



FACT SHEET

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA (UNA-NCA) *Graduate Fellows Program*

BACKGROUND

The *Graduate Fellows Program* has been conducted each year since 1991. The program operates during spring semester and includes academic sessions that illustrate challenges faced by the community of nations as viewed through a United Nations lens, a trip to the United Nations headquarters in New York as part of the United Nations Association's Global Engagement Summit, and including a visit to the US Mission to the UN, a mentorship program that includes experienced professionals from international organizations and other international careers, and career strategy advising.

GRADUATE FELLOWS

Graduate Fellows are recruited from the region, including Washington DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia, which is the area served by the National Capital Area chapter of UNA-USA. Applications are accepted from current graduate students, **enrolled in advanced degree programs during spring semester 2023**, in area universities. In addition, current graduate students from other universities who reside in the Washington-Maryland-Northern Virginia area are eligible. Applications are accepted and considered regardless of citizenship, age, race, disability, or other characteristics, and the Program will do its best to provide reasonable accommodations for all who are eligible and selected.

The spring 2022 program had a cohort of 30 Fellows, including three doctoral candidates, five master of laws students, and 22 master of arts or sciences candidates enrolled in over 15 programs in ten universities, including American University, the University of Baltimore, Gallaudet University, George Mason University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, University of Illinois, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Texas Permian Basin. In recent years, the Program has also had Fellows from Howard University, the University of the District of Columbia, and Vermont Law School. Fifteen Fellows were raised and educated primarily in 14 other nations and fifteen other Fellows primarily in nine states or territories of the US.

THE CALENDAR

The Program begins on a date in January that accommodates most area graduate school schedules. The Program begins with mentor matching and an orientation session. The class meetings are scheduled for noon on Fridays in a local university classroom. George Washington University has provided space the last few years. All Fellows are required to travel to New York at their own expense to spend a full day at UN headquarters, participating in the Global Engagement Summit (GES) sponsored by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), the chapter's parent organization. The day is filled with plenary sessions featuring eminent speakers, often including the Secretary-General of the UN and President of the General Assembly, and including a visit to the US Mission to the UN. **(NOTE: For 2023, the GES is planned in person for February 17 or 24, tentatively; it was virtual in 2021 and 2022.)**

The Program will schedule a spring break, and then it continues through a final session that, in the past, has included brief, individual presentations by the Fellows. Two of the class sessions involve career strategy and techniques. Fellows and mentors schedule and plan meetings and make occasional progress reports to Program managers. A Program completion celebration is scheduled soon after the final class.

For spring 2023, the Program anticipates an orientation on January 18, the first class session on January 20, spring break on March 17, final class session on April 28, and the celebration on May 1. Consortium university schedule changes and responses to the pandemic may influence changes to this schedule.

COVID-19 EFFECTS

The Covid-19 pandemic affected the Program as it did most organizations from March 2020 through February 2022. For 2023 we intend our Graduate Fellows cohort to meet in person at noon Fridays in a classroom at the George Washington University. The New York visit did not occur in 2020-2022 due to Covid-19's effects. We hope and intend the spring 2023 visit to UN headquarters will occur as planned.

APPLICATIONS

The application period opened on September 15, 2022, and will close on October 7; all application materials must be provided by that date, except that reference letters and transcripts must be provided by October 14. Interviews will be scheduled for November 14-18 unless a change is required. Candidates will be notified of selection about November 22, and will be requested to accept or decline by December 2. Mentor matching will begin at that time. *The online application and instructions became available on September 15 on the Web at <https://www.unanca.org/our-work/programs/graduate-fellows>.*

YOUR QUESTIONS

For answers to questions you may have, please contact the Program Management Team at: applications@unanca.org.