

## Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowships 2015-2016 Application for Institutional Nomination

### FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

Each year the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace offers ten to twelve junior fellowships to qualified graduating seniors and those who have graduated during the past academic year. Junior Fellows work for one year in the Endowment's offices in Washington, D.C., where they have the opportunity to assist associates in research for books, co-author journal articles and policy papers, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to Congressional testimony, and organize briefings for scholars, journalists, and government officials.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a current senior at (or have graduated within 12 months from) one of nearly 400 U.S. colleges and universities invited to submit nominees to the program. Those who have begun graduate study are not eligible. U.S. citizenship is not required, but non-U.S. citizens must be eligible for work in the U.S. for a full twelve months from August 1 through July 31 following graduation.

Applications from nominees are evaluated based on the quality of the written essay, related academic study and/or work experience, academic performance, letters of recommendation, and personal interviews.

**University nomination:** Columbia University may nominate two eligible candidates for consideration each year. Students in (and recent graduates from) Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of General Studies are eligible. **Please note:** the internal campus competition places students into consideration for nomination. Students may not apply directly to the Endowment.

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### Assemble the following materials:

1. Completed application form;
2. Essay (one page or less, double-spaced) on why you would like to be a Carnegie Junior Fellow;
3. Resume (no more than two pages) of your significant experiences in college;
4. Official transcript of undergraduate records;
5. Essay (no more than three typed, double-spaced pages) on one of the topics from the attached sheet.

#### In addition, please arrange to have written on your behalf:

6. Two letters of recommendation addressed to the "Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowships Selection Committee" (these should be from instructors or others who can comment on your qualifications for work at the Carnegie Endowment—you may deliver these in person with your application, in sealed and signed envelopes, or ask your recommenders to send them to the address below).

**Internal application materials may be submitted via electronic or paper copy.** If selected for nomination by Columbia University, a paper copy will be required for final submission to the Carnegie Endowment.

**Electronic submissions:** Email completed application materials to Jodi Zaffino, Program Coordinator of Fellowships at [jaz2124@columbia.edu](mailto:jaz2124@columbia.edu) (include "Carnegie Application Materials" in the subject field). **References** may also submit electronic letters of recommendation to [jaz2124@columbia.edu](mailto:jaz2124@columbia.edu) with "Student Name Carnegie Reference" in the subject field.

**Paper submissions:** Deliver completed materials to (including recommendations, if submitting these in person):

Office of Global Programs – Fellowships Office  
606 Kent Hall  
1140 Amsterdam Avenue, MC 3948  
New York, NY 10027

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 24, 2014.** The Fellowships Office does not accept late or incomplete applications. If recommenders anticipate a delay in submitting their letters, please submit your own materials by the deadline and follow up with your referees afterwards.

**CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR ESSAY TOPICS.**

# Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowships

## 2015-2016 Essay Topics

Select the essay topic that corresponds to the program area in which you hope to work (see application form on the next page). Your essay should be no more than three typed, double-spaced pages—be sure to include your name on the top of each page. These topics are intended to test skills in analysis, logic, and written expression; the essays should 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 Program.** There is an intense and ever-growing debate within and among many countries over whether it is legitimate for outside actors (governmental as well as nongovernmental actors) to fund civil society organizations within a country. Set forward and elaborate what you believe are the strongest arguments in favor of and opposed to the view that foreign funding for civil society is legitimate. Be sure to consider different types of civil society activities and organizations that might receive such funding.
- B. Nuclear Policy Program.** What implications—if any—would the growth of nuclear power have for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons?
- C. Energy & Climate Program.** The global oil sector is undergoing a paradigm shift. This is being driven by higher global oil prices, technological breakthroughs, political instability in the Middle East, Russia and beyond, record oil demand in Asia, lack of ready substitutes for petroleum products, and mounting climate concerns. What relevant tools do policymakers have at their disposal to reduce the geopolitical, environmental and economic risks associated with oil?
- D. Middle East Program.** The Middle East region is going through a huge, agonizing and protracted transformation characterized by failing governance structures, rising extremism and sectarianism, weak institutions, high unemployment, poor education and the return of status quo forces resistant to reform and inclusion. The current situation has enabled non-state actors such as the Islamic State to emerge and spread a new toxic ideology of hate and violence. What do you see as one of the most difficult threats facing the region today? Discuss the impact this has had on two countries in the region and strategies that will help move these countries toward a better future. *Native or near-native Arabic language skills essential. Strong background in Middle East politics and/or history is a huge plus.*
- E. South Asia Program.** Why does India's success matter to the United States? *Foreign language skills are not required, however applicants should be comfortable with quantitative data manipulation as well as possess an interest in military issues. A strong background in international relations theory, political theory, or international political economy is essential. A strong mathematical background is a plus.*
- F. China Studies (Asia Program).** Some observers of China's foreign and defense policies argue that Beijing recently made a strategic decision to utilize its growing political, economic, and military power and influence in Asia and beyond to challenge many aspects of the existing U.S.-led international system, including accepted interpretations of freedom of navigation, the peaceful resolution of maritime territorial issues, and growing international norms against genocide and human rights abuses carried out by repressive regimes. Do you agree? If so, why was such a decision made, what evidence exists to support such a contention, and how should the West respond? If you disagree, then how do you explain Beijing's apparently increased level of assertiveness in many areas witnessed in recent years? *Mandarin Chinese reading skills a huge plus.*
- G. Japan Studies (Asia Program).** Prime Minister Abe's government is pursuing (and has pursued) a variety of reforms to its defense and security policies, including revising the National Defense Program Guidelines, creating a new structure for the National Security Council, developing a National Security Strategy, reinterpreting its ability to exercise the right of collective self-defense, drafting new legislation to reflect these changes, and perhaps acquiring the capability to strike enemy bases after attack. What are the key political and strategic drivers behind this push, what are the moderating factors, and what is important for U.S. policy makers to understand as they consider how to respond/react (balancing national security needs with regional foreign policy priorities)? *Japanese reading skills required.*
- H. Southeast Asia Studies (Asia Program).** What are the policy and strategic implications of China's rise for Southeast Asian countries? *Strong background in economics essential. Background in politics of the region and knowledge of quantitative techniques a plus.*
- I. Economics (Asia Program).** China and many of the other countries in East Asia are now experiencing a slowdown in their economic growth. Is this likely to persist, and what are the policy implications? *Mandarin Chinese reading skills a huge plus.*

**J. Russia/Eurasia Program.** The February 2014 revolution in Kiev and the subsequent Russian invasion of Crimea and eastern Ukraine have fundamentally altered Russian foreign and domestic politics. How will these changes affect the U.S.-Russian relationship? How should the U.S. respond to future Russian foreign policy adventurism? Do the U.S. and Russia still have significant mutual interests that could be used to restore elements of cooperation to the bilateral relationship and is this even possible while Putin remains Russia's head of state? *Excellent Russian reading skills required.*