**The GRF Young Academics Program is tailored for young academics who are currently pursuing their PhDs or have completed their degrees within the last three years.**

**Applications for the 2021 term are now open. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2021.**

Global Relations Forum launched the Young Academics Program to engage with academics who are willing to contribute to national and international policy discussions drawing on their strong academic and theoretical backgrounds. Through this ever-expanding network of promising young academics, GRF hopes to contribute to bridging the divide between policy circles and academia.

An overarching aim of all GRF community programs is to advance a culture of intellectual diversity, constructive debate and analytic coherence. The Young Academics Program has an additional objective as it is uniquely designed to culminate in the preparation of a policy or an analysis paper authored by each participant. These papers are then published as part of the “Policy Paper Series” or the “Analysis Paper Series.” While both series are concerned with thoroughly analyzing a topic of interest related to global systemic issues, the former additionally proposes policy recommendations.

Participants of the Young Academics Program are required to attend two meetings organized in Istanbul. Travel and accommodation costs related to their participation are covered by the Global Relations Forum.

The first meeting brings together all participants, and enables them to clarify and improve their research topics based on the feedback they receive from their peers. At this stage, the participants are expected to deliver a presentation on their topic of choice. A discussion will follow each presentation.

The second meeting is organized separately for each participant. At this stage, the expertise of GRF members comes into play more explicitly as GRF puts together a different commission for each participant. The commissions are made up of a select group of at least three GRF members with knowledge and expertise in the young academic’s topic of choice. The participants present the first drafts of their papers to these commissions and receive detailed feedback. (At this stage, we offer two options: travel and accommodation costs of the participants who want to physically hold the meeting in Istanbul are covered; those who choose to hold the meeting online will receive an honorarium when they successfully complete the program.)

In the weeks following the second meeting, the participants are expected to build upon this feedback to bring their papers to their final form. Those papers that are approved by at least three commission members are published under the Young Academics Program Publications.

Please [click](http://www.gif.org.tr/publications)to read papers published under the GRF Young Academics Program Publications.

# **Who can join the program?**

GRF welcomes any topic that could contribute to its meticulous and constructive manner of thinking about global issues. Hence, the Young Academics Program is open to academics from all areas of study.

All participants must be proficient in English, as the program is carried out in this language.

Mastery of one’s research area is instrumental in benefiting from the Young Academics Program to the highest extent and to author papers that meet the desired standard. Therefore, applicants who are at least halfway through their PhDs have a better chance at being selected. Those applicants who have already completed their degrees must have done so no earlier than in 2017.

**Application Details**

• The deadline for applications is **January 15, 2021.**

• Application documents should be submitted to [yacapplication@gif.org.tr](mailto:yacapplication@gif.org.tr). Documents required for applying to the GRF Young Academics Program are listed below:

    o CV   
    o Cover letter summarizing the candidate’s topic of choice and its significance from a global perspective. The cover letter must be presented in English.

    o Application Form

• Candidates whose applications are rejected are welcome to apply in the coming years.

• The dates of the meetings in Istanbul will be designated in line with the availability of the program’s participants.