FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Eligibility

This is my last semester in graduate school, as I am graduating this year. Am I eligible?
Yes. We accept applications from current graduate students, so students who are graduating this May are eligible to apply.

I am not studying either foreign policy or public policy in my master's/Ph.D program. Am I eligible?
Yes. The FPC is open to all academic disciplines.

I am a visiting scholar from China. Am I eligible?
Yes. The FPC is open to visiting scholars from China.

I am an undergraduate student. Am I eligible?
No. We accept only graduate students (including Ph.D. students and those in professional schools such as medical or pharmacy schools) who are currently enrolled at accredited universities in the United States.

I am an American citizen, but am ethnically Chinese. Am I eligible?
No. The FPC is designed to develop the capacity of Chinese students in various fields likely to return to China and take on leadership positions in their chosen fields. The goal of FPC is to help these students understand the principal dynamics of the making of American foreign policy so that they can be better equipped to play constructive, well-informed roles in the future management of Chinese policy vis-à-vis the United States. For that reason, we accept only mainland Chinese students.

I have participated in previous sessions of the FPC. Am I eligible?
No. The FPC is open only to first-time program participants, as we want to give as many eligible students as possible the opportunity to learn about U.S. foreign policy.

Application Process

I did not take the TOEFL, but I did take the IELTS. Would you accept an IELTS score?
As both the TOEFL and IELTS are used as international measures of English-language ability, we will accept an IELTS score in place of the TOEFL iBT or the paper-based TOEFL.

Do you have a TOEFL/IELTS cut-off score? How much weight do you give to the TOEFL/IELTS?
We do not have a cut-off score for the TOEFL. Your TOEFL score is a key component of your application, but is not the sole determinant in whether you will be accepted; we strive to consider your application as a whole.

I can’t find my TOEFL/IELTS score report. What should I do?
Though you may not have the physical report for your TOEFL or IELTS results, you may have a digital version of the report saved in applications to graduate school or in an email in your inbox. Alternatively, you can request your TOEFL score online through ETS: http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/scores/send. For the IELTS score report, you will need to contact the test center which issued your test report form. An TOEFL/IELTS score is required to complete the FPC application.
When will I hear whether I have been accepted?
If you applied by April 15, you will receive your decision by May 1. If you applied between April 15 and May 12, you will receive your decision by May 14. Note applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Do you provide refunds of the application fee?
We provide refunds of the application fee only if an applicant is not accepted to the FPC. Once you are accepted, the application fee becomes non-refundable.

Travel Arrangements and Stipends

I’d like to arrive in Washington, D.C. a day early/stay a day later. What are my housing options?
FPC participants stay in dormitory housing on The George Washington University (GWU) campus free of charge for the three nights of our program. Check-in is Wednesday, May 29, 2013 and check-out is Saturday, June 1, 2013. FPC participants who wish to arrive earlier or stay later than the dates of the program are responsible for arranging their own lodging.

Can I attend the FPC and not stay at the GWU dorms?
We strongly encourage all FPC participants to stay at the GWU dorms during the program, as the dorms are located just steps from the program venue. Staying near the venue and in close contact with your fellow participants also helps facilitate networking opportunities. Note that the application fee and travel stipend, if awarded, will remain the same even if you choose not to stay at the GWU dorms.

When can I apply for a travel stipend?
Applications for travel stipends can be submitted only after you have been accepted and booked your travel. Please do not make travel arrangements until you have been formally accepted and enrolled in the program.

How do you determine travel stipend awards?
Eligibility and stipend amount are based on mode of travel and your proximity to Washington, D.C. Stipends will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds run out. Priority consideration for travel stipends is given to early applicants and those who book their travel early. Only participants who follow the travel stipend guidelines are eligible for travel stipends. For more details, please consult our travel guidelines: [http://www.ncuscr.org/files/Travel%20Stipend%20Guidlines.pdf](http://www.ncuscr.org/files/Travel%20Stipend%20Guidlines.pdf)

Program Details

When will the final agenda and speakers be confirmed?
The agenda and speaker list will be made available in early May and will be emailed directly to FPC participants.

When can I choose my site visit? How do you determine where we go?
A list of site visits will be available in early May, at the same time that the agenda and list of speakers are available. Participants of the FPC choose their top three sites of most interest and are assigned to one of the three. Participants usually receive either their first or second choice.