

New Era Workshop FAQ

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 exceptional students from History, Public Policy, and other related fields.

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 [link here].

Preparing for the workshop

How much does the conference cost? Is there financial assistance to travel to Washington?

There is no charge for the New Era Workshop. Travel arrangements to Washington, hotel accommodations, and meals will be covered throughout the program.

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 expected to attend the entire New Era Workshop program, including meals.

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 [link to “Imagine a world in which” article] 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 from editors from venues such as *War on the Rocks*, *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 Washington representatives of our broad alumni network.

What happens after the workshop?

During the workshop, participants brainstorm panel ideas for future ISA conferences 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. Bridging the Gap staff will also share and promote your future work on our platform.