**GNSPI Junior Research Fellows Program**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Description**: The Global & National Security Policy Institute (GNSPI) will select up to 32 UNM students to be the **2025 GNSPI Junior Research Fellows**. The program aims to prepare Fellows for careers in global or national security (broadly defined) by advancing their research capabilities in areas with potential application to security issues. During the summer of 2025, Junior Research Fellows will **conduct independent research** in one of four research areas—1) *National Security & Intelligence Studies*, 2) *Foreign Language & Area Studies*, 3) *Global & Transnational Security*, and 4) *STEM* under the supervision of the GNSPI Director and a subject-appropriate faculty member. Students will produce a written paper and a poster presentation. The length and format can be tailored for student level and to appropriate disciplinary standards. Junior Research Fellows must meet research milestones by set timelines (see below) and present their research at the GNSPI Symposium on either August 26th or 27th, 2025 at UNM.

**Benefits** include:

* ***$2000 stipend for completed research***
* Advanced research experience
* Publication of research on GNSPI website
* Presentation of research to an audience of peers, faculty, and national security professionals
* Resume boost as a Junior Research Fellow
* Course credit as an independent study (optional)

**Eligibility**: Graduate or undergraduate UNM students in good standing who are members of (*or plan to declare*) one of the following programs (which can accommodate any major):

* **IC Scholars** (UNM Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence)
* **Professional Master of Science in Global & National Security** (or graduate certificate),
* **Global & National Security concentration**, **Liberal Arts and Integrative Studies** major**,**
* **National Security & Strategic Analysis** undergraduate certificate (*combines with any major*),
* **Conflict, Peace, and Diplomacy** **concentration,** **International Studies** major**,** or
* **Cybersecurity** undergrad certificate (coming soon; your intent to declare is sufficient).

Joining the IC Scholars program or adding a certificate are ***easy to declare and can accompany ANY MAJOR***. For more info, email: philhult@unm.edu.

**Selection Criteria**: Junior Research Fellows are selected by committee based on the following:

1. Quality of proposal,
2. Suitability of topic to a field in preparation of a global or national security career,
3. Student capability to complete the research over the summer timeline,
4. Availability of a suitable faculty advisor (**We’ll help you find one if need**), and
5. Declaration that proposed research is not replicated from previous coursework (though you can expand on existing work).

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| **Steps and Timeline** | **Date/Deadline** |
| **RSVP** for one of the following virtual Proposal Writing Workshop  | T, 4/15, 8:30am |
| options at [this link](https://unm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_esqoQGW5r5LERhQ) or the QR code below.  | T, 4/15, 6:00pm |
|  Email gnspi@unm.edu with any issues with your RSVP. | W, 4/16, 6:00pm |
| **Attend** virtual Proposal Writing Workshop[[1]](#footnote-1) | See dates above |
| **Identify** a faculty mentor who is willing and able to advise your research (or email philhult@unm.edu if you need help) | Before application |
| **Submit** fellowship application. See Appendix 1 for application questions. Official application emailed to the JRF interest list. | 5/11 |
| **Receive** acceptance or waitlist notification  | 5/20 |
| **Confirm or reject** your participation | 5/25 |
| **Research begins** | On or around 6/1 |
| **Receive** first payment ($1000) distributed | Early June |
| **Attend** virtual halfway progress report session with all JRFs | 7/1 |
| **Submit** paper draft for revisions | 8/1 |
| **Attend** poster presentation workshop | TBD ~8/15 |
| **Email** mock-up of poster presentation to GNSPI Director | 8/21 |
| **Present** at GNSPI Symposium on selected day (*National Security/Intel & Foreign Language/Area Studies topics*) | 8/26 |
| **Present** at GNSPI Symposium on selected day (*STEM and Global Public Policy topics*) | 8/27 |
| **Submit** final paper | 9/1 |
| **Receive** second payment ($1000) after presentation at Symposium | Early September |
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**QR code link to RSVP for an info session or declare your interest via Qualtrics form.**

**Appendix 1. Application Questions**

**Name:**

**UNM ID #:**

**UNM Email address**:

**Telephone:**

**Campus: Albuquerque, Los Alamos, or Valencia**

**Faculty Advisor’s Information (It’s okay if you don’t have one yet)**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Project Proposal**

1. Your topic and research question (<50 words). Your answer should be a **question** on a specific technical, policy, or security issue which you will analyze and provide judgments on based on your analysis.
2. Which category would you like your proposal to be considered for:
	1. National Security or Intelligence Studies
	2. Foreign Language or Area Studies
	3. STEM
	4. Global & Transnational Security
3. A brief description (<150 words) of how you plan to carry out your research. You should include any methods, types of analysis, or evidence you intend to use or consult (e.g., primary and secondary sources, databases, statistics, or programming). Note that the method is specific to your field of study and we will consider all types of inquiry that a faculty member from that field has agreed to advise.
4. A brief description (<100 words) of why you think you have the background to take on this project (e.g., courses you have taken in the subject area, other research you have done or papers you have written, books or articles you have read, or your related work experience, etc.).

Disclaimer: I understand that if this work is based on a prior course effort you must submit the original work and demonstrate how the new work is contains significant additional material or analysis.

**Check: \_\_ Yes**

I understand that to receive the stipend (across two payments), I agree to meet the milestone timelines as outlined in the call for proposals and follow the GNSPI paper and poster guidelines.

**Check: \_\_ Yes**

If you have questions or want more information or help with the application, contact Philip Hultquist, GNSPI Director, at philhult@unm.edu.

**Appendix 2: Examples of Research Topics by Theme.**

Note these are just examples. The number of topics can fit in these themes is endless. If you are unsure or need help, attend a workshop and/or email Philip Hultquist (philhult@unm.edu).

*National Security / Intelligence Studies*

1. Any topic that aims to better understand the threat (or lack thereof) posed by named adversaries (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, violent extremist organizations), such as their intentions, capabilities, strategies, ideologies, culture, types of government, etc.
2. Any national security theme: terrorism, insurgency, cyberwarfare (could also count under STEM), allies, NATO, current conflict (Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Palestine), potential conflicts (Taiwan, South China Sea, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, etc.).

*Foreign Language / Area Studies*

1. Any topic that aims to better understand the threat (or lack thereof) posed by named adversaries (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, violent extremist organizations), such as their intentions, capabilities, strategies, ideologies, culture, types of government, etc.
2. Any topic that aims to better understand allies’, partners’, and neutrals’ intentions, capabilities, or likelihood of working with the US (such as India, Indonesia, France—any country you are interested in).
3. Any topic that aims to better understand locations where competition between the US and named adversaries takes place (e.g., regions like South America, the Sahel, Pacific Islands, Arctic, etc, or countries like Panama, Thailand, Sri Lanka; really any country to are interested in).

*Global & Transnational Security*

1. Topics that pose security risks but may be non-traditional, affect the entire globe, or cross borders in ways where international cooperation is required to counter them, such as: pandemics, climate security, energy security, human rights, human trafficking, trade regimes, migration, terrorism, transnational criminal organizations, etc.
2. The institutions that help manage global & transnational security concerns, like the UN, EU, WHO, IAEA, NATO, WTO, etc.

*STEM*

1. What emerging technologies [e.g., AI, hypersonic weapons, directed energy/EMP, bioweapons, etc.] pose a threat to the United States and allies? How might they be countered?
2. How can the US meet its cybersecurity challenges considering advancements in AI, IoT, quantum computing, etc.?
3. Note: Any topic that represents an advancement in the student’s research capability in STEM is acceptable here. Ideally, the proposal can explain how it has an application to global or national security, but it may not be necessary as long as it improves student research skills, and that student intends to use those skills in a global or national security profession.
1. If you can’t attend a workshop, please indicate your interest by filling out the RSVP form, which allows you to declare your interest and get added to the list, even if you don’t attend a workshop. Email Philip Hultquist, GNSPI Director at philhult@unm.edu with any questions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)