

Northwestern

ROBERTA BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Opportunities for Undergraduates

Our programs help undergraduate students across Northwestern University's schools critically engage with global issues, build cross-cultural understanding, and grow as thoughtful, reflexive global citizens ready to make an impact. Learn more about our signature opportunities below.

Elliott Scholars Program

The Buffett Institute's Elliott Scholars Program provides an opportunity for a cohort of undergraduates to engage deeply in a critical issue in global affairs. The program includes a two-quarter course sequence in the winter and spring followed by a summer internship abroad through the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) offered by Northwestern's Global Learning Office. This hands-on, collaborative experience provides Elliott Scholars with the opportunity to apply what they have learned throughout the program in a community development setting like Argentina, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Thailand, Uganda, or Vietnam. GESI partner organizations in each country focus on different topics, including sustainable agriculture, gender rights, health services, and youth/education. If you are ready to challenge yourself in the pursuit of global social change, this program is for you. To be eligible to apply,

students must be sophomores or juniors at the time of application. The application deadline is **November 1**.



Learn more about
the Elliott Scholars
Program.

Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program matches a cohort of undergraduates with research assistantships. Fellows become meaningfully involved in a faculty mentor's international or global research project and/or creative process and learn how collaborative research is conducted in or across disciplines. Projects begin in the summer and continue, based upon faculty needs and student availability, for up to three quarters of the academic year.

Each fellow is eligible to earn up to \$4,150 total through their paid research assistantship. If international travel is required for fellows to fulfill their duties, some projects may be eligible for travel support of up to an additional \$3,000. The application deadline is **March 15**. Faculty mentors' project descriptions are typically posted on Buffett's website in mid-February.



Learn more about the
Buffett Undergraduate
Research Fellowship.

International Senior Thesis Research Grant

The Buffett Institute's International Senior Thesis Research Grant offers awards for independent research on a senior thesis, covering travel and living expenses in locations outside the contiguous U.S. as well as research with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities, locally and globally. The opportunity is open to undergraduate students across all fields of study during the summer as well as during the winter and spring breaks. The academic year grant offers awards of up to \$3,000, and the summer grant offers awards of up to \$6,000. Applications close **October 15** for the academic year grant and **March 15** for the summer grant.



Learn more about the
International Senior
Thesis Research Grant.

Buffett Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship Program

The Buffett Institute partners with organizations around the world to offer post-baccalaureate fellowships for recent Northwestern graduates seeking global careers. Launched in 2025, this new program featured inaugural fellowship sites in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Colombia, and the Philippines in sectors like musical theatre, human rights, and international development. The application deadline is **April 1**.



Learn more about
the Buffett Post-
Baccalaureate
Fellowship Program.

Student Group Affiliation

Registered student organizations can apply to affiliate with Buffett to join our global network, request office space and funds, receive special event invitations and more. The application deadline is **October 15**.



Learn more about
affiliated student
groups.

Climate Change Conference Research Seminar

Through the Buffett Institute, Northwestern students can apply to attend the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a virtual or in-person Northwestern delegate. The application deadline is **April 15**.



Learn more about
this fall quarter
research seminar.

Stay in Touch

Get event invitations, deadline reminders, & more.



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mailing list.



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