



2025-2026 Morehead-Cain Global Fellows Nomination Information

Program Overview

The Morehead-Cain Global Fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill offers exceptional undergraduate student leaders from across the world a fully-funded, transformational year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fellows become part of a dynamic community of Morehead-Cain scholars, gaining access to leadership development, academic enrichment, and global engagement opportunities. Through these experiences, they develop the skills and perspectives needed to become impactful global leaders in the 21st century.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a partner university.
- Have completed at least two years of undergraduate study before the fellowship begins in August of 2026 and expect to complete their undergraduate studies after January 2028.
- Demonstrate academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, leadership, and a commitment to community engagement.
- Be prepared for rigorous study in English (an IELTS score of 7.5 or higher if their current degree program is not in English).

Academic & Professional Opportunities

Fellows will have access to:

- Academic coursework at UNC, with up to 15 credit hours per semester of [UNC courses](#) in STEM, business, humanities, or social sciences.
- Research opportunities with UNC faculty.
- Entrepreneurship resources, venture funding, and innovation programs.
- Internships with international organizations, governments, and nonprofits.
- Cultural exchange and leadership development initiatives.

Application Process

Required Documents

- Transcript: Must include the most recent GPA and coursework.
- Test Scores (Optional): Standardized test scores are not required but may be submitted. Non-submission will not disadvantage applicants.

English Proficiency

The selection process, including written, video, and in-person interviews, will be entirely in English. Applicants will complete coursework and program requirements in English. Those whose primary course of study is not currently in English should have demonstrated English proficiency through appropriate tests.

References

Applicants must provide contact information for two references:



1. Academic Reference: A professor or instructor familiar with the student's academic interests and aptitudes.
2. Non-Academic Reference: A mentor or supervisor who can speak to the student's character and engagement beyond the classroom.

Peers, undergraduates, and family members cannot serve as references.

Prior Application Questions

Applicants may respond to the following or similar application prompts:

1. Describe a time you worked with individuals from different generations to achieve a shared goal. What role did you play, and what did you learn?
2. Share an experience where you learned something valuable from someone with a different background or perspective. How did it impact you?
3. What topic or subject deeply interests you? How have you explored it beyond the classroom? What questions are you currently asking?
4. Describe a challenging or uncomfortable learning experience. How did you navigate it, and what growth resulted?
5. "Leadership is not about having all the answers; it's about asking the right questions." What key questions are you asking now, and how do they shape your personal or academic journey?
6. Identify a need in your community (family, school, neighborhood) and explain how you have worked to address it.

Prior Sample Video Essay

- Prompt: "What matters most to you and why?"
- Duration: up to 2 minutes (Students may re-record before submission).

What We Look For

Morehead-Cain seeks students who take initiative within and beyond the classroom, engage meaningfully with others, and critically explore their interests and roles in the world. Guided by Morehead-Cain's pillars of community, leadership, character, and scholarship, we aim to select students who have the potential to make a lasting impact within and beyond their communities. There are no "right" answers to our application questions—authenticity is key.

Global Fellows Sample Profile from the 2025-26 Class

Future Public Service Leader with Global Interests

A student studying development studies at one of India's most prestigious STEM universities currently serves as the elected speaker of the student legislative council. In this role, they have implemented initiatives focused on mental health resources, improved student services, and inclusive campus policies. Their academic work centers on global development and climate change, and they actively participate in debate and performing



arts clubs, using both platforms to sharpen their communication and advocacy skills. This student aims to work in public administration or international governance, with the long-term goal of advancing equitable policy in the Global South.

Aspiring Women's Health Advocate and Scholar-Leader

A medical student from a top Nigerian university demonstrates exceptional leadership and service, balancing a demanding academic schedule with impact-driven extracurriculars. As academic secretary of a national medical student association, they organize peer mentoring programs and academic support for underserved classmates. Through a prestigious global fellowship, they've led digital safety campaigns and volunteered in rural health clinics. They've earned top honors in university-wide academic competitions and are widely respected for their collaborative spirit. Their goal is to become a gynecologist and clinical researcher focused on reproductive health access and education in West Africa.

Additional information and upcoming information sessions can be found on our website:

<https://global.moreheadcain.org>

For questions or further information, please contact global@moreheadcain.org.