



SciTech & Human Rights FutureGen Scholars Frequently Asked Questions

How do you define “human rights”?

The Coalition’s work is grounded in the principles and laws set forth in the International Bill of Human Rights and all other relevant international human rights treaties and norms. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. All human beings are entitled to all human rights: civil, political, economic, social, and cultural. These universal rights are guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles, and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups. (Source: [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#))

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to apply?

No. As long as you are an undergraduate and graduate student enrolled full- or part-time during the 2024-2025 academic year at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education, seeking an undergraduate (two- or four-year) or graduate degree, you are welcome to apply.

Do you favor applications from graduate students, or those who attend a four-year college, over those who attend a two-year institution?

No! We encourage all undergraduate and graduate students to apply, regardless of the type of institution you attend. The proposal reviewers will look for evidence of original thought and creativity; impact and feasibility; clear human rights objectives; effective use of science and technology to achieve the project’s goals; an active leadership role for communities involved in the project; your leadership skills; and strong letters of recommendation. In short, applications are evaluated based on how well your proposal addresses the above criteria, not on where you are in your academic journey.

Can my project involve a community outside of where I live or attend school?

Yes, if it is a community where you already have connections. **This includes communities outside of the United States.** Please include information about your relationship with this community in your proposal. In this situation, we strongly recommend that at least one of your letters of recommendation come from a community leader or other community member who can speak to this connection.

I plan to work with another student on my project. Can we both apply?

If you are collaborating with another student on your project, please submit one application and include both of your names on the form. If your project is selected, you will split the \$5,000 stipend, with each student receiving \$2,500. If your project involves more than two people, please contact us.

Can I apply if I am taking a leave of absence during the 2024-25 academic year?

You can still apply, but because mentorship (including peer-to-peer mentorship) and connections to

your campus/community are so important to the success of your project, we strongly advise you to apply during a cycle where you will be a part-time or full-time student.

My background/the methodology I will be using for this project is in the social sciences. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes! We encourage students of social and applied sciences to apply for this opportunity. Regardless of the discipline you come from, the reviewers will be looking for a methodology that is fully explained, clear human rights goals that address campus or community needs, and a project that is realistic and achievable.

What should be included in the project budget?

The budget should show that you have the ability to carry out your project successfully. For example, if you are hosting an event, we should see evidence that you have thought through the various costs involved (e.g. a space rental for an in-person event or a Zoom license for an online event). However, you do **not** need to demonstrate \$5,000 worth of expenses.

Does the faculty advisor from one of my letters of recommendation need to be a member of the Coalition?

No, the faculty advisor who writes a letter of recommendation does not need to be a member of the Coalition. In addition to a faculty advisor, we will match another person from the Coalition to serve as a volunteer mentor, who can provide guidance to help the project meet its goals and assist with the Scholar's professional development.

Have a question that is not answered here or on the website? Please contact Nate Weisenberg (nweisenberg@aaas.org). Thank you for your interest in the SciTech and Human Rights FutureGen Scholars program.