

# Community of Scholars

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM AT American University's School of International Service



SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC



**Combining theory and practice, the Community of Scholars program offers opportunities to study critical themes in international affairs.**

## **SIS UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**

American University's School of International Service (SIS) offers a top-rated undergraduate program in Washington, DC, providing a comprehensive liberal arts education with a global perspective.

The SIS BA degree in International Studies exposes students to diverse viewpoints, challenging them to reach a deeper understanding of the world. First-year students study world politics, gaining a theoretical framework and common vocabulary for discussing international issues. They also strengthen their ability to consider alternative perspectives through coursework in cross-cultural communication. In a first-year seminar, students develop critical reading, thinking, and writing capabilities while studying an engaging topic. Undergraduate research is an integral part of the SIS experience. Students enroll in research methods courses and engage in faculty-supported research projects. Upper-level coursework lets students delve into specialized topics. In their senior capstone, students integrate and apply what they have learned, culminating in a project of their choosing.

The Community of Scholars program enables high school students to experience SIS's first-class undergraduate curriculum. According to SIS Associate Dean Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, "The Community of Scholars program exemplifies SIS's core educational values. It's an excellent opportunity for high school students to begin their study of international affairs."

# Community of Scholars



2014 Community of Scholars students engaged in a mock National Security Council simulation.

## Preparing leaders committed to developing ideas, promoting sustainable action, and advancing global public service.

The Community of Scholars program is a rigorous college-credit summer program designed for rising high school juniors and seniors. The Community of Scholars offers academically outstanding students the chance to broaden their understanding of international relations by enrolling in a three-credit college class designed just for them. Students admitted to this program will sample the undergraduate experience and take advantage of all that the School of In-

ternational Service (SIS) has to offer.

Community of Scholars will introduce you to the advancing field of global affairs through college-level coursework. Whether online or in class at AU, instructors will provide dynamic lectures and engage students in discussions as well as simulations, such as a mock U.N. debate. By the end of the program, you might find yourself developing national security strategy or conducting a conflict assessment of an ongoing insurgency. You will visit

government agencies and nonprofit organizations to see how leading policymakers put ideas into action. You will experience the excitement of Washington at work and see first-hand what others only read about.

### How the Program Benefits You

During this intensive summer program, you will:

- Pursue your academic interest in international relations
- Earn three college credits

- Explore international institutions in Washington, DC
- Learn about international career paths
- Connect with other students passionate about creating meaningful change in the world

### How the Program Works

Students in Community of Scholars enroll in a rigorous three-credit college class that blends a week of online learning with two weeks of traditional on-campus classes. This hybrid format allows students to sample the distinct features of each learning platform. Students choose from one of these courses taught by AU faculty:

- Worlds Apart, Worlds Together: Conflict, Culture, and Cooperation
- Diplomacy and Dictators: U.S. Foreign Policy in an Uncertain World
- Justice and Sustainability: Global Environmental Politics in the 21st Century

### Online Component:

**July 5-July 10, 2016.** During the first week, students access lectures and engage in discussion with their professor and peers via a web portal using podcasts and video lectures. Readings and assignments will be available via AU's Blackboard platform. All online material is accessed at home at hours that suit students' schedules. During this period,

students gain a foundation in the course topics to prepare them for the remainder of the course.

### On-campus Component:

**July 11-July 22, 2016.** (Residential students arrive on July 10.) Students attend class from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by lunch and afternoon activities, including site visits to Washington institutions (such as the State Department, Pentagon, and embassies), guest speakers, Model U.N.-style simulations, and college skills-building workshops taught by AU staff. Upon their return home, students will have an additional week to submit a final paper or project.

### Housing:

Dormitory housing is available for the campus segment of the program. AU upperclassmen as well as a senior resident advisor will live in the dormitories and serve as mentors throughout the program. Students will have various dining options on campus, including an all-you-can-eat menu in AU's main dining facility.

### Free Time and Evening Activities:

Students will have free time to enjoy campus life, whether working out at the fitness center or relaxing on the quad or at one of AU's cafes. Structured evening activities may include barbecues, an evening monument tour, study sessions, museum visits, a Kennedy Center performance, and the viewing of international films.



2015 Community of Scholars students at the United States Institute of Peace.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### DIPLOMACY AND DICTATORS: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

How does the U.S. government confront dictators, maintain allies, and protect the nation from international threats to national security? This course will introduce the major departments, agencies, and actors within the government involved in foreign policy and national security. It will explore how they operate in the new strategic environment by considering major threats and issues facing the United States today, from terrorists to rogue states to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The course will also address the conflicting goals, agendas, and trade-offs present in any foreign and national security policy. Debating the range of policy options, students will explore how the U.S. might best act to enhance U.S. national security and international position.

### WORLDS APART, WORLDS TOGETHER: CONFLICT, CULTURE, AND COOPERATION

Difference, particularly cultural difference, is the source of many conflicts in international relations. This course will explore conceptual components and theories of conflict, culture, and conflict resolution—with a special focus on the role that culture plays in both starting as well as resolving conflicts. An in-depth examination of contemporary international conflicts will be used as illustrative case-studies. The class will then bridge the gap between interpersonal, group, and international conflicts by exploring strategies of conflict resolution and cross-cultural understanding.

### JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Today's most serious environmental challenges require global perspectives and global solutions. This course will examine the social, political, and economic conditions and choices that drive environmental degradation, and the nature of effective responses to complex environmental crises. By examining cutting-edge issues such as climate change, the loss of biological diversity, stratospheric ozone depletion, and food crises, students will link local actions and activism to global outcomes.

#### Commuters:

We welcome DC-area students who wish to commute daily to campus. Our campus is a short shuttle ride from the Tenleytown metro stop. Out-of-town students are also encouraged to live with friends and relatives in the DC area and commute to AU. Commuting students are invited to attend all afternoon and most evening activities.

#### Service Project:

The School of International Service recognizes that "service is not a moment, it's a mindset." The Community of Scholars program imbibes this service mindset, requiring its residential scholars to participate in a community service project involving the underserved Washington, DC community. In addition to gaining a valuable life experience, students will also obtain service hours that may be used to supplement high school requirements.

*"I absolutely adored this entire program. It is an experience I will keep for the rest of my life."*

**2014 COMMUNITY OF  
SCHOLARS STUDENT**





## HOW TO APPLY

Please visit our website at [www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars](http://www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars) to apply for the program.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Director of Pre-College Programs  
School of International Service  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8071  
202-885-2442  
202-885-2494 (fax)  
[communityofscholars@american.edu](mailto:communityofscholars@american.edu)

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (includes advisor recommendation and personal statement)
- High school transcript
- Nonrefundable deposit of \$250 due with application by May 1; tuition balance due by June 1\*
- Applicants must be rising high school juniors and seniors

### ADMISSIONS DEADLINES:

Complete applications are due no later than May 1, 2016. After May 1, applications will be accepted only if space is available. A nonrefundable deposit of \$250 is required to secure a place in the program.\*

### TUITION AND PROGRAM FEES:

Three-week hybrid program—July 5-July 22, 2016. On-campus component begins on July 11 (Students living on campus should arrive on July 10.) \$2,975

#### Includes:

- Three credits of college tuition
- Lunch
- Metro fare and other expenses related to off-campus visits to government agencies and other sites
- Afternoon workshops and guest speakers
- Classroom materials and any required textbooks
- Access to AU's Bender Library, fitness center, and pool

### HOUSING:

Housing, meals, and programming for two-week campus segment. \$1,500

#### Includes:

- Dormitory housing in doubles or triples in a centrally-located AU dormitory
- All meals

- Evening and weekend activities—Kennedy Center performance, evening monument tour, museum and shopping trips, barbecues, and international film viewings
- Air-conditioning and Internet connections
- Round-the-clock dormitory staffing with controlled building access
- Linens provided

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

We welcome international students who have demonstrated adequate English proficiency. Students must obtain a minimum score of at least 80 on the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL-IBT).

### FINANCIAL AID:

A limited number of scholarships are available for students in the Washington-DC area. Financial assistance is based on a combination of need and academic merit.

For more information, visit: [www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars](http://www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars).

*\*Important: In the event that the student is not accepted into the program, all funds will be returned before the start of class.*

[www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars](http://www.american.edu/sis/communityofscholars)

# Community of Scholars

PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM AT  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

HERE IS HOW OTHERS HAVE DESCRIBED THE COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

I wish to commend AU for its Community of Scholars program. For high school students like my son, who are passionate about international relations, the program gives them the confidence to not only pursue their education but also continue challenging themselves and getting skills and experience they would have never thought would be possible, had they not attended Community of Scholars.

PARENT OF 2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS  
STUDENT

I loved the hybrid format. The online portion served as a prelude and prepared for the in-class part.

2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

I had a lot of fun, learned a lot and found it very worthwhile.

2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

I like the people here a lot. Everyone is friendly and passionate about the course.

2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

My professor was one of the best teachers I've ever had, and I am very grateful for the knowledge that I have gained during the experience.

2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Community of Scholars program. I learned a tremendous amount of valuable information inside and outside of the classroom. I had some experiences that I will never forget and I am very excited to apply for AU next fall.

2015 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

"The program was really fantastic and so interesting. I learned a lot and finally met people who were as interested in foreign policy as I am."

2014 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT

"This program has been absolutely life-changing. The kids here are so like-minded...we really connected."

2013 COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS STUDENT



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

School of International Service  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8071

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and licensing of American University, visit  
[www.american.edu/academics](http://www.american.edu/academics).

