MGA Named Scholarship Recipients 2021-2022

Paul Cadario Fellowship in Global Affairs

2021-2022 Recipients: Hebat Al-Junaidi (MGA2) & Stewart Cowan (MGA2)

Hebat Al-Junaidi

Heba Al-Junaidi is a second-year student in the Master of Global Affairs program at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Before joining the Munk School, Heba worked as a transportation engineer (EIT) in Calgary for four years. After graduating from the Munk School, she plans to continue building a career in engineering and strengthening her technical skills. Her goal is to combine her civil engineering background with what she learns at the Munk School and contribute to the International Development space in meaningful ways. She loves learning and feels that classrooms are her natural habitat. She is slowly but surely learning Spanish, and when not studying or volunteering, she enjoys running and rock climbing.

Stewart Cowan

Stewart Cowan is currently a second-year student in the Master of Global Affairs Program at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. Originally from Toronto, he has studied and worked in the United States for over 15 years. Stewart graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University where he studied Agricultural Economics. Subsequently, he joined JPMorgan in New York where he worked as an Investment Analyst within its Institutional Asset Management division. While at JPMorgan, he was responsible for the day-to-day trading and asset allocation management for a portfolio of corporate and pension fund clients. He later returned to Cornell for an MBA, and transitioned his professional focus from Institutional Finance to Brand Marketing. Following his MBA, Stewart joined the Marketing division of Unilever North America where he led the planning and execution of national marketing campaigns for some of Unilever’s largest global food brands. Through this experience, he gained a direct appreciation for the strategic decision-making processes of a global consumer business, and how multi-national corporations are increasingly equating the health of their businesses to the health of the environment. Stewart was later recruited into the Marketing division of Miller Brewing Company, where he progressed through various leadership roles in the United States, and ultimately returned back to Canada as the company’s VP of Marketing. During his time with Miller, Stewart helped to manage the development and restructuring of its Canadian business operations, and led the successful launch of new brands into the market such as Miller Lite, Peroni, and Grolsch. In 2020, Stewart decided to return to the classroom, and refocus his future efforts on issues of Global Development and Security. Stewart resides in Toronto, and can be found camping, kayaking, fishing, biking, and spending time with his family.
The Power Corporation of Canada MGA Scholarship

2021-2022 Recipients: Alexander Meile (MGA2) & Connor Oke (MGA2)

Connor Oke

Connor Oke is a Master of Global Affairs candidate at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. In year two of this program, he plans to pursue a concentration in global security. Connor also obtained a Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University in 2019. Previously, his professional experiences have included periods as a communications advisor at Farm Radio International, an editorial assistant at the Cable Public Affairs Channel, a content development specialist at Ontario Parks, and an associate editor at Global Conversations. Through summer 2021, he is working with the think tank Arctic360 to produce a podcast on Arctic policy issues. After graduation, Connor plans to leverage his skills to work as a policy advisor at Global Affairs Canada.

Alexander Meile

Alexander is an international MGA student at the Munk School. Originally born in Switzerland, Alexander spent a large part of his childhood growing up in places such as Beijing, China and Barcelona, Spain. After completing his undergraduate degree in International Relations at the University of Toronto in 2018, Alexander began working in Germany. After gaining exposure in the insurance, finance/audit, and AI sectors, he returned to Toronto for his masters at Munk in the fall of 2020. Post-graduation, Alexander plans to remain in Canada and build a career here in the finance or healthcare sector. Given his multicultural background and upbringing, he intends to one day again embark on foreign work-related adventure in a foreign country.
David Goldberg Fellowship

2021-2022 Recipient: Yazen Abed (MGA2)

Yazen Abed

Yazen Abed is a second-year student in the Master of Global Affairs (MGA) program at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with an Honours Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) in Conflict Studies and Human Rights in 2014. As an undergraduate student, he was involved in many cultural and political student organizations while completing an internship at Amnesty International. Upon graduating, he would go on to work for the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) in New York City where he was the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program Associate. He would later go on to work at a diplomatic mission in Washington D.C as the Government and Congressional Affairs Intern. During his first year of his MGA program, he worked full-time for DNAstack, a biomedical genomic research software company. His MGA internship was at Global Affairs Canada as a Junior Analyst on the Israel, West Bank and Gaza desk. Yazen hopes to continue working on making a positive impact on foreign policy and global issues moving forward in his career.

Richard and Wanda O’Hagan Scholarship

2021-2022 Recipient: Anton Meier (MGA2)

Anton Meier

Anton Meier is a Master of Global Affairs (MGA) student at the Munk School. Prior to entering the program, he completed an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, also at UofT. Throughout his time in undergrad, Anton was also involved with Engineers Without Borders Canada, volunteering as a public speaker for their Water For The World initiative. He was also part of a fourth-year capstone design team that worked to develop a water purification system for a rural community in Guatemala. This past year, Anton volunteered as a mentor with the Global Ideas Institute, an organization working to provide high school students with research and learning skills. He also served as an Outreach Director for the MGA Career Week, and lead the club as a co-chair for Career Week 2021. This summer, Anton is working as a Management Consultant with KPMG in Toronto.
Dr. James Orbinski Fellowship in Global Affairs

2021-2022 Recipient: Alexandrea Johnston (MGA2)

Alexandrea Johnston

Alexandrea (Alex) Johnston is a second-year student in the Master of Global Affairs Program at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She is specializing in innovation policy and capital markets and has a specific interest in health innovation policy. At Munk, Alex has been heavily involved in extracurricular activities, including placing first in both the Policy at Munk Case Competition and the National Annual Public Administration Case Competition. Prior to Munk, she graduated with distinction from McMaster University with her Honours Bachelor of Science where she majored in psychology, neuroscience, and behaviour and minored in sustainability. Alex is a published academic researcher and has over two years of combined professional experience in the private and non-profit sectors. Alex’s interests have always been diverse and interdisciplinary; she has spent summers working in finance, law, and commercial insurance, and prior to beginning her MGA, Alex was elected as the first female Vice-President Finance & CFO for the McMaster Students Union. It was in this position where she became passionate about global affairs and decided to pursue her MGA degree. Alex is passionate about problem-solving and enjoys being challenged to think creatively to solve complex problems. This passion has led her to pursue a career in Management Consulting where she hopes to advise on healthcare solutions for both local and global communities. She is currently competing her internship at KPMG working as a Consultant.

The Dr. Connie Carter Global Affairs Award

2021-2022 Recipient: Sohailia Saywack (MGA2)

Sohailia Saywack

Sohailia Saywack is a Guyanese-born, Barbadian- and Canadian-raised Master of Global Affairs candidate entering her second year at the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. Her focus is on improving social wellbeing. Prior to Munk, Sohailia completed a Master of Arts in Sociology at the Western University where she developed statistical models to examine associations between social, economic, and political inequalities and electoral corruption in 36 democracies. Sohailia also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Ryerson University.
Over the past year Sohailia has been working at Openly, an Ontario-based social impact strategy and consulting firm based, where she is involved in multi-sectoral service delivery reviews and program evaluations, and facilitates the development of theories of change and strategic plans for a wide range of organizations (including local non-profits, national agencies, and INGOs). She also worked as an International Development Intern at WACC Global, coordinating the INGO’s flagship Global Media Monitoring Project, the largest longitudinal study on gender inequality in the media, with over 120 participating nations. Sohailia has recently joined the Munk School’s Global Ideas Institute 2021-22 program team as the Research Coordinator.

The Rotman Family MGA/MBA Scholarship in Memory of Peter Munk

2021-2022 Recipient: Connor Fraser (MGA/MBA Combined Degree)

Connor Fraser

Connor is a Master of Global Affairs and Master of Business Administration Candidate at the University of Toronto. He holds an undergraduate degree in Engineering Science, also from U of T, with a major in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Previously Connor has worked as a research assistant in the Electromagnetics Group at U of T and as a member of the technology development team at Microchip Corporation- FPGA division. His overarching career goal is to help Canada successfully navigate the challenges of transitioning towards a just and inclusive low-energy economy. In addition to energy efficiency, Connor is passionate about Canada’s outer space policy & economy, and the impacts of countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) measures on global development. At the Munk School, Connor volunteered as a Junior Producer for Beyond the Headlines Radio Show & Podcast, where he plans to continue as a senior producer this year. Currently, he works with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada on the Space Policy and Regulatory Teams. In his free time, Connor enjoys designing and throwing boomerangs, working on fun engineering side-projects, and playing tennis.
Black Diaspora Excellence Scholarship

2021-2022 Recipient: Marie Reine Mukazayire (MGA1)

Marie-Reine Mukazayire

Marie-Reine (Marie) Mukazayire is a first year Masters of Global Affairs student at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. As a Rwandan student, she hopes to use the Munk school to start important conversations about new forms of financial and economic decolonization in the Global South.

Marie just graduated with distinction from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor in International Relations and Development. There, her work and research focused on bringing to light the many systemic issues that affect the Global South, more specifically Africa and its diaspora. Marie is passionate about learning about the various power (im)balances that govern global affairs and how they intersect with race, gender, sexuality, and many other systemic constructs. Ultimately, she hopes to leverage her international experience to critically engage with the global non-profit sector.