Leadership is a scarce but critical global resource. Warfare, refugee crises, economic inequality, epidemics, and climate change are some of the many pressing issues that have impacts both within and across national borders. They cannot be solved without effective policymaking on all fronts – particularly, in the developing world. Effective policymaking, in turn, requires strong policy-facing research institutions that can advise governments and contribute to global policy agendas. However, most relevant institutions are located in North America and Europe, largely inaccessible to potential leaders in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and South America.

To address this gap, in 2008 Oxford University’s University College and Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs created The Global Leaders Fellowship Programme, under the initial leadership of Professor Ngaire Woods of Oxford and Professor Robert O. Keohane of Princeton. Over the course of the program, leadership transitioned to Emily Jones and Thomas Hale at Oxford and G. John Ikenberry at Princeton. The programme has been supported by Pat Trinity at Princeton, and Reija Fanous and Emma Burnett at Oxford.

“The GLF experience is one of the most unforgettable parts in my life.”

* Quotes throughout are from the 2015 GLF survey
The programme has sought to improve the quality of global governance by:

- recruiting the best early career academics in countries outside of the OECD who work on the politics of major global problems to spend a year at Oxford and Princeton;
- equipping Fellows with the research experience they need to become world-leading scholars and with the leadership skills they need to make a decisive impact on policymaking in their home countries and beyond;
- linking Fellows into a global network with each other and with peers in OECD countries;
- giving Fellows the skills to help build strong policy-facing research institutions in their home countries that improve the quality of policy.

Since 2008, the Oxford–Princeton Global Leaders Fellowship Programme has brought 34 exceptional postdoctoral scholars from 19 developing and emerging economies to advance their research at two of the world’s leading research universities. This was made possible by a visionary gift from two benefactors, and faculty committed to the programme at Oxford and Princeton.

During their time with the programme, most Fellows spent one year in Oxford and a second in Princeton. This arrangement allowed Fellows to become part of the community on both sides of the Atlantic, enmeshing them in global scholarly networks.

“Superb structure and great experience in two world-class universities – it simply can’t get any better!”

**HIGHLIGHTED IMPACTS**

**THINK TANKS**

**Arunabha Ghosh** (2008–10) founded the Council on Energy, Environment and Water in India, which produces policy-relevant research on pressing energy and environmental challenges. CEEW has been rated as India’s top climate change think-tank and in the 2016 ‘Global Go To Think Tank Index’ rankings.

**Ousseni Illy** (2010–12) created the African Centre for International Trade and Development, a think-tank based in Burkina Faso. Its mission is to contribute to African development by promoting intra-African trade and expanding Africa’s share of world trade.

**POLICY**

**George Gray Molina** (2008–10) is the Chief Economist for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Development Program, where he works on poverty and inequality.

**Leany Lemos** (2010–12) until recently the Chief of Staff of the Socialist Party Caucus in Brazil’s Federal Senate and is currently running as a pre-candidate for the Brazilian Senate.

**ACADEMIA**

A number of GLFs have taken up academic posts in their home countries where they are bringing the global experience they gained from the GLF Programme to local curricula.

**Dr Tu Anh Vu Thanh** (2012–14) is the Dean at the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, which is particularly important in a country long relatively isolated from global scholarship.

**Dr Qu Bo** (2008–10) is Dean at the Institute of International Relations, China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, helping to train future members of China’s Foreign Service.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Global Leaders Fellows now form a cohort over 30-strong, working to strengthen responses to global challenges in their home countries and around the world. As they rise in their careers, the GLFs continue to look to each other, as well as to the scholarly communities in Oxford and Princeton, for support and inspiration. The value the GLFs place on continued engagement with colleagues, as well as with the GLF faculty, was clearly evident in the high level of participation in the Final Colloquium in June 2018, in which 25 GLFs from 16 countries attended.

Sub-groups of GLFs continue to meet up and support each other, including through exchange visits to each other’s universities, and collaborative research projects. For instance, GLFs and faculty meet in the fringes of the annual International Studies Association (ISA) Conference, the leading international studies conference in the United States. At the ISA in 2018, Peace Medie, Fuzuo Wu, Maria Gwynn, Folashádé Soulé-Kohndou, and Thomas Hale all presented their work.

A number of GLFs have been involved in GEG’s flagship project, and a forthcoming book, on the politics of banking regulation in developing countries, led by Emily Jones. Ousseni Illy, Natalya Naqvi, Seydou Ouedraogo, and Tu-Anh Vu-Thanh have all contributed to the research.

Nematullah Bizhan returned to Oxford after his Fellowship to work with the Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development, chaired by former Prime Minister David Cameron.

Pichamon Yeophantong, Ji Yong Jin, and Bo Qu are developing research collaborations and student exchanges between the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia and Shanghai International Studies University, and UNSW and the China Foreign Affairs University.

FACTS & FIGURES OVER 10 YEARS

- Annual application numbers range between 85 – 120
- The main goal of GLFs when applying for the Fellowship was to strengthen/refine research methods or build/strengthen international networks (13 of 18; GLFs survey in 2015).

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<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<td>20</td>
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20 Male 59%

14 Female 41%

19 Countries

8 24%

16 Asia 47%

10 Africa 29%

8 Latin / South America & Caribbean

11

"[The fellowship] … offered me the best environment for professional development."

THE OXFORD–PRINCETON GLOBAL LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME