Carnegie Endowment James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program
http://carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows

UW Application Information: 2020-21 Program

Each year, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (www.CarnegieEndowment.org) holds a rigorous national competition to select approximately 12-14 graduating seniors and recent graduates (within 1 year) to serve as research assistants. They are matched with senior associates—academics, former government officials, lawyers, and journalists from around the world—to work on a variety of international affairs issues.

2020-21 Projects:

A. Democracy, Conflict, and Governance
B. US Foreign Policy & Diplomacy: The Junior Fellow will support Carnegie Endowment President Ambassador William J. Burns on research and writing that seeks to shape American diplomacy. Applicants should have coursework in U.S. foreign policy, broad-gauged regional lens, an interest in policy analysis and formulation, and superb writing skills.
C. Nuclear Policy
D. Technology and International Affairs (including the Cyber Policy Initiative)
E. Middle East: Strong reading fluency and the ability to perform academic as well as on-line research in Arabic essential. Strong background in Middle East politics and/or history is a huge plus.
F. South Asia: A strong background in international relations theory, political theory, or international political economy is essential, along with an interest in military issues. The ability to perform quantitative data manipulation is required and a strong mathematical background is a plus.
G. Asia Program (China): Mandarin Chinese reading skills a huge plus.
H. Asia Program (Japan): Japanese reading skills required.
I. Asia Program (Economics): Mandarin Chinese reading skills a huge plus. Strong background in economics essential.
   - Please Note: Applicants for the Asia program with skills in two or more of the above areas (Chinese language skills, Japanese language skills, strong economics background) will be at an advantage when applying, regardless of their essay selection.
J. Russia/Eurasia: Excellent Russian reading skills required.
K. Geoeconomics & Strategy: The Junior Fellow will support research on how the future of U.S. foreign policy is shaped by economic challenges, as well as direct program coordination, including budgets, travel and events. Applicants should have coursework related to U.S. foreign policy and international economic policy, and interest and skills in research, data collection and analysis, and program administration.

To Apply:

UW Contact:
Robin Chang, Director, Office of Merit Scholarships Fellowships & Awards, robinc@uw.edu, 171 MGH
This is a highly competitive national fellowship program. The UW, and other participating universities, can only nominate 2 applicants to the Carnegie Foundation. Students cannot apply directly to the Foundation. To be considered for one of those UW nominations, please complete the UW application.

Information about applying, links to UW’s online application, tips, and additional information is available from the Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards at: http://explo.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/carnegie.

Eligibility:
- You must be a UW graduating senior or recent alum (graduated within the past academic year).
- Because of the highly competitive nature, the suggested minimum GPA for applicants is 3.7.
- 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 US for the full year (August 1 through July 31) may apply for the program.

UW Timeline & Deadlines:
- UW Application Deadline: 11/25/19
- By (roughly) Dec. 15, 2019 – UW’s 2 nominees will be selected, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application

Complete applications will include:
- Completed UW online application form: https://explo.uw.edu/expo/apply/569
- One page or less, double-spaced essay on why you would like to become a junior fellow.
- 1-2 page resume
- Unofficial transcripts
- 2 recommendation letters
- Thought Piece Essay: An essay of no more than three (3) typewritten, double-spaced pages on one of the following topics. These topics are intended to test skills in analysis, logic, and written expression. The essays should be thought pieces, not research papers. Students should submit an essay related to their primary research program interests, although the Carnegie Endowment may ultimately select an applicant for a program outside of his/her designated primary interest or make an assignment to more than one program. Applicants must respond to the question pertaining to the program to which they are applying.
  - All applicants should seek feedback from faculty mentors and area experts on these essays!

Thought Piece Essay questions:

A. Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program. As democracy in the United States and Europe is experiencing more serious problems, the question of the relationship between those problems and the issues facing democracy in the rest of the world is gaining attention. Are the problems that democracy is facing in the United States and Europe largely similar to or fundamentally different from those plaguing democracy in other regions such as Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East?

B. U.S. Foreign Policy and Diplomacy. The Obama Administration looked to re-set relations with Russia, recast America’s role in the Middle East, and rebalance its posture toward the Asia-Pacific. The Trump Administration has pursued its own policy pivots in each area. Compare and contrast the Obama Administration’s aims and policy record with Trump Administration’s aims and policy record in one of these policy areas, and draw out lessons from the experience of both administrations that ought to inform American diplomacy in the years ahead.
C. Nuclear Policy Program. Which state without nuclear weapons do you believe is at most risk of acquiring them?

D. Technology and International Affairs Program (including the CyberPolicy Initiative). (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).
- What technology issue will have the greatest impact on international stability in the coming decade, and why? OR
- What factors explain why the cybersecurity environment has continued to deteriorate in recent years?

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. South Asia Program. (Please respond to just ONE of the two following questions).
- What factors explain why, in many democracies, poor people continue to receive poor public services, despite accounting for a large share of the population? OR
- Under what conditions is a military response an effective solution to transnational terrorism?

G. Asia Program (China). Many experts and general observers now believe that the long-standing US policy of constructive engagement and hedging toward China has largely failed. As proof, they point to Beijing’s failure to significantly liberalize politically, to open up its economic markets sufficiently, and to adopt the norms and beliefs of the liberal international order. Instead, the argument goes, China is becoming more oppressive domestically, pursuing predatory economic policies overseas, failing to move on needed economic reforms at home, threatening its neighbors, and trying to undermine the U.S. and push it out of Asia. Do you agree and has U.S. policy failed?

H. Asia Program (Japan). The past year has been a tumultuous year for diplomacy in Northeast Asia (especially involving the Korean Peninsula), even as security conditions remain largely unchanged for many countries in the region amid questions about the durability of the U.S. alliance system. Japan in particular has been put into a difficult position by the Trump administration when it comes to North Korea policy, trade friction, and general demands by allies to pay more for U.S. defense commitments. At the same time, Trump’s tougher China polices (e.g., trade, Taiwan, strategic rivalry) are something of a benefit for Tokyo, in that it helps to limit China’s regional power and opens up some diplomatic opportunities for Japan as it tries to improve Japan-China relations. How is the Abe administration adjusting to Trump’s foreign policy and alliance management, as it relates to key Japanese strategic interests of China, the Korean Peninsula, and a healthy rules-based international order?

I. Asia Program (Economics). China’s economic rise has created tensions with the US. America is accusing China of unfair trade and foreign investment practices. But China sees its actions as necessary to become more technologically advanced to escape the middle income trap. What are merits of the respective arguments?

J. Russia and Eurasia Program. The U.S.-Russia relationship has plummeted to unprecedented post-Cold War lows. Can this downward trajectory be arrested? What are the key dangers in the current situation and how might the Trump Administration seek to prevent things from getting out of hand?
K. Geoeconomics and Strategy Program. How could a prominent economic trend (e.g., workforce transformations, international competition, income inequality, or other) alter the course of U.S. foreign policy? Describe the trend and the concrete ways in which it could force a significant change in U.S. diplomatic relations with a specific country or region or in U.S. foreign policy priorities more generally.