

HIIA Future Leaders Program 2026

Junior Research Fellowship

Hungarian Institute of International Affairs

The Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) is now accepting applications for its prestigious Future Leaders Program 2026. This three-month, in-person junior research program in Budapest is tailored for ambitious young talents and recent graduates under the age of 30 who are passionate about international relations, geopolitics, and diplomacy.

Program Overview

Selected fellows will become an integral part of HIIA's vibrant research community. Participants will work directly alongside senior researchers and policy experts, contributing to strategic policy analyses, conducting independent research, and gaining firsthand insight into high-level foreign policy decision-making.

Core Research Areas

Fellows can specialize in one of the following fields:

- **Regional Studies:** Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Visegrád Cooperation, Transatlantic Relations, Middle East, Turkic States, Asia-Pacific.
- **Thematic Studies:** Security Policy, European Union, Energy Policy, Multipolarity, Global Geopolitical Issues, Connectivity, Cultural Diplomacy.

Applicant Profile

- **Age:** Under 30 years old.
- **Background:** Degree or ongoing studies in International Relations, Political Science, Diplomacy, History, Philosophy, or related fields.
- **Skills:** Strong analytical mindset, excellent writing skills, and a minimum C1 level English proficiency.

What You Will Gain

- Professional mentorship from leading foreign policy experts.
- Hands-on experience in policy-oriented research and strategic analysis.
- Targeted training in leadership, public speaking, media, and communication.
- Access to high-level international policy discussions and closed-door events.
- A valuable professional network within diplomatic and foreign policy circles.

International Applicants & Support

HIIA actively encourages international applications. To support fellows from abroad, the Institute provides:

- Round-trip travel support to Budapest.
- Monthly accommodation allowance for fellows without a Hungarian residence permit.
- Assistance with visa and residency procedures.

Key Timeline & Logistics

- **Application Deadline:** 30 June 2026
- **Interview Period:** 6–17 July 2026
- **Results Announcement:** 31 July 2026
- **Program Duration:** 1 September – 30 November 2026
- **Location & Commitment:** Budapest, Hungary (Approx. 30 hours/week, mandatory in-person participation).

Application Requirements

Interested candidates must submit the following documents in English:

1. **Curriculum Vitae** (max. 2 pages)
2. **Cover Letter** (max. 1 page)
3. **Writing Sample** on a relevant geopolitical topic (3,000–5,000 characters)
4. **Proof of English Proficiency** (minimum C1 level certificate)

How to Apply: Register and upload your application package here: <https://hiia.hu/en/call-for-applications-future-leaders-program-2026-fall-edition/>



The poster features a young woman with glasses and a green turtleneck, smiling and pointing towards the text. The background is a mix of red, blue, and pink geometric shapes. The text is prominently displayed in white and green boxes.

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM
POWERED BY HIIA

3 MONTHS PAID FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

APPLY NOW

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