

**UNCF Special Programs Corporation  
Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) Fellowship  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Who's eligible with respect to race/ethnicity and national origin?**

Individuals who identify as any of the following underrepresented groups: African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

**2. How does UNCFSP determine sophomore status?**

Applicants must be in their second year of study at an accredited four year institution and have two years (four semesters) remaining of undergraduate study to be eligible to apply to the program. Individuals who have two years left in undergraduate studies who have credits beyond that of a sophomore must submit a letter from an academic advisor confirming that the applicant will be enrolled for no less than two academic years following admission to the fellowship program.

**3. What signatures are acceptable on the Institutional Nomination Form?**

The following signatures are acceptable:

- Dean or chair of your academic department
- University Provost
- University President

*\*The applicant may choose to work with an academic advisor to pursue the appropriate signature.*

**4. From whom should recommendation letters come?**

At least one letter of recommendation must come from a professor or faculty member. The second recommendation may come from an individual who can speak to the applicant's interest in international affairs, character, and ability. This may be an internship/job supervisor, mentor, minister, etc. The recommendation should *not* come from a relative or friend of the applicant.

**5. How much of the cost of study abroad does IIPP cover?**

For each selected Fellow, IIPP will cover up to half of the expenses associated with one semester of study abroad. Covered program fees will not exceed \$8,000. The fellowship will also cover a portion of the roundtrip airfare abroad from the Fellows' home or school. Fellows will receive a modest stipend for personal expenses.

**6. Can fellows choose a study abroad program of their choosing?**

Yes\*. IIPP supports study abroad programs offered through third-party providers as well as university programs that include:

- Language study
- Study of the local culture
- International public policy courses
- Service learning/volunteer activities
- Research project focusing on a public policy issue (preferred)

\* IIPP will not fund study abroad programs to English-speaking countries in North America or Europe.

**7. Is scholarship assistance available?**

Yes. New IIPP Fellows who demonstrate financial need are eligible to apply to the Ralph Bunche Scholarship. The scholarship is a \$2,500 award designed to assist offset costs associated with tuition, books, and other educational expenses. The funding cannot be used towards room, board, or travel.

**8. Can fellows pick or choose the fellowship components in which they participate?**

No. Fellows commit to completing each component of the program within six years according to a timeline developed by UNCFSP. Failure to complete the IIPP sequence of components is grounds for dismissal from the program.

*\*Note: Fellows who have completed an internationally-focused internship may petition to waive the internship component. Similarly, Fellows who demonstrate proficiency in a second language may petition to waive their participation in the Summer Language Institute.*

**9. Are travel costs to participate in the various components covered by the program?**

For the summer institutes (Sophomore Summer Policy Institute, Junior Summer Policy Institute, and Summer Language Institute), UNCFSP will cover the cost of roundtrip domestic travel from the Fellow's home or university to the summer institute. UNCFSP will also cover roundtrip airfare from the Fellow's home or university to their study abroad location. Funding is not available for travel associated with graduate school.

**10. Can fellows work during the summer institutes?**

No. Due to the rigorous nature of the summer institutes, Fellows are not permitted to hold outside employment during Sophomore Summer Policy Institute, Junior Summer Policy Institute or Summer Language Institute.

**11. What is the summer institute curriculum?**

Sophomore Summer Policy Institute courses are intended to introduce Fellows to the basic concepts of international policy development, foreign affairs, and cultural competence while also coordinating site visits that allow Fellows to explore international careers opportunities and options for graduate study.

Junior Summer Policy Institute focuses on graduate-level work in international relations and foreign policy and explores topics such as security, development, economics and trade, and statistics.

**12. Can Fellows who are proficient in another language still participate in SLI?**

Yes. IIPP Fellows may pursue language study to become proficient/fluent in a language they have previously studied or request to begin the study of another language.

**13. What graduate degree programs does IIPP fund?**

IIPP provides matching funds to support each Fellow's pursuit of an internationally-focused advanced degree. The institution where the Fellow chooses to study must provide no less than \$15,000 in non-loan funding in order for the Fellow to receive the IIPP matching \$15,000 scholarship.

**14. Must Fellows enroll directly in graduate school after completing their undergraduate work?**

No. Fellows may opt to take up to two years between undergraduate and graduate studies to pursue an internship, language study, and/or full time employment. However, Fellows must complete their graduate studies within six years of entering the IIPP Fellowship program.

**15. Can Fellows use the fellowship to attend the London School of Economics or another international graduate school?**

No. The fellowship can only be used at a U.S. institution.

**16. When will applicants be notified if they were selected as Fellows?**

UNCFSP will select finalists and conduct phone interviews in late February. Fellowship offers generally come within a week after the interviews (by the second week of March).

**17. How do I officially submit my online application?**

Your application information is officially submitted as it is entered online. Therefore, you will not see an official **Submit** button. You may return to it at any time before 12:00AM (Eastern Standard Time) on the deadline date to modify your application.