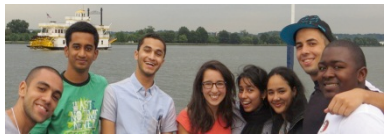

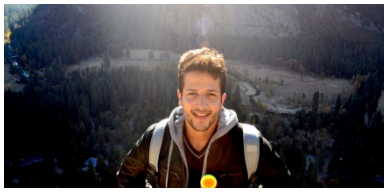

Near East, South Asia, & Sub-Saharan Africa Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA UGRAD)

The **Near East, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa Undergraduate Exchange Program** (NESA UGRAD) is a part of the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD Program), a scholarship program managed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by World Learning for emerging student leaders from underrepresented sectors around the world. Launched in 2007, NESA UGRAD originally provided a substantive exchange experience for emerging student leaders from underrepresented sectors of the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia for one year of undergraduate, non-degree studies at a diverse network of accredited two-and four-year U.S. colleges and universities. Since 2007, over 500 students from more than 17 countries and locales have participated in the NESA UGRAD Program. In 2013, the NESA UGRAD Program expanded to include students from Sub-Saharan Africa. Other Global UGRAD Programs are available for students from the Western Hemisphere, East Asia and the Pacific, Eurasia and Central Asia, Serbia and Montenegro, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

Participant Eligibility

NESA UGRAD is a merit-based competition. Students from diverse backgrounds and/or underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must be citizens, nationals or permanent residents qualified to hold a valid passport issued by the countries from which they apply. Applicants must be full-time students currently enrolled in an undergraduate program or completing the final year of high school. Applicants should be in good academic standing. Applicants should be proficient in written and spoken English. Applicants should have a desire to participate in community service activities. Students must return to their home countries after completion of the program.

Host Institution Participation

Accredited two-and-four year higher education institutions may apply to host students for one academic year. In 2013, over 30 U.S. colleges and universities in 20 states and the District of Columbia welcomed 110 NESA UGRAD participants. Host universities span the U.S. and include community colleges, small liberal arts institutions, public and private universities, and minority-serving institutions. Host advisors on campus provide significant support to NESA UGRAD participants, assisting with cultural adjustment, academics, and professional guidance as participants integrate into campus and local communities.

Award Benefits and Requirements

Participants are actively engaged on and off campus. They take part in cultural enrichment activities throughout the year and experience various aspects of American life and local communities. They complete 20 hours of community service during the first term and an internship in their field of study during the second semester. Participants receive tuition and fees, campus housing, a meal plan, support for pre-approved cultural activities and a modest monthly stipend.

Students interested in applying should contact their local U.S. Embassy or bi-national Fulbright Commission for further information.

For general information on the NESA UGRAD Program please visit www.worldlearning.org and for general information about the Global UGRAD Program please visit http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/global-undergraduate-exchange-program-global-ugrad.

Global UGRAD Program participants are among more than 50,000 academic and professional exchange program participants supported annually by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Other Bureau programs include the Fulbright Program, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the International Visitor Leadership Program. For more information visit http://exchanges.state.gov.

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