

*Why I would like to become a Junior Fellow.*

Research is my passion. Research has the ability to affect change by providing insight where such insight might go unnoticed and, in this sense, it is an end in itself. I was first attracted to the Fellowship program because, while I have immeasurable respect for research irrespective of applicability, I find it most exciting when it leads to action and is applied to problems we face today.

Research changes not only policies, but also perspectives. Realizing this has been largely a process of self-enrichment: while I have participated in my share of debates and discussions, the perspectives that have changed have primarily been my own. As a Junior Fellow, I would go beyond this self-enrichment. It is because of the Endowment's ability to act as an influential force in both generating insight and the practical application of such insight—its ability to offer both process and product—that I find the Junior Fellowship program so attractive. I see it offering me invaluable experience in research, application, and the execution of policy, three elements that I know will one day be essential to my anticipated career in policy and analysis.

I am especially interested in the opportunity to contribute to the Democracy Building or Non-Proliferation projects. In these issues I see the synthesis between my interest in political theory with respect to identity, governance, and security and my desire to apply these theories to the real world and its most pressing challenges.

I have spent the past few years familiarizing myself with the methods and theories of great thinkers of the past and present, and observing the world around me with an attentive eye. This has prepared me for what is the necessary next step in pursuing a career in policy and analysis: being a part of the process itself. I want to contribute to the literature, perspectives, and policies that shape and reshape the political world. I am ready to be a participant, rather than a bystander. I can think of no better way to approach future scholarship and vocation in the study of politics and policy than as a firsthand participant in the efforts of the Endowment's scholars.