Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

- Founded 1910 by Andrew Carnegie with a gift of $10 million
- Private, nonprofit, nonpartisan global think tank
- Dedicated to advancing cooperation between nations and promoting active international engagement by the US.
- Global network of policy research centers in Russia, China, Europe, the Middle East, India, and the United States

- The Carnegie Endowment seeks to:
  - Advance the cause of peace through analysis and development of fresh policy ideas & direct engagement and collaboration with decision-makers in government, business & civil society
  - Bring together multiple national viewpoints to bilateral, regional and global issues
Gaither Junior Fellows Program

• ~ 12-13 one-year fellowships

• Paid, full-time positions:
  • $1,750/2x month ($42,000/year) & full benefits.

• Work as research assistants to the Endowment’s senior associates:
  • conduct research for books & op-eds, edit documents
  • co-author journal articles and policy papers,
  • participate in meetings with high-level officials,
  • contribute to congressional testimony
  • Organize events & briefings attended by scholars, journalists and government officials, etc.
  • Some admin support (not much)
The Work

“My experience at Carnegie has been intense but very rewarding. My primary task at the Carnegie Endowment is to provide extensive memos to senior researchers and assist their research. During my three months of work at Carnegie, I have had the chance to write op-ed pieces for the Diplomat and feature them on Carnegie’s website. Besides work, I have attended many events in Washington DC that relate to security issues in the Asia-Pacific. In these events, I also had the opportunity to network with other scholars and young aspiring policymakers as well. I strongly recommend the Carnegie Junior fellowship.”

Benjamin Lee, 2015 UW grad, Junior Fellow, China Program 2016-17
Eligibility

• You must be a graduating senior or recent alum (graduated within the past academic year).

• UW’s suggested minimum GPA for applicants is 3.7, but that is flexible.

• You need not be a U.S. citizen. However, all applicants must be eligible to work in the U.S. 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. from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022 may apply.
Applying

- Students cannot apply directly to the Foundation, they must be nominated by a participating college or university.

- Each participating college/university (~ 400) is allowed to nominate up to 3 students this year.
  - 201 apps last year from 128 universities. 42 interviewed. 12 selected
  - Carnegie’s Diversity Initiative: to support diversity at all levels throughout the Endowment. Especially entry and junior talent, to grow to more senior levels.

- At UW, apply for nomination! If nominated, extra time and support before national deadline.
Application & Nomination Timeline

- Nov. 30: UW campus deadline to apply for nomination.
- Mid-December: Notifications of campus application outcomes.
- Mid-Dec to Jan. 14: Additional time for nominees to get more feedback, edit & revise materials.
- Jan. 14: Robin will submit final materials to the Carnegie Endowment for each nominee.
- Jan. 15: Actual Carnegie deadline for receipt of applications.
Application Components

- Completed UW online application, including the short Carnegie form (upload)
- 1-page, double-spaced essay on why you would like to become a junior fellow (upload)
- 1-2 page resume (upload)
- 2 letters of recommendation (emailed separately to robinc@uw.edu)
- Identify a faculty mentor for the Thought Piece essay (optional, but highly recommended).
- UW unofficial transcripts automatically included (add for other schools if needed)
- Thought Piece Essay: 3 double-spaced pages responding to the question for the program to which you are applying (upload)
  - Topics are intended to test skills in analysis, logic, and written expression. The essays should be thought pieces, not research papers.
  - May ultimately be selected for a different, or more than one, program.
TIPS: Application Form

#1 Research Program:
• Must choose one program
• Democracy & US Foreign Policy by far most competitive (25%-40% of apps)
• Pay close attention to skill requirements listed in bulletin
  • Language skills referenced are basically required, even if it seems flexible.

#2 Work Permits:
• For detailed OPT-related questions, please ask

#3 If you are Abroad:
• Doesn’t preclude you from applying. Finalist interviews will be via video.
TIPS: Thought Piece Essay

• The single most important part of your application and carries the most weight in the decision process
  • Interview is very limited and more assesses ‘fit’ for the team

• Choose one project. Keep essay to that one topic, don’t try and answer two topics in one essay

• This is not a research paper, more like an op-ed
  • Limited or no citations
  • Emphasis on analysis, so keep the recap to a minimum

• Emphasis on quality of your writing and thinking, how you present and develop your argument
  • Focus: Analysis, logic, written expression

• Add name to each page of essay. Add prompt at top.
TIPS: Thought Piece Essay

• "Familiarize yourself with the topics Carnegie researches, how we approach those issues, and the sources we use." – Matthew Rojansky, Deputy Director of the Russia Eurasia Program

• "This is a fast-paced and demanding place to work, with high expectations about the quality of research produced. I look for essays that demonstrate the candidate has the writing ability to produce quality work." – Marina Ottaway, Senior Associate in the Middle East Program

• "Be original. We review dozens of essays, and the best way to stand out is to approach the question in a novel way that demonstrates critical thinking." – Toby Dalton, Deputy Director of the Nuclear Policy Program
TIPS: Short Jr. Fellows Essay

"Make it personal. Tell a story that reveals your personality and demonstrates something unique about yourself. Think of this statement as a jumping off point for a great conversation during the interview." – Matthew Rojansky, Deputy Director of the Russia Eurasia Program

• Provides context for your application

• Won’t make or break application, but should be well-written, succinct, direct

• Connect personal goals, academic interests, strengths, professional goals, other relevant aspects of you!
TIPS: Resume

• Curriculum Vitae (CV) vs. Resume → hybrid

• Content: include descriptions, don’t limit too harshly, but keep it succinct

• Consistent contact information and include on each page

• Writing to scholars for research-based position

Include:

• Academic coursework to highlight training/knowledge of application area

• Research & writing experience, major projects, all kinds

• Language skills & training

• Quantitative skills (modeling)

• International experience (study abroad, time spent in region)

• Honors, scholarships

• Work experience

• Volunteer and internship experience

• Leadership experience

• Publications

• Relevant memberships if applicable
TIPS: Recommendations

"It's better to find someone who knows you well and can speak to your qualities, rather than someone with a high profile who can't." – Toby Dalton, Deputy Director of the Nuclear Policy Program

- Knowledge of you, your writing/research areas
- Knows you over time
- Specialist in the same area you are applying within
- Will meet deadlines
Carnegie Process & Interviews

- Senior Fellows conduct the application reviews & interviews for their own programs.

- Mid-February through early-March: selected finalists interviewed remotely.
  - Lots of interview prep and support for finalists!

- Mid-March: selections made and candidates notified
UW Contact

Robin Chang, Director, Office of Merit Scholarships Fellowships & Awards

- robinc@uw.edu
- 206-543-2603

Campus application information:
https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/carnegie

Carnegie Endowment For International Peace:
http://carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows

Use your resources & mentors!