

## Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars

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### Program Synopsis

The Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars is an exciting independent research opportunity for promising Elliott School undergraduates. 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 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:

- **Three-credit** Writing in the Disciplines (**WID**) course
- **Weekly meetings** (Mondays, 1:15 – 3:15 pm) to learn about research skills, resources and opportunities and for peer feedback on research and writing
- Close work with a **faculty advisor**
- Pairing with **Elliott School graduate student mentor(s)**
- **Research stipend of \$300** to be used for research materials and experiences and to cover lunch with the faculty advisor and coffee with the graduate student mentor(s); possibility of applying for additional funding for special opportunities
- **Peer support** throughout the research and writing progress
- Presentation of research at an on-campus **academic conference** at the end of the semester

Students will submit applications (information below) to the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising & Student Services. A selection committee will select approximately 15 applicants to be Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars.

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### Eligibility

The 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 May 2011 or earlier.

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### Program Requirements

#### *Overview*

Students will apply to the Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program during the Fall 2009 semester in order to participate in the program during the Spring 2010 semester. Upon being accepted and committing to the program, Scholars will be registered for three credits of IAFF 190W by the Office of Academic Advising & Student Services. Students may not be enrolled in courses that conflict with this course's meeting time (Mondays, 1:15 – 3:15 pm).

**Faculty advisors must be full-time professors.** Students must find their own faculty advisors and must have the professor sign all necessary paperwork by the time the application is submitted.

Students who have applied for and been approved to participate in the **Elliott School Special Honors** program may use this program to fulfill the Special Honors thesis requirement. In this case, students must meet all Special Honors requirements (<http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/assets/docs/acad/forms/honors.pdf>). Students will have a chance to indicate on their Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars application that they have been approved to pursue a thesis, and their Special Honors applications will be automatically updated.

### Academic Guidelines

Academic guidelines mirror those of the standard Independent Study

(<http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/assets/docs/acad/forms/independentstudy.pdf>):

- **Research Paper:** Scholars must complete a research paper relevant to contemporary international affairs. The paper is to be developed over the course of the semester in conjunction with the faculty advisor. The paper length must be at least 30 pages (of text) will receive a letter grade.
- **Readings:** The Scholar and faculty advisor will decide what books and articles the student must read. The faculty advisors may assign readings or may approve appropriate readings suggested by the student.
- **Faculty/Student Meetings:** The Scholar and faculty advisor will meet regularly throughout the semester. The frequency of these meetings is to be determined by the Scholar and faculty advisor. In addition, faculty advisors have the authority to set deadlines and assign related work.
- Students using this project as an **Elliott School Special Honors thesis** must also meet Special Honors requirements as outlined at <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/assets/docs/acad/forms/honors.pdf> and <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/assets/docs/acad/forms/honorsthesis.pdf>.

### Additional Components

Scholars are required to attend the weekly Monday sessions. A syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. Many of these sessions will feature presentations on research skills, resources and opportunities, such as research strategy; applying for fellowships and grants; how to leverage research when applying for jobs; and the graduate school application process. Other sessions will be dedicated to peer feedback and support.

Other events associated with this program include a January kickoff event, an individual lunch between each Scholar and his/her faculty advisor (paid for with the stipend), a coffee date between each Scholar and his/her graduate student mentor(s) (paid for with the stipend), and a final small conference at which Scholars will present their research. Participation in these events is a crucial component of this program and is required of all Scholars. Final grades will be affected if Scholars do not meet these obligations.

### Stipend

Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars will receive a stipend of \$300 to be used to further their research and to cover lunch with the faculty advisor and coffee with the graduate student mentor(s). The money could be used for such purposes as conference participation or purchasing relevant books or journal subscriptions. Scholars will be required to keep track of their expenses and submit a spending report at the end of the semester.

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## Application

All application materials must be submitted together to the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising & Student Services (1957 E Street, Suite 302) by **6:00 pm on Monday, November 9**. A completed application package consists of the following materials. Forms are available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/academics/ugrad/forms.cfm>:

### 1) Application Cover Sheet

*See website*

### 2) Student/Faculty Advisor Agreement

*See website*

### 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 proposal, attend the Research Proposal Workshop (see below).*

### 4) Current Résumé

*The GW Career Center offers help with résumés: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/students/jobsearchprep/#resume>.*

### 5) Unofficial Transcript

*Available from the Office of the Registrar. (Students are not to turn in an unofficial transcript printed from GWeb.)*

### 6) Students using this project as an Elliott School Special Honors thesis must also submit the **Thesis Approval Form**

*Available at <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/assets/docs/acad/forms/honorsthesis.pdf>.*

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## **Application Process Timeline**

**Wednesday, October 14:** 3:00 pm – Information Session\*

**Thursday, October 22:** 2:00 pm – Information Session\*

**Friday, October 30:** 3:00 pm – Research Proposal Workshop\*

**Monday, November 9: Applications Due by 6:00 pm** (Applications should be submitted to the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising & Student Services, 1957 E Street, Suite 302.)

**Friday, November 20:** Applicants will be notified by this date as to whether they have been selected.

\* OPTIONAL; Meet in the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising & Student Services, 1957 E Street, Suite 302.

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**Please contact Annie Vinik at [avinik@gwu.edu](mailto:avinik@gwu.edu) with questions.**