Each year, the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace holds a rigorous national competition to select approximately 12 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.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVE: As an organization dedicated to pursuing global engagement and peace, we believe the work of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is enriched and should be informed by a diverse array of perspectives. We are committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community among staff and partners and on our public platform.

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

**2021 – 2022 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 required.
**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.

**Africa Program (NEW)** - The Africa Program examines the economic, social, political, and external factors shaping Africa today, with the aim of helping regional and international policy actors strengthen their contributions to a better African future.

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.
Frequently Asked Questions

When is the application information sent to participating universities?
The program generally sends information to participating universities by the first week of October each year. Information is updated annually and essay topics change from year to year.

Does my school participate in the Gaither Junior Fellows Program?
Visit our list of participating universities and programs.

How can I apply if my school is not a participating university?
You are encouraged to ask your fellowships advisor or career placement office to contact us to find out how your school may participate.

Must applicants be U.S. citizens?
It depends. You need not be a U.S. citizen if you attend a university located in the United States. However, all applicants must be eligible to work in the United States for a full twelve months from approximately August 1 through July 31 following graduation. Students on F-1 visas who are eligible to work in the United States for the full year may apply for the program.

If you attend a participating school outside of the United States, you must be a U.S. citizen (due to work permit requirements).

Is Carnegie seeking candidates from traditionally underrepresented groups?
As an organization dedicated to pursuing global engagement and peace, we believe the work of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is enriched and should be informed by a diverse array of perspectives. We are committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community among staff and partners and on our public platform.

Carnegie seeks to increase the diversity of our junior fellow applicant pool. We strongly encourage participating universities to join us in this initiative. In addition to the two nominations traditionally sought, we welcome a third application if one or more of those nominees is from a historically underrepresented group.

Am I eligible for the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program?
Applicants must be graduating seniors or students who have graduated during the last academic year. Anyone who has started graduate studies is ineligible for consideration (except in cases where the student has completed a joint bachelor’s/master’s degree program). The program accepts applications only through participating universities via designated nominating officials.

How do I apply if I’ve already graduated?
If you graduated during the previous academic year and have not started graduate studies, you may apply through the university from which you graduated.
How do I obtain an application?
Application forms, procedures and information are available through designated college/university nominating officials. Due to the nomination process and varying on-campus application procedures, the program is unable to send applications directly to students.

Is the application available online?
Due to the nomination process, the application is not available online. Applications are available through designated school nominating officials, who are most familiar with the particular school's nomination process. Please visit our list of nominating officials on Carnegie's website for more information.

Can applications be submitted electronically?
Yes, we will accept completed applications sent electronically by the university nominating official.

I cannot obtain an official transcript by the deadline. What should I do?
The program accepts unofficial transcripts.

Who is my university's nominating official?
In many cases, information is available in fellowship, scholarship, or career services offices and/or political science departments. See our list of participating schools for the list of nominating officials on Carnegie's website.

Should the nominating official write a statement of nomination?
A statement from a nominating official (unless it is 1 of the 2 required references) is not considered in the application process.

May I apply directly to Carnegie for the James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program?
The James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program is competitive and, as such, the program relies on participating universities to nominate uniquely qualified students. We are unable to accept applications directly from students. Students should consult their university on the nomination process.

When is the application deadline?
The program’s deadline is January 15th (or the Friday before if the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday). However, most schools set an earlier deadline (some as early as November) to receive and review applications. Consult your university for application deadlines and details on the school’s application process.

If a student is interested in more than one program, how should they proceed?
Students who are interested in more than one program have to make a decision to apply under one program. Your nominating official should be able to help you determine which program is the best fit for you.