields.
3. **REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS** (via “References” tab)
You are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to solicit recommendations at least three weeks ahead of the application deadline. Once you have provided name (Last, First) and contact information for your recommenders, **YOU MUST CLICK “Send Reference Request”** under each recommender’s entry in order for CARAT to send the notification to your recommender’s email. “Save and Next” will NOT submit your recommendation requests.
4. **UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS**
All documents must be submitted concurrently, in PDF format. No supplementary materials will be accepted.
5. **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION** (via “Submission” tab)
Enter your HUID and click “Submit.” The date and time of your submission will be noted and late applications will not be accepted.

If you or your recommenders have questions about this application or the online submission process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at fellowships@fas.harvard.edu.

■ ■ ■ DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 at 11:59pm (ET) ■ ■ ■



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TOPICAL ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Applicants must respond to the question pertaining to the program to which they are applying.

- A. **Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program.** Choose any two countries in the world, from two different regions, including at least one from the Global South. Explain how political developments in those countries in the past five to ten years embody what you believe are some of the most important elements of the global democratic recession. Be sure to give some indication why you have chosen the countries you focus on.
- B. **American Statecraft Program.** America's role in the world is changing, whether it likes it or not. What are the 3-5 most important factors that will shape the context in which America conducts its foreign policy in the next two decades?
- C. **Nuclear Policy Program.** Which state without nuclear weapons do you believe is most likely to acquire them?
- D. **Technology and International Affairs Program (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).** When you read or hear discussions about 'risks of AI' what questions do you have that you do not think are being answered well? **OR** What technology issue will have the greatest impact on international stability in the coming decade, and why?
- E. **Middle East Program.** The Middle East region is going through a huge, agonizing and protracted transformation characterized by dwindling oil revenues, rising populations, failing governance structures and government services, rising extremism and sectarianism, and high youth unemployment. The current situation has enabled regional powers to intervene in each other's affairs as well as non-state actors such as the self-proclaimed Islamic State to emerge and spread new toxic ideologies. What do you see as one of the most difficult threats facing the region today and the underlying drivers of turmoil? Discuss the impact this has had on two countries in the region and strategies that will help move these countries toward a better future.
- F. **International Security and Political Economy [to work with the International Security and South Asia Programs] (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).** Many scholars argue that the world is experiencing a worrying period of democratic backsliding, while skeptical voices suggest that backsliding concerns are overblown. With reference to existing data sources and democracy ratings, which position do you find more compelling and why? **OR** Should the United States end its ambiguity over defending Taiwan?
- G. **Asia Program** To what extent are states in Asia "forced to choose" between the US and China? Consider political, economic, security, and other factors to substantiate your analysis.
- H. **Russia and Eurasia Program.** The U.S.-Russia relationship has plummeted to unprecedented post-Cold War lows amid the war in Ukraine. Can this downward trajectory be arrested? What are the key dangers in the current situation and how might the White House seek to prevent things from getting out of hand?
- I. **Africa Program.** Narratives about Africa's future often oscillate between unrealistic optimism and blanket pessimism. Clearly the truth lies in a more nuanced middle. Compare and contrast the recent trajectories of two African countries—including both their economic and political dimensions—to help illuminate a nuanced picture of Africa's current direction.
- J. **Global Order and Institutions Program.** The UN Secretary-General has depicted the world as "gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction." What accounts for the failures of many multilateral institutions, and what—if anything—can be done to improve international cooperation in addressing major global challenges?



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- K. **Sustainability, Climate and Geopolitics Program. (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).** After 30 years of UN climate conferences, the multilateral approach to climate mitigation has a poor record by the most important metric: global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise each year, even as climate impacts become more noticeable and severe. This poor record raises doubts about the “bottom-up” logic of voluntary, national climate pledges as embodied in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Has this bottom-up logic failed, and if so, what should replace it? **OR** Imagine it is the year 2040 and you are working for a major international organization. Your teenaged niece, who is about to begin studying for a bachelor’s degree in Climate & Geopolitics, asks you to summarize how the climate crisis and the responses to it have transformed international affairs since you were a student. In the interest of time, she asks you to focus on 2-3 of the most important developments. What do you tell her?
- L. **Europe Program (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).** The war in Ukraine has galvanized European defense efforts and revived a “braindead” NATO. Looking at the recent successes of transatlantic security cooperation, some have questioned the continued relevance of European “strategic autonomy”. At the same time, the war has revealed the gaps in European defense capacities and the degree to which Europe still depends on the US for its security. After decades of foot-dragging, European governments are now finally investing in their defense budgets. How should they spend the new money? And what else is needed to put the transatlantic defense relationship on a more sustainable footing? **OR** With the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), the US and Europe have established a new mechanism to coordinate policy on crucial questions related to democratic technology governance. How important is the TTC for the transatlantic partnership and its effectiveness in tackling both systemic and acute challenges? And what is one initiative or project you would recommend the two sides should launch at their next TTC meeting?