

HERTOGFOUNDATION

Public Health Safety for Hertog Residential Programs Summer 2021

Thank you for your interest in our residential [Political Studies Program](#) and [War Studies Program](#), both to be held in Washington, DC this summer. We are monitoring communication from the CDC, NIH, and in coordination with our residential and classroom partners. Above all, the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff are our highest priority.

In addition to our in-person programs, we will also host a variety of [online Summer Courses](#). We strongly encourage all applicants to heavily weigh their personal situation and health circumstances prior to determining whether an in-person program is best suited for them.

Our Commitment, Your Commitment:

The public health situation is still highly uncertain. Current guidance from public health officials suggests that **there will still be public health mitigation protocols in place during the late summer**, including possible restrictions on the size of indoor gatherings, mandatory mask-wearing, and social distancing. We will abide by DC public health guidelines, and we are taking current realities into account as we plan our residential programs.

We very much hope the public health situation improves such that some of these protocols will not be necessary, but in order to live up to our commitment to you, **we are taking every step we can to ensure an in-person program**, barring a drastic negative change to the public health situation. In many cases, these precautions entail significant added expense to the Foundation and considerable efforts from its staff to prepare and implement. We tell you this so you can understand how seriously we take this commitment.

You should consult with your family and – depending on your health status – your doctor, about the appropriateness of an in-person program for you this summer. Should you be accepted and choose to participate in a residential program, be aware that we will maintain a **strict honor code** throughout the duration of the program. Such an honor code will require you to agree to **abide by all DC public health guidelines** and will involve:

- Significantly **curtailing your social activities** for the duration of the Program;
- Obeying **mask-wearing guidelines**, both indoors and outdoors, as public health requires;

- Participating in **regular, mandatory Program-wide COVID testing**;
- Maintaining **social distancing** and obeying limitations on indoor gatherings both during Program activities and *within* your residences;
- Avoiding possible exposure by **not frequenting places where social distancing or mask-wearing is not possible** (e.g., indoor bars and restaurants; private parties);
- **Refraining from travel** (even day or weekend trips) outside of DC for the duration of the Program.

Among the public health protocols we are currently planning:

- Fellows will pledge to abide by a **strict honor code**. Any violation of this honor code will result in immediate expulsion from the Political Studies Program without warning;

Initial and Regular Testing:

- **Three days prior to traveling**, fellows will be required to take a **COVID-19 test** and report their results to the Hertog Foundation;
- Upon their arrival, Political Studies Fellows will undergo a **brief quarantine period** and **COVID testing**;
- Fellows will undergo **regular, mandatory COVID testing** regularly throughout the program;
- Fellows will **abide by quarantines**, as mandated by DC Public Health, if they develop COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19.

Enforced Mask-Wearing:

- **Mask-wearing**, as required by DC Public Health and our campus/residential partners, will be enforced at all seminars and events;

Social Distancing Protocol:

- **Social distancing** will be enforced at all Hertog Foundation events & seminars. Classroom and meeting space has been selected which provides for adequate distancing between fellows, faculty, and staff;

- Fellows will be **housed one fellow per residential room** with kitchenette;
- All group meals and social activities will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

The Hertog Pledge:

All members of the Hertog community will be asked to sign the following Pledge prior to their arrival in Washington, DC for the Political and War Studies Programs.

I pledge to take responsibility for my own health, the protection of others and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Hertog community.

I pledge to:

- Reduce potential exposure by adopting the following behaviors at least 14 days before I arrive in Washington, DC: practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart), wash hands often or use hand sanitizer when appropriate, and wear a mask;
- Test for COVID three days prior to my departure for Washington, DC and share my results with Hertog staff;
- While in DC, wear a mask at all times as dictated by DC Public Health mandates (except when I am in my hotel room, sleeping, or eating);
- Participate in regular, mandatory program-wide COVID testing;
- Wash my hands often or use hand sanitizer, especially after sneezing or coughing or touching a high-contact object like a doorknob;
- Follow instructions and directional signs for entering buildings, classrooms, and other common areas;
- Actively participate in COVID-related instruction and stay informed of updates the Hertog Foundation communicates;
- Mitigate risks while I am not participating in Program activities by maintaining social distancing, washing my hands frequently, and wearing a mask when I am in close proximity to others;
- Refrain from travel outside Washington, DC (even day or weekend trips) and avoid places where social distancing and mask-wearing are not possible (e.g., indoor restaurants and bars; private parties);

- Monitor any symptoms of the virus throughout the summer. Symptoms may include: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, temperature greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit;
- If I experience symptoms, I will notify Hertog Foundation staff immediately and follow the recommended steps to self-isolate until I am diagnosed or given a clean bill of health;
- Be mindful that other individuals may be in a high-risk category and therefore more susceptible to COVID;
- Encourage my friends to uphold this pledge for their health and safety and that of others in our community;

I acknowledge that my individual effort and that of every other person in the Program contributes to the likelihood of the Program continuing in-person throughout the summer. I agree to do my part to promote the common good and well-being of my friends, instructors, and the Hertog community by staying true to my Pledge.

I understand that any violation of this Pledge will lead to immediate expulsion from the Program, including removal from my Program-provided residence and forfeiting of my stipend.