



Global Gap Year Fellowship

A Year of Public Service, a Lifetime of Global Citizenship

If you could dedicate a year between high school and college – a “gap year” – to provide public service anywhere in the world, where would you go, and what would you do? Global Gap Year Fellowship applicants are not required to have rigid, determined service plans for their gap years. Rather, the application process represents an opportunity for students to think about the potential international opportunities they would like to pursue. The Fellowship annually supports seven incoming first-year students as they explore international affairs and global citizenship.

The Global Gap Year Fellowship is jointly administered by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Campus Y, the center for social justice and social innovation at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Fellowship provides \$7,500 to support a self-designed gap year abroad. The award must be used toward travel, living expenses, insurance, and other associated costs. Most of our fellows begin their service-based gap year in September and end in June. We require students to do service abroad for a **minimum of 6 months**. The Campus Y helps students throughout this process—assisting in planning their gap years, preparing students for their international experience, supporting them while abroad, and helping them to integrate their experiences into their education at Carolina.

The Fellowship is awarded on a competitive basis to first-year students who are admitted “early action” for Fall 2015, plan to enroll at UNC, and are interested in deferring their enrollment for one year in order to have a gap year experience. We welcome applications from all admitted early action students, and previous international experience is not required. **We especially encourage applications from under-represented students, first-generation college students, and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.**

All selected finalists are invited to participate in the “Global Gap Year Fellowship Finalist Weekend at Carolina” the weekend of **April 1st-3rd, 2016**. All expenses are covered for this weekend event. During this event, finalists will participate in final interviews, and they will engage with former Gap Year Fellows who are currently studying at UNC. The weekend will also feature an extensive orientation on global travel. Through workshops, finalists will learn about the logistics of global travel (e.g. budgeting, safety, etc.) and the potential ethical and cultural challenges associated with global projects. Finalists will also meet faculty, students, and staff, and they will learn more about international research and service opportunities at Carolina. This weekend experience will be beneficial to all finalists who attend, whether or not they are recipients of the GGY Fellowship. Participants will become familiar with the campus, UNC students, faculty and staff, and additional global engagement funding available to all UNC students.

Finalists will be notified about offers, the week after their visit to Carolina. They will have until **April 15th** to make a final decision about acceptance. Finalists who accept the Fellowship will be required to attend a two-week, all expenses paid, intensive program during the month of **July of 2016** (dates TBA). During this program, Fellows will participate in recreational activities, workshops, and one-on-one mentorship with GGYF staff to plan for their Gap Year.

The Carolina community has been challenged by the Chancellor to strive to solve the world’s most pressing problems. The Global Gap Year Fellowship offers incoming first year students a head start on that mission and the opportunity to develop as leaders of public service.

For more information, please visit the Global Gap Year Fellowship website <http://globalgap.unc.edu>. Applicants are encouraged to contact Erin Krauss for any questions about the application at ekrauss@email.unc.edu.

Sincerely,

Erin Krauss
Global Gap Year Fellowship Coordinator
UNC Chapel Hill Campus Y

Richard Harrill
Campus Y Director
UNC Chapel Hill Campus Y



Global Gap Year Fellowship: Application Timeline

Part One: Application

Read through the application instructions and complete the online application and supplementary information by Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 5 p.m. EST. Please note the application does not allow you to save and must be completed all in one sitting.

Finalists will be notified by the end of the business day on March 23, 2016.

Part Two: GGYF Finalist Weekend at Carolina

All selected finalists are invited to participate in the “Global Gap Year Fellowship Finalist Weekend at Carolina” the weekend of April 1 - 3, 2016. All expenses are covered for this weekend event. During this event, finalists will participate in final interviews and other activities.

Part Three: Final Notification

Fellowship recipients will be notified by the end of the business day on April 8, 2016. If accepted, a notice will also go to parents/guardians. Recipients will have until 8:00 a.m. April 15, 2016 to accept the Fellowship’s offer.

Part Four: GGYF Summer Leadership Institute!

All Fellows are *required* to participate in the GGYF Summer Leadership Institute, which will take place for 2 weeks during the month of July 2016 (dates TBA). The Fellowship will pay for all meals, travel, and accommodations. During this program, Fellows will participate in recreational activities, workshops, and one-on-one mentorship with GGYF staff to plan for their Gap Year.



Global Gap Year Fellowship: Application Instructions

Candidate Profile

Provide basic biographical and contact information. If you have over two weeks of international travel experience, you will be asked where, for how long, your means of travel, and the purpose of travel.

Fun Facts

You will answer each of the questions below in less than 100 words:

30-second elevator speech describing who you are and where you come from.

Tell us about your top 3 passions in life.

Describe one of the most meaningful relationships you have had.

If you could instantly acquire a new talent, what would it be?

If you could change one thing about your community, what would you change?

If you could change one thing about the world, what would you change?

Self-Assessment

You will be asked to rank each skill below from 1 – 3, according to the scale provided. Please be candid as there is no “right” or “wrong” ranking. We believe that these are representative of important skills students develop during their gap years.

1 - would like to improve 2 – average 3 – strong

List of skills:

- Imagining solutions
- Organization
- Public speaking
- Listening to others
- Leadership
- Overcoming challenges
- Prioritizing tasks and goals
- Motivating others
- Creative thinking
- Time management
- Clear communication with peers
- Being open to different points of view
- Reflecting on past experiences
- Building relationships with people from different backgrounds
- Accepting feedback
- Providing feedback to others
- Financial management and responsibility



Of the skills that you ranked a 1-2, please choose three and provide specific examples of each in three sentences or less. For skills that you ranked a 3, please choose three and provide a two-sentence description of why you consider them to be some of your strongest skills.

Short Answer Questions

Please respond to each question below and limit your responses to 500 words maximum for each one.

- 1. Local Community Engagement:** Describe an issue you have been passionate about and how you have engaged with it in high school.
- 2. Global Service-Learning:** The unique aspect of the Global Gap Year Fellowship is that it is self-designed. We encourage students to explore organizations that they would like to work with abroad on their gap year. Please identify 1-2 regions and topics of interest. Then identify 1-2 organizations that you could see yourself volunteering with. Elaborate on what kind of service you would do with this organization and why. You will NOT be tied to your responses.
- 3. Cross-Cultural Interaction:** Cross-cultural interaction promotes mutual understanding among different communities and cultures. Cross-cultural interaction can happen locally and internationally. First, tell us about a time when you had a cross-cultural interaction (in the U.S. or abroad.) What did you learn about yourself and others? Then tell us about what you hope to learn from your immersion abroad, and in turn, what do you hope people learn from you?
- 4. Challenging Situations:** Doing service abroad offers unique challenges. What is a difficult situation you have faced and how did you tackle it?

Long Essay Question

Please craft an essay that responds to the following prompt. Your answer should be no more than 800 words.

How does the Global Gap Year Fellowship align with what you hope to accomplish at Carolina?

Supplementary Information

The supplementary information consists of a letter of recommendation and a 1-page resume that highlights your extracurricular and service activities. Both of these are to be emailed to ekrauss@email.unc.edu by **Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 5 pm** Eastern Standard Time. Your application will be considered incomplete without all application components. Please provide a letter of recommendation from someone who has supervised you in an educational, professional, or community service environment and can provide greater insight into your preparedness for the Global Gap Year Fellowship. It is important to share information about the Fellowship with your recommender, so that they have a better understanding of the demands of the program.

Your recommender may submit the letter directly to the selection committee by emailing it to ekrauss@email.unc.edu by Sunday, February 28 at 5pm Eastern Standard Time.