2018-2019 WHSF Application

Perry World House is seeking applications from rising Penn sophomores, juniors and seniors for its third class of World House Student Fellows for the 2018-19 academic year. This competitive program is intended for undergraduate students from any School or department who have demonstrated a serious interest in exploring global affairs in depth during their time at Penn. World House Student Fellows will participate in a series of seminars, projects, and activities oriented around critical global inquiry. They will receive unparalleled access to, and direct interaction with, faculty and distinguished visitors, along with unique opportunities and activities oriented around global affairs. Between new and returning fellows, we plan to have a class around 25-30 people for the 2018-2019 academic year.

What the program will offer:

Core experiences

The World House Student Fellows Program will offer students leadership opportunities and the chance to tackle global issues through four different types of engagement:

- **Fellows Project:** Directed by faculty and staff, fellows will work in teams on a year-long project. Each group will develop a policy-relevant research question linked to the themes and priorities of Perry World House’s research agenda. At the end of the academic year, each group will present its work to policymakers, practitioners, and affiliated Perry World House scholars. This research will also be published, as appropriate, by Perry World House. This year, student fellows tackled the following areas: refugee implications of Climate Change; Russia’s activities in Eastern Europe; the future of humanitarian intervention; community development and international aid; and the military/economic consequences of artificial intelligence.

- **Unique access to faculty and visitors:** World House Student Fellows will explore and analyze pressing global issues in regular seminars facilitated by Perry World House faculty, staff, and visitors. These seminars will also be used to teach students skills to translate research into policy-relevant output.

- **Research and career mentorship:** World House Student Fellows will receive research mentoring from affiliated faculty and/or visiting scholars, postdocs, or distinguished visitors. Hands-on collaboration with experts will hone research and critical thinking skills. Thesis research and internship funding may be available on a competitive basis to students working in areas related to Perry World House’s priorities. Exclusive career development events with alumni and other guests will also be held during the year. All World House Student Fellows will also learn how to produce and publish various types of products aimed at influencing government, international, and/or NGO policy communities in the U.S. and around the world.
- **Special Events:** World House Student Fellows will have preferential access to small-group conversations with World House Distinguished Visiting Fellows and guest speakers over the course of their fellowship.

Additional opportunities

While the World House Student Fellows program is intended primarily to offer student leadership, research, mentoring, and publication opportunities, it also seeks to build the community of students interested in international affairs. Thus, a range of unique professional and social opportunities will be made available to World House Student Fellows, some of which will be added to the program throughout the year based on student interest and institutional capacity. Each class will have an orientation at the start of the school year. The fellows will also take an annual trip to Washington, DC or New York City to meet with policymakers, alumni, and academics. Finally, there may be opportunities for funding for thesis research and/or summer internships for those Student Fellows with demonstrated engagement in the program over time.

Expectations:

Fellows are expected to be full participants in all elements of the Fellowship experience and will spend anywhere from 2-4 hours per week involved in the program, on average. This time would include meetings with faculty/visitors, project meetings, research, and other activities at Perry World House. The goal of the World House Student Fellows Program is to complement students’ existing academic experiences at Penn by adding further elements of interactive global inquiry. Becoming a Student Fellow is a one-year commitment with potential to renew based on your performance in the program and continued interest.

Application:

The application is divided into two stages: a written application and an in-person interview. A completed application must include: 1) a CV/resume; 2) an unofficial transcript; 3) A complete response to our application questions (see below); and 4) the name and email address of one faculty member who is willing to serve as a reference for your application (we will contact them, if necessary). You can apply through Interfolio, which will be accessible on our website: [http://www.global.upenn.edu/perryworldhouse](http://www.global.upenn.edu/perryworldhouse). The direct link to the application is [http://apply.interfolio.com/48384](http://apply.interfolio.com/48384).

If selected for the interview stage, Perry World House will contact you in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.
An information session will take place with current fellows on Friday, January 26th, at Noon in the Global Policy Lab at Perry World House.

The application deadline is Friday, February 9th, 2018.

Application Questions

1. What is a particular global issue or policy that intrigues you and why? (250 word maximum)
2. A representative from [insert national government, cabinet agency, international institution, or state-level agency of your choice] contacts you and asks for your knowledge and advice around the global issue or policy that you outlined in Question 1. What does the representative most need to know? What are the relevant actors and complicating factors? Most important, what are some ideas you have that would either mitigate the issue or make the policy more effective? (500 word maximum)
3. The Student Fellows Policy Project will require you to work in groups. Please describe a time when you were in a leadership position and encountered challenges working in a group. What did you learn from this experience? How did you address any challenges? (250 word maximum)
4. What is one fascinating fact about international politics, history, geography, or cultures that you know, and why is it useful to know? (100 word maximum)