



TRUMAN NATIONAL  
SECURITY PROJECT

# APPLICANT INFORMATION

CLASS OF 2019





We are a nationwide community, forged in the aftermath of 9/11, fighting for America's promise on the battlefield, along the campaign trail, and in the halls of government.



Our community's nationwide membership of post-9/11 veterans, frontline civilians, policy experts, and political professionals share a common vision of U.S. leadership abroad. Hailing from 16 Chapters and 48 different states across the nation, more than 1,800 Truman members believe in a strong, smart, and principled foreign policy that sees the United States leading a growing community of nations towards shared security and prosperity. We believe that America is at its best when we use all the tools in our toolbox: Defense, diplomacy, development, and democracy promotion.

Together, the Truman Center and Truman Project identify, train, and position leaders across America who share this worldview. We bring our members together with our partners and advisors to deliver concrete solutions to pressing global challenges for leaders at the local, state, and national levels, and we coordinate their action nationwide to shape the debate, fight for policy change, and support rising leaders who share our values.

The Truman Project unites an incredible and talented group of people. We are not a networking organization, but rather a community with a passionate commitment to a shared worldview. Truman exists because realizing that shared worldview is a generational mission that cannot be accomplished alone. By finding individuals who believe in our shared principles, nurturing their careers in policy, politics, and defense, elevating their voices in the public debate, and helping them build relationships across sectors, we believe we can create a force that will transform our nation for the better.

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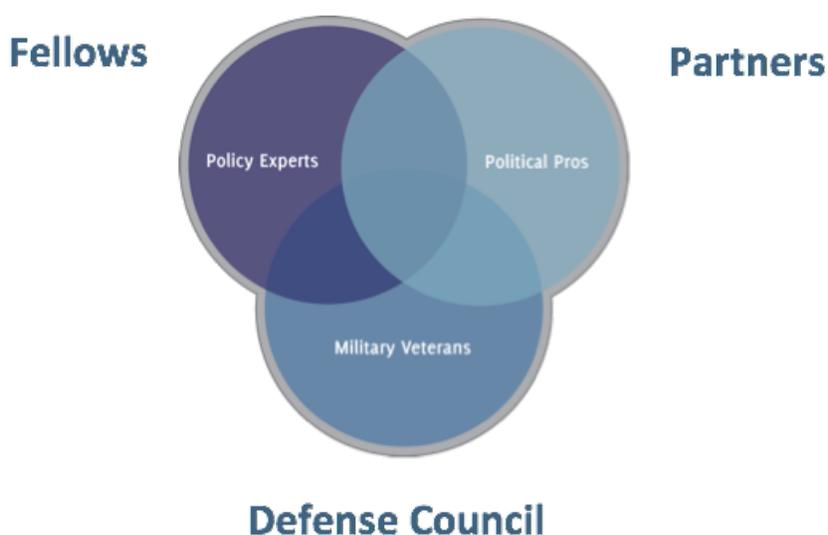
## THE THREE TRUMAN COHORTS

Truman National Security Project is a membership organization. Our members enter our community through one of three paths: the Defense Council, the Political Partnership, or the Security Fellowship. All three cohorts follow the same first year training programs, which lead to the same goal: full Truman membership. Each cohort is full of skilled, passionate leaders who share a commitment to public service and a strong interest in national security. The main difference between the cohorts lies in the particular background and experience of each member. A community of equals, each cohort significantly contributes to Truman Project, the national security conversation, and the larger realm of public service.

**Security Fellows** are policy experts, academics, and other thought leaders who anticipate and articulate new global challenges and opportunities. Many work within the U.S. national security apparatus and legislative bodies, as well as the international community and an expansive network of nongovernmental and private organizations.

**Political Partners** are political leaders, advocates, communicators, journalists, and aspiring or actively serving public officials. Fluent in campaign management, media, journalism, organizing, and more, they advance progressive principles and a shared liberal internationalist worldview at all levels of civil society.

Members of the **Defense Council** include veterans and frontline civilians who have firsthand experience implementing U.S. foreign policy. They have wide-ranging expertise in hard security and an ongoing professional interest in defense and intelligence operations as they continue to serve in government, business, policy, and nonprofit ventures.



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## WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN APPLICANTS

Competitive Truman Project applicants embody the personal character traits essential to building the ties and trust that define a strong community. Members are asked to contribute to a community for the long-haul of their professional lives. We look for people with honesty, integrity, humility, and a desire to serve others before themselves. Strong applicants aspire to leadership in national security and global affairs by leveraging their expertise, whether that lies in policy, politics, or hard security. We're looking for individuals who understand the importance of collaboration with others whose expertise is outside of their primary zone. While this is a competitive young professionals program and applicants tend to be between the ages of 27 and 40, there is no official age requirement.



A track record of working on the front lines of defense, diplomacy, development, and democracy can be demonstrated through:

- Policy expertise in academia, government institutions, non-profits or law
- On-the-ground experience from military service, global health, or humanitarian work
- Hard security expertise from defense contracting, intelligence or operations
- Political expertise from campaigns, fundraising, elected office, or grassroots organizing
- Communications expertise from consulting, speechwriting, and working in the press

You should consider applying for membership if you plan on pursuing a career that impacts national security, and you:

- Are interested in appearing in the media or engaging in public speaking
  - Would like to teach progressive candidates, activists, and college students in order to improve their ability to understand national security issues
  - Wish to write in ways that engage non-foreign policy experts to change their perceptions about policy and politics
  - Are participating in the public service, whether that means working on campaigns or considering elected office yourself
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## WORLDVIEW

You share Truman's Internationalist Worldview if you:

- Feel strongly about the importance of national security and global affairs
- Believe that we face serious threats from real enemies that may require robust military or intelligence abilities to counter
- Support diplomacy as our first best option for resolving conflict
- Understand that a robust foreign policy has to be backed by smart, well-funded, and tailored development policy
- Would be proud if a friend joined the military or have considered it yourself
- Care deeply about values such as equality of opportunity, civil liberties, and human rights
- Believe we should practice the values abroad that we want at home
- Support those overseas who aspire for democracy and human rights

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Please check your eligibility before you apply. To be considered for membership, you must:

- Submit your complete application by the application deadline.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Live in one of our 16 chapters for at least the duration of one year from when you are accepted. Those chapters are: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Colorado (Denver), Florida (Central Florida, Ft. Lauderdale/Palm Beach), Los Angeles, Michigan, New York City, North Carolina (Raleigh, Charlotte), Ohio (Columbus), Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Texas (Dallas, Austin), Washington, DC. If you don't live in one of these areas, please refer to the FAQ section.
- If accepted, be able attend your program's orientation and the Truman Conference in June in Washington, DC. Please do not apply unless you know you can attend the full three-day orientation and conference, at your own expense (including transportation and housing). Limited scholarships are available; if you cannot attend your program's orientation or have concerns about cost, please refer to the FAQ section.
- Attend the interview if selected.



*The Truman National Security Project is a 501(C)(4) membership organization. The membership program is a nonpartisan educational program that may receive 501(C)(3) funds, but is run by a 501(C)(4) organization. Therefore, law clerks and judges may not apply to this program.*

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## TRUMAN CHAPTERS



## FIRST YEAR REQUIREMENTS

Please ensure that you can fulfill these requirements before you apply:

- Complete a three-day long orientation in Washington, DC
- Attend two-thirds of your local chapter meetings
- Pay your membership dues
- Complete Core Curriculum
- Attend our annual conference in June in Washington, DC
- Join at least one Expert Group
- Meet one-on-one with Chapter Leader(s) and members

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2018

- May 15: Application Opens
  - September 14: Application Closes
  - October: Applicant Interviews
  - November: National Selections Committee Review Period
  - December 11: Applicants Notified of Status
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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: What does Truman do?**

A: Truman does many different things—we are a big organization working on big questions. First and foremost, we serve to elevate our members and the good work that they do through promotion, training, professional development services, and other opportunities. Secondly, we serve as a convening mechanism that allows for discussion and action on questions of policy and politics between those inside and outside of government and from the beltway to major cities around the country. And finally, where we see consensus from a large number of our members, we engage in targeted advocacy efforts both out in public and behind the scenes—past successes have included public support for the Special Immigrant Visa program, responsible climate change policies, the opening of combat roles to women serving in the military, and the P5+1 nuclear agreement with Iran.

In short, Truman is meant to provide multiple avenues of engagement for a diverse community of people who care broadly about the same vision of American leadership in the world. We want everyone to find a way to fight for the issues that they care about, and we believe that coordinated action within the community can be a force multiplier on some of the biggest national security and foreign policy challenges of our generation.

### **Q: What do Truman's Chapters do?**

A: Our 16 Chapters are the local face of Truman values, priorities, and goals across the country, and foster a sense of community for members. Chapters schedule and organize regular Chapter meetings and events, execute a localized recruitment and selections plan, welcome new members through professional development and chapter events, and pursue advocacy, policy, communications, and political activities in concert with each other and Truman HQ.

### **Q: What legal structures make up Truman?**

A: Truman Project is a non-profit 501(c)(4) membership organization. The Project's tax status allows its dues-paying members to participate in political speech and to take action in support of specific candidates or legislation. Its primary purpose is to grow, organize, and position the Truman community nationwide. Truman's Chapters and leadership development activities are housed in the Project. Truman Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public policy organization, to which donations are tax deductible. Its primary purpose is to convene the Truman community, together with allies and partners, to deliver concrete policy solutions and the messages to support them for leaders at the local, state, and national levels. The Center supports our charitable and educational programs, most policy advocacy activities, and the work of our Expert Groups.

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**Q: Are Truman Center or Truman Project political organizations?**

A: Truman Center is strictly nonpolitical and nonpartisan, as mandated by its 501(c)(3) status. Truman Project is a 501(c)(4) organization that includes political activities. Both organizations seek to engage Americans regardless of their party affiliation on our issue set because at the end of the day, we are a community united by common values and vision that should transcend partisan identity. We also believe that decisions about policy are made by those who show up and win elections. For this reason, Truman Project encourages and supports our members running for office, endorses and provides services to candidates who share our values, and produces political messaging that applies the expertise of our members to the complex issues that affect our worldview.

**Q: What is the Truman Framework?**

A: “21st Century Security: A Framework for American Leadership” is a collection of concrete policy proposals distilled from our shared values. It outlines our vision for America’s role in the world and translates it into actionable recommendations for policymakers, elected officials, and candidates. The Framework presents a set of topline ideas that the community developed and can agree are representative of policies that are consistent with our values. Purposefully, it doesn't try to tackle answers to every vexing policy problem facing our country—some parts are more granular than others, and there are plenty of individual issues on which this community does not fully agree. Framework is also not a messaging document; it provides our Communications Team, members, and allies with the policy consensus and substance necessary to craft good messaging. Still, it is a valuable articulation of the Truman worldview and the various means of implementing the 'four Ds.' More than 375 members of Truman’s various Expert Groups from across the country worked hard to put it together from 2014 to 2015 over a series of policy convenings, Expert Group engagement, and our annual Workshop. This was just the first manifestation of our community’s evolving (and very diverse) set of opinions, and a process for updating Framework is coming later this year.

**Q: How are Truman members chosen and admitted?**

A: A new class of approximately 150 members (split roughly evenly between the cohorts and spread among the Chapters) are recruited, interviewed, and selected each year. Current members nominate, interview, and ultimately select new members through a rigorous application process that involves questionnaires and interviews.

**Q: What if I don’t live in a chapter city or state?**

A: Living in a Chapter city or state is essential to the first year experience. The ability to attend regular Chapter meetings allows first year members to create relationships and develop strong ties to the Truman community. Applying from out of Chapter is extremely competitive and we recommend contacting Membership Coordinator Rolando Velasquez ([membership@trumancnp.org](mailto:membership@trumancnp.org)) at Truman HQ before you proceed. If you currently do not live near a Chapter but know that you will be moving to a Chapter area in 2018, we recommend that you apply.

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**Q: How long does the application take to complete?**

A: Completion time will vary depending on how long it takes to acquire your letters of recommendation and write your essays. Excluding letters, your Truman application can take between two to five hours. You can save your progress on your application and return to it at any time; taking your time to submit thoughtful, robust content is encouraged. In the application you can expect to find:

- Basic demographic information
- Two Letters of recommendations with their contact information
- Resume
- Six Essay questions
- Headshot
- DD214 (if applicable)
- Up to three pages of additional materials (media appearances and publications)

**Q: What if I am qualified to apply to multiple programs?**

A: Many applicants find that their strengths fit into more than one membership cohort's description, which is great! When deciding which program to apply to, there are a couple of things to consider about yourself:

- What kind of outlets regularly publish work that you find interesting?
- What unique perspective do you bring to solving national security and global affairs challenges?
- At a social event, what kind of kind of people do you gravitate towards?

If your answers were most tactically focused with an eye towards operations and on the ground experience, Defense Council sounds right for you. If you focused more on up to the minute updates on elections inside and outside the beltway and use several social media platforms, the Political Partnership is up your alley. If you enjoy in the weeds analysis of policy and history along with pragmatic and well researched points, then the Security Fellowship may be the way to go.

**Q: How much are membership dues?**

Standard membership dues are \$250 per year. A limited number of scholarships are available for students and nonprofit/government employees. Financial need shouldn't hold anyone back from applying to the membership. Contact the membership team with any concerns regarding dues, conference, and travel fees. Financial concerns are handled on a case-by-case basis.

**Q: If I am on active duty or in a Hatch or Super Hatch position, can I still apply?**

A: The Truman National Security Project is a legal 501(c)(4) and membership dues are considered a donation to a 501(c)(4). Active duty military, Hatch and Super Hatch individuals are welcome to apply, however we recommend that individuals check with their organization's legal authority first.

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