



Penn State UNESCO Fellows Program

*****APPLICATION DEADLINE May 10, 2019 *****

The Penn State UNESCO Fellows Program will be a highly selective and significant professional development experience for exceptional Penn State graduate and/or upper level undergraduate students. Selected students will be named as UNESCO Fellows and assigned for between six-twelve months to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

The main focus area for this cohort of Fellows will be assisting in research, program, and policy development related to Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). Within this broad topic and context, UNESCO is interested in Fellows with expertise and interest in communications, STEM/STEAM education for women and girls, PVE education, gender issues, social/psychological development, educational programming, cultural/historical studies, youth development, legal studies, natural sciences, sustainable development, and other related areas. These correspond to the major focus sectors within UNESCO (Education, Natural Sciences, Communication and Information, Social and Human Sciences, and Culture).

This highly selective program will result in a total cohort of 10 Fellows being assigned to Paris. These will reflect a mixture of students from Penn State, UCLA, USC, Wisconsin, Georgetown, and Salisbury universities.

Prior to arrival at UNESCO Headquarters, all Fellows will take part in approximately 40 hours of pre-departure training, interaction with UNESCO staff, and other professional preparation designed to ensure Fellows immediately, and significantly contribute, to UNESCO programs at the highest level.

HOST INSTITUTION:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO'S mission and activities. The broad goals and concrete objectives of the international community – as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – underpin all UNESCO'S strategies and activities. UNESCO'S mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

COSTS, SUPPORT, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

TRAVEL AND LODGING: Travel arrangements, living expense, and the arrangement of lodging in Paris will be the responsibility of the selected UNESCO Fellows.

FUNDING: Each PSU College has identified possible funding sources that might help Fellows offset some of the costs of this professional development experience. The UNESCO Chair program at Penn State will also contribute funds to all Fellows to assist with travel. The remaining costs are the responsibility and investment by the Fellows themselves.

NATIONALITY OF FELLOWS: The UNESCO Fellows opportunity will be open to students of all nationalities. They are not required to be US Citizens.

VISAS: UNESCO is exploring the best types and logistics for Fellows visas. Options will be finalized and visa applications will begin in October/November. UNESCO will be the sponsoring entity.

INSURANCE: So long as students are registered for, and working towards, some level of credit while taking part in the fellowship, they may self-register in the Travel Safety Network (tsn.psu.edu) and purchase Penn State international health insurance. This will be a stipulation of participation in the fellowship. The number of credits and course registration can be arranged with individual Colleges.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

It is essential that Fellows represent Penn State at the highest standards and commit to a minimum 6 months at UNESCO HQ. To help ensure this high level of professional performance, the following qualifications are desired:

- Current graduate or upper level undergraduate student
- Background in conflict resolution, communications, STEM/STEAM education for women and girls, PVE education, gender issues, social/psychological development, educational programming, cultural/historical studies, youth development, legal studies, natural sciences, sustainable development, human rights, international relations, international law, project management or relevant discipline in the social and human sciences;
- A strong interest and knowledge in intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations and related agencies;
- Ability to work in a multicultural team, to be proactive, and to take initiative when necessary;
- A desire to perform above, and beyond, work and professional expectations;
- A demonstrated interest in international work in the prevention of conflict, violence, and extremism or other areas supported by the UNESCO mission;
- Demonstrated qualities of maturity, professionalism, organizational ability, the ability to manage new places and people, and individuals who have the character and personality to honorably represent PSU to UNESCO; and
- Fluency in one of UNESCO's languages in addition to English is highly desirable.

Apply now for the 2020 UNESCO Fellows Program!

Interested students must submit the following application materials electronically as a single PDF file to Dr. Mark Brennan, UNESCO Chair (unescochair@psu.edu) by the end of day 10 May 2019.

Students will be selected for interviews, and ultimately selection, as Fellows based on the quality of the following criteria:

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) A detailed personal essay describing the student's interests in this program, familiarity with UNESCO, experience/training relevant to the program, their ability to proudly represent Penn State, and the contributions they seek to make to as part of this program.
- 3) A CV/Resume documenting the student's academic and professional training, experiences, and other relevant professional information.
- 4) A summary of academic performance, cumulative academic GPA, and unofficial transcript
- 5) Two (2) letters of recommendation

For additional information or questions, please feel free to contact your College program coordinators or Dr. Mark Brennan.

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APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 10 May, 2019 11:59 pm

1. Name:
2. Email Address:
3. Program and Year (ex: School of International Affairs, Graduate Student)
4. Please describe a situation where you had to be proactive and take initiative in work without much direction. How did you deal with this situation and what did you learn? (250 word limit)
5. Please describe a time when you felt isolated culturally or linguistically. How did you deal with this situation and what did you learn? (250 word limit)
6. Statement of Purpose: Please describe your interest in the Penn State UNESCO Fellows Program and include your relevant experience, what you will bring to the program, and how your time in your placement will benefit you in your future career. Please touch on any specific topics and/or themes in international development, education, and preventing violent extremism that you are interested in focusing on. Lastly, explain how you will advance UNESCO and the US Mission through your work. (500 word limit)
7. Language Proficiency: In which languages, other than English, are you proficient? Please list each language and rank your proficiency on a basic-moderate-fluent scale in each of the following areas: a) Comprehension b) Reading c) Speaking d) Writing e) Professional Capacity
8. UNESCO Sector Preference: Please rank your top three UNESCO sector preferences for possible placement and your reasons for choosing each. (250 word limit)
9. Is there anything else you think we should know about you? (250 word limit)