



2017-18 Next Generation Scholars Program: Call for Applications

The Strauss Center launched the Next Generation Scholars (NGS) program in 2010 with the goal of providing new research and mentorship opportunities for promising UT undergraduate students interested in careers in international security and law. Through a partnership with the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, this program now also includes a focus on civic engagement, expanding the reach of the program by engaging more students and involving faculty members on a wider range of local, national, and international policy issues. Involving undergraduates in international affairs and civic engagement early in their career is an important part of the Strauss and RGK Centers' missions to prepare the next generation of leaders to help develop solutions to the most pressing public policy challenges.

Program Components

This one-year program includes two key components: First, students will take a 3-credit research training and professional development course, taught in the Fall of 2017. This course is designed to introduce students to policy work, including basic skills in policy research, analysis, and writing. Students will be trained on designing research strategies and proposals, conducting policy analysis, writing resumes and statements of purpose, crafting op-eds and blog posts, and planning for the steps in their career development. This course will be led by Dr. Kate Weaver, Associate Professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a Strauss Center Distinguished Scholar.

Second, in the spring semester, the Next Generation Scholars will work closely with Dr. Weaver on a collaborative policy report and blog site. Students should expect to maintain weekly contact with Dr. Weaver and the NGS coordinator and also meet biweekly for short meetings to assess progress on research and writing. The exact schedule for the spring will be determined at a later date to work around students' course schedules. Students will also be awarded a stipend of \$500 for the spring semester. Students may use this stipend for independent research, travel to a study abroad program or summer internship, travel to a professional conference, or other experiential and scholarly pursuits approved by Dr. Weaver. Funding permitting, and contingent on positive performance evaluations, students may have the possibility of continuing as research interns at the Strauss or RGK Center after the year-long Next Generation Scholars program concludes.

Application Guidelines

Applications for the 2017-2018 academic year will be accepted from February 28 to March 28, 2017. Please send your application materials, as detailed below, through our [online portal](#).

Requirements:

1. Students must plan to be registered UT undergraduate students in residence at UT during

the fall and spring semesters of the 2017-18 academic year. Because this program provides the foundation for a potentially multi-year mentorship, preference will be given to students entering their sophomore or junior years.

2. Students should have a GPA of at least 3.50.
3. Students must be able to complete all activities required during the 2017-18 scholarship period, including the Fall 2017 course, Spring 2018 guided research project, and regular attendance at Strauss and RGK Center public events.

Applications should include:

1. A detailed cover letter that explains your academic and professional interests and why you are interested in participating in the intellectual life of the Strauss Center or RGK Center. The Strauss Center is an interdisciplinary center devoted to policy-relevant research on issues related to national and international security, law, and diplomacy. The Strauss Center's research focuses on factors contributing to the destabilization of nation states, diplomatic and military history and strategy, new approaches to diplomacy, intelligence and surveillance, the impact of science and technology on national security, evolving legal architectures to account for new threats in the 21st century, climate security and complex emergencies, and international development and security. The RGK Center focuses on nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, volunteerism and civic participation, aiming to contribute to and enrich national and international conversations about the future of the nonprofit sector. RGK Center research initiatives include topics in nonprofit management and governance, community revitalization, juvenile justice reform, philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, global health initiatives and global civil society. Where possible, please identify which Strauss Center or RGK Center research program or faculty member best fits your fields of interest. You can read more about the Centers and their current research programs on their websites: www.strausscenter.org and www.rgkcenter.org.
2. Resume with your complete contact information, including email address and phone number.
3. Names and contact information of two references. One of these references should be a faculty member who can speak to your academic abilities and potential.
4. One unofficial college transcript.

For questions about the program, please contact Anne Clary at anneclary@austin.utexas.edu.