

## New Era Workshop FAQ

Updated: January 2020

### Applying

#### ***At what point in my graduate program should I apply for this workshop?***

In the past, we have accepted graduate students from all years of their doctoral studies, as well as post-docs, based on the strength of their applications. We find that students have the most to gain from and contribute to the conversation when they have determined and honed their research interests. An ideal time to attend the conference is after you have chosen your dissertation topic but before you have finished the work. We hope that the conversations and skills developed at the New Era Workshop will shape and strengthen your research agenda going forward.

If you are early in your graduate studies, prior experience in government, military, or policy work contributes to a strong proposal. If you have not had any such professional experience outside of graduate school, a clear portrayal of the policy relevance of your work will strengthen your application.

#### ***Do you accept non-political science PhD students?***

Yes. We carefully consider every application we receive, including those from non-political scientists and non-IR specialists. While the vast majority of our applicants are graduate students from Political Science, Politics, and Government departments, we welcome applications from students and post-docs in Geography, History, Public Policy, Philosophy, Sociology, and STEM fields, whose research is related to foreign policy.

#### ***I'm a professor, but this program seems useful for my work. Can I apply?***

The New Era Workshop is designed for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Faculty at all levels should instead consider applying for a different Bridging the Gap program, the International Policy Summer Institute (IPSI). More information about IPSI can be found [here](#).

### Preparing for the workshop

#### ***How much does the conference cost? Is there financial assistance for travel?***

There is no charge for the New Era Workshop. Travel arrangements to the workshop location up to \$500, plus hotel accommodations and meals, will be covered throughout the program. Travel costs exceeding \$500 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

#### ***How should I prepare for the conference? Will participants be required to present papers?***

Attendees should come prepared for several days of thoughtful, engaging discussion with their cohort, as well as roundtable talks with policy and publishing professionals. There are no paper presentations at the New Era Workshop.

### Attending the workshop

### ***How much of the conference do I have to attend?***

Participants are required to attend the entire New Era Workshop program, including meals. Please keep that in mind when submitting your application.

### ***What will we be doing?***

The New Era Workshop is unlike the majority of conferences you attend in graduate school. Instead of filling our days with panels and paper talks, NEW is designed around [scenario analysis](#) and research generation sessions designed to help our participants identify the policy challenges of the near future that call for rigorous investigation today. The program also features several panel discussions with alumni from academia, think tanks, and government on how to “bridge the gap” in your career; advice on publishing policy commentary from editors at venues including *War on the Rocks*, *The Washington Quarterly*, and *The Monkey Cage*; and funding discussions with fellowship and grant administrators. Our agenda also includes meals and receptions with our network of New Era alumni and former participants from other Bridging the Gap programs, providing plenty of time for networking among attendees and some representatives of our broad alumni network.

### ***What happens after the workshop?***

During the workshop, participants brainstorm panel ideas for future ISA conferences (a major academic conference for IR scholars) and stay in touch after the program concludes to submit these proposals, the vast majority of which have been successfully accepted to ISA programs in past years. You will also be added to our network of BTG alumni. Through our mailing list you will hear of access to special funding and other opportunities, BTG receptions and events, and new BTG initiatives including BTG’s partnerships with the *Duck of Minerva* and the Oxford University Press Book Series. Bridging the Gap staff will also share and promote your future work on our platform.