James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program

2020-2021 Application Cycle

Applications must be received by: January 15, 2020

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is a unique global network of policy research centers in Russia, China, Europe, the Middle East, India, and the United States. Our mission, dating back more than a century, is to advance the cause of peace through analysis and development of fresh policy ideas and direct engagement and collaboration with decision-makers in government, business and civil society. Working together, our centers bring the inestimable benefit of multiple national viewpoints to bilateral, regional and global issues.

The James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is designed to provide a substantive work experience for students who have a serious career interest in the area of international affairs. Approximately 11-13 students will be hired to work as employees at Carnegie in Washington, DC on a full-time basis for a period of one year.

ASSIGNMENTS: Gaither Junior Fellows provide research assistance to scholars working on Carnegie Endowment's projects, listed below. They have the opportunity to conduct research, contribute to op-eds, papers, reports, and books, edit documents, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by scholars, activists, journalists and government officials.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be nominated by an official of their university or institution who has been designated for this purpose (usually the career placement officer, fellowship advisor or an academic department chairperson). A listing of participating institutions and nominating officials may be found at http://carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows. Applications are accepted only from graduating college seniors or individuals who have graduated within the past academic year. No one will be considered who has started graduate studies (except those who have recently completed a joint bachelor’s/master’s degree program).

Applicants should have completed a significant amount of coursework related to their discipline of interest. Language and other skills may also be required for certain assignments. The selection process for the program is very competitive. Accordingly, applicants should be of high academic quality.

Qualifications for Gaither Junior Fellows may vary by program. Please review the bulletin for program requirements and more information on what each program is looking for.

APPLICATION PROCESS: All application materials must be received by the program on or before Wednesday, January 15th. Colleges/universities generally set earlier deadlines internally. Applicants should consult their designated nominating official concerning nominations, since no university may nominate more than two students each year. Finalists in the selection process will be interviewed by phone or video in the spring. Selection decisions are generally made in mid-March and no later than March 31st.

DURATION: All fellowships will begin on August 3, 2020. Gaither Junior Fellows are hired for a period of approximately one year.

SALARY AND HOUSING: The semi-monthly salary is $1,666.67 (equivalent to $40,000 annually) subject to federal, state and local taxes. A generous benefits package is provided, including medical, dental and life insurance as well as vacation leave. Gaither Junior Fellows are responsible for their own housing arrangements.
All of the following must be received via the designated nominating official no later than January 15th:

- The application form. (fillable or handwritten)
- An essay of one page or less, double-spaced on why the student would like to become a junior fellow.
- Resume/C.V. (preferably 1-2 pages)
- Two letters of recommendations. These recommendations can come from anyone the student feels can best speak to their abilities as a potential Gaither Junior Fellow.
- Transcript of undergraduate records. The transcript may be unofficial.
- 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 analytical thought pieces, not research papers. Students should submit an essay related to their primary research program interests, although the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program 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.

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 Cyber Policy 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.

The designated university nominating official or their staff should send all of the above materials by January 15, 2020 to:

jrfellowinfo@ceip.org

Note: The best practice for submitting application is to send one email per application. Please combine all of the materials for each application into a single PDF file.

Questions concerning the above requirements and the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program should be addressed to Christopher Grider in Human Resources at (202) 939-2308 or jrfellowinfo@ceip.org. Students should contact their institution’s nominating official with questions.
Each year, the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace holds a rigorous national competition to select approximately 11-13 graduating seniors to serve as research assistants. They are matched with senior fellows – academics, former government officials, lawyers and journalists from around the world – to work on a variety of international affairs issues. Junior Fellows have the opportunity to conduct research for Carnegie publications, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by scholars, journalists and government officials.

James C. Gaither Junior Fellows spend one year (beginning August 1st) at Carnegie in Washington, DC. Positions are full-time and include a salary and benefits package.

We encourage you to review our website (http://carnegieendowment.org/) for more information on each program/project listed below.

**2020 – 2021 Projects**

**Democracy, Conflict, and Governance**

**U.S. Foreign Policy and 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.

**Nuclear Policy**

**Technology and International Affairs (including the Cyber Policy Initiative)**

**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.

**South Asia** – A strong academic 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.

**Asia Program (China)** – Mandarin Chinese reading skills a huge plus. Strong background in economics essential.

**Asia Program (Japan)** – Japanese reading skills required.

**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.

**Russia and Eurasia** – Excellent Russian reading skills required.

**Geoeconomics and 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.

For more information, contact your Designated Nominating Official or visit http://carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows for a list of designated nominating officials and an FAQ about the program.