Call for Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellows 2021-22

The Balfour Project intends to appoint up to twenty Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellows for the academic year 2021-22. If you are a post-graduate or final year undergraduate student with an interest in the the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, you are welcome to apply.

The selected fellows will be paid a bursary of £700 payable in two tranches at the midpoint and end of the academic year.

What will be expected of you as a Peace Advocacy Fellow?

As a fellow, you will be given the opportunity to make a tangible contribution to the work of the Balfour Project by campaigning for peace on the basis of the BP approach (see 6 below) within your academic institution and more generally. The kind of activities envisaged are set out in 3 below, but some flexibility may be required depending on the progress of the Coronavirus pandemic. We are looking for innovative and creative thinkers who have good organisational skills. You will be given the opportunity to develop your own particular interests in the Israel/Palestine conflict, potentially with other fellows, while furthering the aims of the Balfour Project.

Activities in which the fellows will be expected to participate

You will be expected to take part in campus events organised by groups on both sides of the “Israel/Palestine” debate, ideally as a speaker, and to organise your own event - working with other peace advocacy fellows - to promote a just resolution of the conflict based on the Balfour Project approach. This will include calling for Britain to acknowledge its historical responsibility in Palestine and to take leadership today in promoting peace based on the rights of the parties in international law. You will work closely with, and will always be subject to supervision by, the Balfour Project team who administer the fellowship scheme. Creative initiatives to promote awareness on British historic responsibility and/or the situation today will be welcome.

Training for the Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellows

The Peace Advocacy Fellows will be provided with teaching materials and reading recommendations on the Israel/Palestine issue and Britain’s historic responsibility for this dispute and will attend a number of sessions and workshops. Most of these will be held online, but when possible we shall try to meet in person. The training will include topics, such as:

- The creation and termination of the Palestine Mandate in international law.
- How does the British government make decisions on Middle-East issues?
- What can we learn from other conflicts, e.g. Northern Ireland?

And topics, such as:

- Writing skills.
- Public speaking and persuasion skills.
- Event planning.

This year’s programme booklet, including workshops and speakers’ bios can be found here.

Timeline for appointment and training of the Peace Advocacy Fellows

We are open for applications between 1 September and 5pm of Friday, 29 October. Interviews will take place in the beginning of November and the fellows will be appointed shortly after.

The training workshops will take place throughout the academic year. Their timings will be fixed in coordination with the fellows.

The aims and objectives of the Balfour Project

The following are the aims and objectives of the Balfour Project:

The Balfour Project hopes to achieve a much greater public awareness of Britain’s current and historic responsibilities in the Middle East, and in particular its role there in the first half of the twentieth century.

The Balfour Project accordingly invites the government and people of the United Kingdom

- to learn what the Balfour Declaration and Palestine mean for both Arabs and Jews,
- to acknowledge that while a homeland for the Jewish people has been achieved, the promise to protect the rights of the Palestinian people has not been fulfilled,
- and to urge effective action to promote justice, security and peace for Israelis and Palestinians.