



**APPLICATION for NOMINATION:
2022-23 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 ttucker@oberlin.edu by **Friday, December 10, 2021**:

- 1) One-page resume
- 2) Two letters of recommendation - The letters should be from someone you feel can best speak to your abilities as a potential fellow. Please have the faculty members submit a confidential letter of reference to ttucker@oberlin.edu by Friday, December 10, 2021.
- 3) Undergraduate transcript (can be unofficial).
- 4) An essay of one page or less on why you 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. The essay 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:

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. American Statecraft Program. America's role in the world is changing, whether it likes it or not. What are the 3-5 most important factors that will shape the context in which America conducts its foreign policy in the next two decades?

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. (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. International Security and Political Economy (to work with the International Security and 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** Should the United States end its ambiguity over defending Taiwan?

G. Asia Program (China). Many observers argue that the longstanding US policy of engagement and hedging toward China has failed. As proof, they point to Beijing's failure to significantly liberalize politically, to open up its markets sufficiently to foreign competition, and to promote the norms that the United States and its democratic partners prefer in its approach to international order. Instead, these observers argue, China has only become more oppressive domestically, pursuing predatory economic policies overseas, failing to move on needed economic reforms at home, threatening its neighbors, establishing competitor international institutions, and trying to undermine the U.S. and push it out of Asia. Has U.S. policy failed, and what are the right yardsticks for assessing Chinese conduct in international relations?

H. Asia Program (Japan). Japan is watching the emerging U.S.-China strategic competition carefully, clearly, supporting its ally on various fronts in order to balance against China and bolster its own standing as efficiently and effectively as possible. However, as U.S. policy towards China becomes more aggressive (in terms of protectionist measures, stricter export controls, and trying to form coalitions to isolate China and its companies), Japan is placed in the uncomfortable position of trying to balance its own desire to pressure China and promote more open rules-based economic and diplomatic behavior on the one hand, while on the other hand wanting to maximize economic opportunity for Japanese firms with China and avoid being dragged into the middle of a more intense U.S. China competition. Provide your own brief assessment of what is at stake for Japan amid growing U.S.-China friction and how you evaluate the steps it is taking to maximize Japan's national interest. What are the near-term prospects for Japan and for the U.S.-Japan alliance?

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. Africa Program. Narratives about Sub-Saharan Africa's future often oscillate between unrealistic optimism and blanket pessimism. Clearly the truth lies in a more nuanced middle. Compare and contrast dimensions—to help illuminate a nuanced picture of Africa's current direction.

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.