The Luce Scholars Program is a nationally competitive fellowship program. It was launched by the Henry Luce Foundation in 1974 to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The program provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placement in Asia for 15-18 Luce Scholars each year, and welcomes applications from college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals in a variety of fields who have had limited exposure to Asia.
Candidates must be U.S. citizens who, by July 1 of the year they enter the program, will have received at least a bachelor’s degree and will not have reached their 30th birthday.

Those who already have significant experience in Asia or Asian studies are not eligible for the Luce Scholars Program.

Candidates may have taken Asian language or Asia-focused courses on a U.S. campus (without majoring in Asian Studies). They may have spent up to a total of eight weeks, or have participated in a university-organized summer program, in one or more countries where Luce Scholars are placed.

Luce Scholars have backgrounds in virtually every field other than Asian studies, including but not limited to the arts, journalism, law, medicine, science, public health, environmental studies, and international relations.

application
Luce Scholar candidates are nominated by 75 participating colleges and universities. Individual applications submitted directly to the Luce Foundation cannot be accepted. Please contact a nominating institution directly for institutional endorsement. Applications are due by mid-October at most schools.
Successful candidates should have a record of high achievement, outstanding leadership ability, and clearly defined interests with evidence of potential for professional accomplishments. After two rounds of one-on-one interviews, the new class of Luce Scholars is announced in February.

Luce Scholars gain new perspectives and cultural insights on their host countries through immersive living and working experiences in Asia. A professional placement is individually arranged for each Scholar on the basis of his or her professional interest, background, and qualifications.

The “Luce year” begins in late June with orientation in New York and San Francisco. Luce Scholars engage in intensive language study in Asia in July and August. Placements begin in September, and conclude with a wrap-up meeting in July of the following year.
Placements are possible in the 15 countries/regions highlighted on this map. Institutions on this map hosted former Luce Scholars and are listed here only as examples to illustrate the diverse fields and experiences of Luce Scholars. Placements are individually tailored and different for each new class of Luce Scholars.