The United Nations Association of New York Summer Scholars Fellowships is a pilot program established by UNA-NY for the purpose of enabling students in graduate degree programs to experience work abroad with the United Nations or its agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. The mission of the Scholars program is to foster direct knowledge and understanding of the United Nations and international organizations.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Applicants must be enrolled in a university as full-time graduate students
- Submission of CV as well as Statement of Purpose letter
- Three letters of recommendation

AWARD CONDITIONS

- The Summer Scholars fellowship provides a stipend to cover all travel and living expenses.
- The award recipients are expected to participate in a UNA-NY program related to their fellowship experience, during the fall of 2015.
- The recipients are expected to keep a blog of their summer experience and, at the end of their involvement, submit a letter documenting the results of the research project.

HOUSING AND BUDGET

Costs associated with participation in the program will be assumed by UNA-NY, which will provide the required financial assistance to the student for the duration of the internship. The grant will cover round-trip airfare to and from the selected country, as well as housing and food. Housing will be available in small hotels or apartments selected by the host UN office or NGO office.

The award recipients are responsible for ensuring that all passports and necessary visas are in order, as well as providing necessary immunization and vaccination certificates. Proof of medical and evacuation insurance must also be submitted prior to departure.

APPLICATIONS

For more information on the Paraguay Summer Scholars fellowship, as well as submission requirements and applicant qualifications, please see the following pages.
This Summer Scholars Program in Paraguay is one of two yearly fellowships awarded by The United Nations Association of New York (UNA-NY). The three-month summer fellowship, in collaboration with Plan International, is focused on Institutional Positioning and Communications, a part of Plan outreach to assist improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries.

BACKGROUND

Plan International is a development organization operating in 51 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas, working to promote and protect the rights of children. Founded over 75 years ago, it is one of the oldest and largest children’s development organizations in the world, and its work is linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Plan assists many children, especially those who are excluded or marginalized, through high quality programs that provide long-lasting benefits by increasing family incomes, through working in partnership and operating effectively. It is also independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

Paraguay is a developing country in South America where 35% of the population lives in poverty and 19% is in extreme poverty. There is significant income inequality: 90% of the population receives 59% of the total income, while the richest 10% receive 41%. Poverty affects especially children: in 2010, 45% of children lived in poverty and 27% in extreme poverty (Permanent Household Census 2010: Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses, DGEEC).

Plan currently works with more than 25,000 sponsored children in Paraguay, while also benefiting around 150,000 people in nearly 500 communities in Paraguari, Caaguazú, San Pedro and Guaira.

POSITION

Under the supervision of the Institutional Positioning and Communications Manager, the intern will provide support to Plan’s Paraguay unit Institutional Positioning and Communications Department, in particular the Communications and PR Specialist, to improve communications within and outside the organization.

Some of the concerns involved: fixed assets (such as equipment and furniture), the annual expense budget of the unit, as well as confidential information about special cases related to sponsored children.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The general duties of the intern will include support, analysis and development of strategies to address the communication and informational needs of Paraguay Plan’s internal departments, with recommendations for change and construction of new tools. S/he will help develop communication strategies within communities where Plan works, in order to assess the level, quality and effectiveness of existing communications in impact areas.

The intern will also help create an effective methodology for organizing images taken in communities and at events, and for updating the current image bank with the most relevant pictures for usage. Information will also be collected from the most relevant projects, with life
stories produced from related materials, and disseminated through social networks and Plan’s “Media Bank.” There will also be an updating and segmentation of the database of media, journalists and opinion leaders, to facilitate communication in emergencies.

LOCATION
The internship program is based in Plan International’s unit office in Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, with field visits to communities in local areas.

COMMITMENT
Full-time, with a duration of 3 months (or 12 weeks) during the summer of 2015.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
Applicants must be enrolled in a university as full time graduate student, with demonstrated skills and experience in communications, journalism or related fields. Fluency in Spanish and English is a must, as well as a basic knowledge of photography, and a general proficiency in using computers. Also relevant is any experience in copywriting, managing institutional communication of development organizations, and any experience in conducting interviews.

Specific job skills include planning and organizational skills, research and editing abilities, and a capacity for analysis and synthesis. There should be an ability to work in multidisciplinary and intercultural teams, and strong interpersonal skills. Applicants should also be able to drive a car or truck, with a willingness to travel within and outside Asunción.

Among interpersonal requirements, an empathy with gender equality, social sensitivity, and an interest and commitment to children are all important, as is any relevant experience with programs involving interaction with children.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS
The intern will not receive a salary or wage. Rather, the travel costs from New York to/from Asunción, as well as living expenses during the internship, will be assumed by the United Nations Association of New York. In addition, applicants must have medical and evacuation insurance for the duration of the internship, as well as all necessary visas, vaccines, immunizations, the proof of which will need to be submitted before the internship begins.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
If interested, please send the following: a CV or resumé, as well as a personal letter of interest, along with three recommendations (see below) — to the attention of Ann Nicol at: info@unanyc.org.

- **Personal Statement / Letter of Interest**
  This is designed to give UNA-NY selection committee a picture of you, your individual talents, concerns and commitments. It is your opportunity to tell us about the trajectory you have followed and your plans for the future, how your background has influenced your development, and how that relates to working for an international organization or the UN. It may include personal history, family background, intellectual development, college experience, your professional goals and aspirations, previous foreign experience if any, and your reasons for seeking this summer internship.

  This should be one-page in length, single-spaced and not to exceed 500 words, using a one-inch margin, and 12-point Times New Roman font style.

- **Recommendations**
  You must submit three reference letters of recommendation as part of the application. At least one of the letters should be from a faculty member, though the others may come from an off-campus source who knows you and can speak of your abilities, or discuss your intellectual and professional preparation, and your ability to represent UNA-NY abroad. The letter should not simply be a character reference, and no peer recommendations are permitted; it should address the nominee’s personal qualities and academic abilities, as well as the suitability of working abroad. You should discuss with the reference writer your own Personal Statement before requesting the letter.

LINKS
UNA-NY  www.unanyc.org
PLAN  www.plan-international.org