



**APPLICATION for NOMINATION:
2019-20 CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
Junior Fellows Program**

To apply for Oberlin College's nomination, e-mail the following materials (which will be the basis for the application) to tucker@oberlin.edu by **noon Wednesday, December 12, 2018:**

- 1) 1-2 page resume or background statement, cell number, email address, mailing address at Oberlin and for December-January break, extra-curricular activities, and work experience.
- 2) Two recommendations, at least one of these should be from the student's major department.
- 3) Undergraduate transcript (can be unofficial).
- 4) An essay (one page or less), on why the student would like to become a junior fellow.
- 5) An essay of no more than three typed, double-spaced pages on one of the following topics. These topics are intended to test skills in analysis, logic, and written expression. These are to 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:

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 and 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. China Studies (Asia Program). 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, 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. Japan Studies (Asia Program). 2018 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 policies (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. Economics (Asia Program). 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. The U.S. international role--involving foreign relations, defense, trade, aid, investment, and international economic policy—impacts Americans and non-Americans economically. Which constituencies in the United States or overseas derive the greatest economic benefits from it?

Selection of Oberlin's nominees will be made by the Politics Department faculty who will subsequently work with the nominees to finalize the application materials. For more information about the Carnegie Endowment, visit their [website](#).