CEIP’s Gaither Junior Fellows Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Must Applicants be US Citizens?
No, but if you are not a US citizen, you must be eligible to work in the US for a full 12 months from 1 August through 31 July, following graduation from a US college/university. Students on F-1 visas who are eligible to work in the US for the full year (August-July) may apply for the program.

Am I eligible for the Junior Fellows Program?
Applicants must be graduating seniors or students who have graduated during the last academic year. If you have started graduate studies you are not eligible for consideration.

You may only apply through your designated nominating official. At Lafayette College, that person is Dean Goldberg (goldbeja@lafayette.edu; x5067; 105 Scott Hall).

How do I obtain an application?
Application materials are available through Lafayette’s External Scholarships website. You must follow Lafayette’s application and nomination procedures in order to be considered by the Carnegie Endowment. You may not submit your application on your own.

When is the application deadline?
Lafayette’s internal (campus) application deadline is: 5 December 2017.
The letters of recommendation, signed and on letterhead, are due by 8 December 2017.

If you are one of the 2 nominated candidates, your completed application will be due at the Carnegie Endowment no later than 15 January 2018.

If I am interested in more than one program, how should I proceed?
You may only apply to one program. You will need to make a decision between programs and answer the question for that program only.

Are applicants interviewed for the program?
CEIP interviews approximately 3-4 applicants per program. “Finalists” will be interviewed between February and early March. All interviews are conducted by phone or video.

Those not selected for interview will be notified in February. Finalists will be notified of their selection/non-selection status by the end of March.

What is the interview like?
In the past, interviews have been approximately 30 – 45 minutes long. The interview consists of easily answerable questions such as relevant current events, the nature of your senior thesis, why you are interested in the Junior Fellows Program, how the program fits into your career plans, etc.

As a Junior Fellow, what kind of work will I do?
Junior Fellows have the opportunity to conduct research for books, co-author journal articles and policy papers, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by scholars, journalists and government officials.

What are the criteria upon which applications are considered?
The application process is highly competitive. Approximately 5% of applicants are ultimately selected for positions. Applications are judged on the quality of the written essay, related academic study and/or work experience, grades, recommendations, and personal interviews.

What makes a strong application?
Strong applications are those where both essays are well written, the topic essay displays strong critical thinking and communication skills, the resume indicates a record of activities commensurate with the skills required of Junior Fellows, and the recommendations are strongly supportive and informative.

Who should write my Letters of Recommendation?
Letters of recommendation should come from appropriate individuals regardless of their background or position. The best recommendations come from individuals who can speak highly of your research skills, knowledge of the topic, your critical thinking, teamwork and communicative skills, and how you will contribute to the Junior Fellows Program.

When does the fellowship begin?
All fellowships begin on 1 August. Junior Fellows are hired for approximately 1 year.

Are Junior Fellows paid?
Junior Fellows are paid, full-time employees. Junior Fellows are currently paid a gross salary of $3,291.67 per month ($39,500 per year). A full benefits package is also provided.