ABOUT THE MUHAMMAD ALI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Muhammad Ali Scholars Program, offered to full-time undergraduate University of Louisville students, is a unique 2-year experience combining leadership training, research and service in the areas of violence prevention and peace building in an urban living context. A special emphasis is placed on understanding and addressing the underlying social conditions that impact those issues through scholarship, education, and activism.

Through their work with the Muhammad Ali Institute, Ali Scholars develop expertise on a topic of their choice by participating in seminars with renowned practitioners, educators and activists. The Ali Scholars employ a practical solution-based approach to conduct research related to their “expert area.” Ali Scholars deepen their understanding about successful social justice projects and the impacts locally and globally, and gain hands-on experience in their “expert area” through service in the local community. Equipped with leadership training and organizing skills, the Ali Scholars provide service to the community by hosting on-campus events, furthering the work of the Muhammad Ali Institute and Ali Center, and designing and implementing social change projects. A key component of the Program is an international travel experience designed to explore social justice issues in a different cultural, political, social, and economic context. Program students are expected to emerge with values-based, equity-centered leadership skills so they may design, develop and implement projects impacting their home communities, and ultimately their nations and the world.

The Ali Scholars progress through the Program as a cohort, providing a sense of camaraderie and group identity, as well as a dynamic peer learning environment. In the first year, Program staff and the Affiliated Faculty work together to immerse students in the foundational concepts through coursework, training sessions, seminars and a research project. Muhammad Ali Scholars learn about community issues by meeting with local agency officials and hands-on service work in the city.

In the summer between their first and second program years, the students travel abroad for their three-week Summer International Learning Journey to learn about social justice and peace building in a different social, economic, cultural and political reality. In the first year, students will take a required 1-3 credit course for the international travel experience. Students must be available for this travel experience during May and the first week of June.

In their second year, the Ali Scholars intensify the exploration of their expert area. They combine theory and practice when they finalize plans for and implement their community-based projects.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Who We Are: The Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice advances the work, study, and practice of peace building, social justice, and violence prevention through the development of innovative educational programs, training, service, and research.

What We Do: Drawing strength from the vision and work of Muhammad Ali, the Ali Institute develops initiatives that support human dignity, foster responsible citizenship, further peace and justice, and address the impact of violence in local, state, national and international arenas. The Ali Institute has a special concern for young people living with violence in urban areas; therefore, we seek to equip the young and those working with them to be agents of peace and
justice in their communities. We strive to be an essential contributor to the cause of justice locally and around the world, through our work and energy, because the Ali Institute recognizes that peace cannot exist in the absence of justice. Whether it is school children in the inner city of Louisville, farmers in rural Central America, teachers in a European capital, or human rights workers in Africa, the Muhammad Ali Institute offers pertinent training, research, and hands-on assistance in support of their interest in creating lasting and effective strategies for peace.

**ALI SCHOLARS PROGRAM SPECIFICS**

The Muhammad Ali Scholars Program is a two-year commitment; therefore, it is only offered to full-time undergraduate students who will be able to devote four semesters to the Program. Student participants will receive a $500 scholarship each semester, for a total program scholarship of $2,000. Ali Scholars will be required to maintain a GPA of 2.7 to be admitted to and continue in the Program. Ali Scholars will participate in two courses in the Spring semester of each year. Some students may be subject to the University’s Overaward and Stacking Policies, found at [http://louisville.edu/financialaid/scholarships/overaward-stacking-policies.edu](http://louisville.edu/financialaid/scholarships/overaward-stacking-policies.edu). In these cases, the Muhammad Ali Institute may provide other permissible research support or a student may choose participate in the Program without receiving a scholarship.

The Muhammad Ali Scholars Program is an intensive experience; therefore, it requires a serious commitment of time and energy. Ali Scholars will be expected to make the Program a high priority in relation to other commitments. Muhammad Ali Scholars can expect to:

- Spend an average of 5 hours per week, including office hours, devoted to Ali Scholar’s activities
- Attend seminars and training sessions designed to provide a broad-based understanding of violence prevention and social justice issues
- Learn leadership skills in the areas of peace building, conflict resolution, community organizing and project management directed toward social justice issues
- Select an “expert area” on which to focus. Each student will develop expertise in an issue of their choice related to the peace and social justice work of the Ali Institute. This will happen through research, exposure to practitioners in that area, and hands-on service.
- In the summer between year one and year two, travel internationally to explore social justice issues in a different cultural, political, social, and economic context
- Participate in fundraising efforts to support the international travel
- Provide service to the university community as well as local, national, and/or international organizations and efforts related to peace and social justice
- Design projects related to his/her expert area
- Participate in the planning and execution of Ali Institute initiatives
- Travel nationally and/or internationally for Ali Scholars activities
- Be recognized and celebrated for their efforts

**ALI SCHOLARS APPLICATION PROCESS**

Application forms are at the end of this document and are available on the Ali Institute website [www.louisville.edu/aliinstitute](http://www.louisville.edu/aliinstitute). The deadline for applications to be received is **5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2019**.

Applications may be submitted by mail if received by the deadline, by email to Laja Hurt at laja.hurt@louisville.edu, or may be hand delivered to the Muhammad Ali Institute, Strickler Hall, Room 240, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 40292.

- **February 22, 2019**—3-4:30 PM—Interest session at the Ali Institute, Strickler Hall, Rm. 236
- **March 18, 2019**—Application deadline
- **March 25-April 5, 2019**—Finalists will be invited for interviews
- **April 15, 2019**—2019-21 Muhammad Ali Scholars will be announced

For more information, contact Laja Hurt, Program Assistant, at 502-852-6372 or laja.hurt@louisville.edu
APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name
Local Address

Phone number/Email

Class Year  Major

Minor

RECOMMENDATIONS
You are required to submit two sealed letters of recommendation. Please provide the names and contact information for the people submitting your letters of recommendation.

1. Name  Title
   Phone number/Email

2. Name  Title
   Phone number/Email

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED
Please attach a copy of:

- Your most recent unofficial transcript
- Your resume
- A list of past and present extracurricular activities, both on and off campus
- Personal Statement (see below)

Personal Statement
Why do you want to be an Ali Scholar? How do your personal values and any of your past activities/experiences prepared you for this position? Please include how your personal attributes would be an asset to the Program and what you want to learn/experience/contribute. Please do not exceed 2 pages, double-spaced.

DEADLINE
Your completed application, including recommendations, must be received by the Ali Institute no later than 5:00 pm on March 18, 2019. Applications may be submitted by mail if received by the deadline, by email to Laja Hurt at laja.hurt@louisville.edu, or may be hand delivered to the Muhammad Ali Institute, Strickler Hall, Room 240, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 40292.