Program Synopsis

The Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program is an exciting independent research opportunity for outstanding Elliott School juniors and seniors. Research experience adds challenge and depth to undergraduate education and opens doors for students to share their findings through publication and conference participation and to conduct further research through grants, fellowships, and graduate study. This year-long program promotes these goals by offering students support and guidance as they conduct independent research on contemporary international affairs topics.

Highlights of the program include:

- **One-credit graded Research Methods course in the fall** (Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm) to learn about research design and methods, identify resources and opportunities at GW, to share research updates with peers, and to prepare to write a preliminary draft of the research paper.
- **Three-credit graded Writing in the Disciplines (WID) course in the spring** (Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm), focusing on research design and analysis of data as well as peer review of preliminary drafts of the research papers and completion of the final draft.
- Close work with a faculty advisor and the research instructor.
- **Research stipend of $500** to be used for research materials and experiences and to cover lunch/coffee with the faculty advisor; possibility of applying for additional funding for special opportunities.
- **Peer support** throughout the research and writing process.
- Presentation of research at an on-campus academic conference at the end of the spring semester.
- Research synopsis presented in *The Globe* and support from the research instructor in submitting research papers to peer reviewed academic journals
- Support from the research instructor in applying for grants and fellowships
- Support from the research instructor in preparing for or applying to graduate programs.

Students will apply to the Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program during the Spring 2017 semester in order to participate in the program during both the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. (Application information appears below.) A selection committee will choose approximately 15 applicants to be Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars. Upon being accepted and committing to the program, Scholars will be registered for the fall IAFF 3192 course (ESIA UG Scholars Workshop) by the Office of Research. Students may not be enrolled in classes that conflict with this course’s meeting time (Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm).

Eligibility

The 2017-2018 Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program is open to Elliott School undergraduates with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 who will graduate in the following terms: Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, or Spring 2019. The program is a year-long commitment, and Scholars must participate and enroll in the classes in both the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. Participants will need to prioritize these courses when planning their schedules.
Program Requirements

- **Attend mandatory fall Thursday class sessions:** A syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. The fall sessions will include presentations on research methods and ethics; academic writing and publication; research resources and opportunities; applying for fellowships and grants; and how to leverage research when applying for jobs. Peer feedback and support will be incorporated throughout. The research instructor will determine a student’s grade for this course, in consultation with the faculty advisor, based on the student’s participation in the class sessions and on the student’s research progress. During the Fall 2017 semester, the Scholar will conduct much of the research and work on a preliminary draft of the research paper.

- **Attend mandatory spring Thursday class sessions:** A syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. The spring will focus on reviews of each student’s paper by the other Scholars, the faculty advisor, and the research instructor. Concurrent with these ongoing review sessions, students will continue to revise their own papers until the end of the semester. (See “Research and write a final paper” below.)

- **Work with a Faculty Advisor:** *Faculty advisors should be full-time professors.* In rare cases, exceptions will be made and part-time professors may serve as faculty advisors (see Application FAQs.) Applicants must find their own faculty advisors and must have the professor sign all necessary paperwork by the time the application is submitted. The Scholar and faculty advisor will meet regularly throughout the year. The frequency of these meetings is to be determined by the Scholar and faculty advisor. One of these meetings is a lunch, paid for with the Scholar’s stipend.

- **Develop and follow a reading list:** The Scholar and faculty advisor, together with the Research Instructor, will decide what books and articles the student must read. Faculty advisors may assign readings or may approve appropriate readings suggested by the student.

- **Work with the Research Instructor:** Over the course of the academic year, the research instructor will lead students through the research process, lecturing on research methods and coordinating sessions with guest speakers. The research instructor will work with each student and faculty advisor pair on the student’s primary data collection and reading list, will offer guidance on research methods, and provide support for submitting applications for grants and fellowships, as well as guidance when submitting final papers for publication.

- **Research and write a final paper:** Scholars must conduct research, including primary research (see Application FAQs), and complete a research paper relevant to contemporary international affairs. The paper is to be developed over the course of the year in conjunction with the faculty advisor and research instructor. The paper must be at least 30 pages (of text) and will receive a letter grade, which will be the Scholar’s spring course grade. The grade will be determined by the faculty advisor, in consultation with the research instructor.

- **Present at the final conference:** Scholars will present their research in panel format in April.

- **Track use of stipend:** Scholars will receive a stipend of $500 to be used to further their research and to cover lunch with the faculty advisor and coffee with the graduate student mentor. The remaining money should be used for research purposes, such as relevant books or journal subscriptions, printing and translation services, or for participation in an academic conference. Scholars will be required to keep track of their expenses on a budget worksheet.

*Notes:*

- The requirements noted above are mandatory. Final grades will be affected if these obligations are not met.

- Students who complete an Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars paper with a grade of A- or higher, earn a cumulative GPA of 3.7 upon graduation, and earn 60 credit hours in residence at GW will be awarded Special Honors. Special Honors is noted on a line of the final transcript that indicates graduation with Special Honors from the Elliott School.
2017-2018 Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars
Application Instructions

A complete application consists of the following materials, which must be submitted together to the Elliott School Office of Research (1957 E Street, Suite 401; ATTN: Annelle Rodriguez Sheline) by 6:00 pm on April 19, 2017.

If you are abroad, you should mail (1957 E Street NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20052) or email (asheline@email.gwu.edu) your application to Annelle Rodriguez Sheline by this deadline. In this case, the transcript may be submitted separately.

All materials mentioned below are available on the Undergraduate Scholars page of the Elliott School website at http://elliott.gwu.edu/undergraduate-scholars.

1) Application Cover Sheet

2) Student/Faculty Advisor Agreement

3) Research Proposal
   Write a maximum of two pages double-spaced describing your proposed research and what you hope to accomplish through this program. For help with the proposal, attend the Research Proposal Workshop (see below) and see Research Proposal Tip Sheet, Sample Proposals, and 2016 Journal.

4) Current Résumé
   The GW Center for Career Services offers help with résumés.

5) Unofficial Transcript
   Available from the Office of the Registrar. Students should not turn in an unofficial transcript printed from GWeb.

Application Process Timeline

Tuesday, March 28, 6 to 7:30pm – Information Session* (1957 E Street, Room 505)
   The first half of this session will be an overview of the various undergraduate research options at the Elliott School, and the second half will focus on the Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars. We will also cover some research proposal tips and advice.

Wednesday, April 19 – Applications Due by 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 18 – Applicants will be notified by 5:00 pm on this date as to whether they have been selected.

Selected applicants who confirm their intention to participate will be registered for Fall 2017 course (IAFF 3192) by the Office of Research. Applicants should plan their schedules accordingly.

*The Information Session is not mandatory, but try to attend if possible. Students who cannot attend, including those studying abroad, will not be penalized. No new materials will be distributed at these sessions; everything that will be handed out at these sessions is available on the Undergraduate Scholars website.

Please refer to Application FAQs or contact Annelle Rodriguez Sheline at asheline@email.gwu.edu with questions.