

2021-2022 Annual Report

Community



**Knight-Hennessy Scholars
Stanford University**

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Inspiring Leaders

Knight-Hennessy Scholars cultivates and supports a multidisciplinary and multicultural community of graduate students from across Stanford University, and delivers engaging experiences that prepare graduates to be visionary, courageous, and collaborative leaders who address complex challenges facing the world.

Scholars participate in up to three years of programming that complements their graduate studies and prepares them to take on leadership roles in academia, industry, government, nonprofits, and the community at large. While they develop deep domain expertise in their Stanford graduate program, they build on this domain expertise through exposure to a wide range of disciplines and cultures within the KHS community.

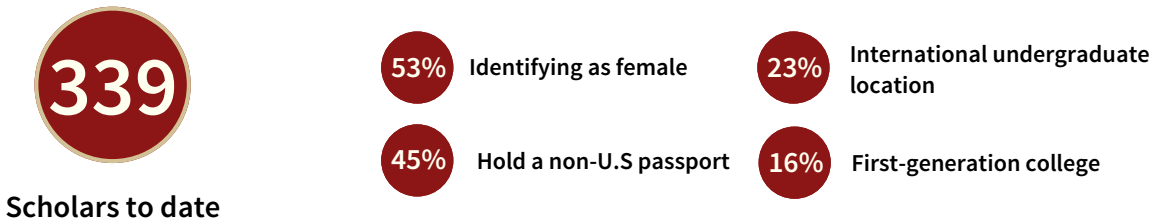


2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

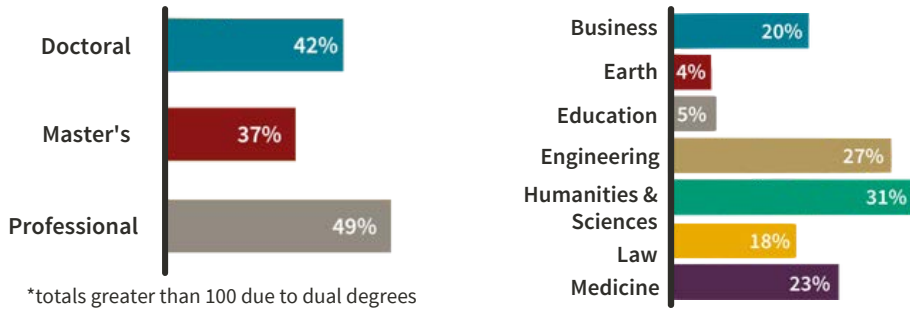
Admission

We admitted our fifth cohort this spring - an exciting milestone for KHS! The 2022 cohort of 70 new scholars includes students from 27 countries pursuing degrees in 35 different graduate degree programs across all seven of Stanford's graduate schools. With the addition of the 2022 cohort, we now have 339 scholars representing 62 countries and 85 degree programs at Stanford.

All Scholars: 2018-2022 Cohorts



85 Stanford degree programs



2022 Scholars



27 Countries of citizenship

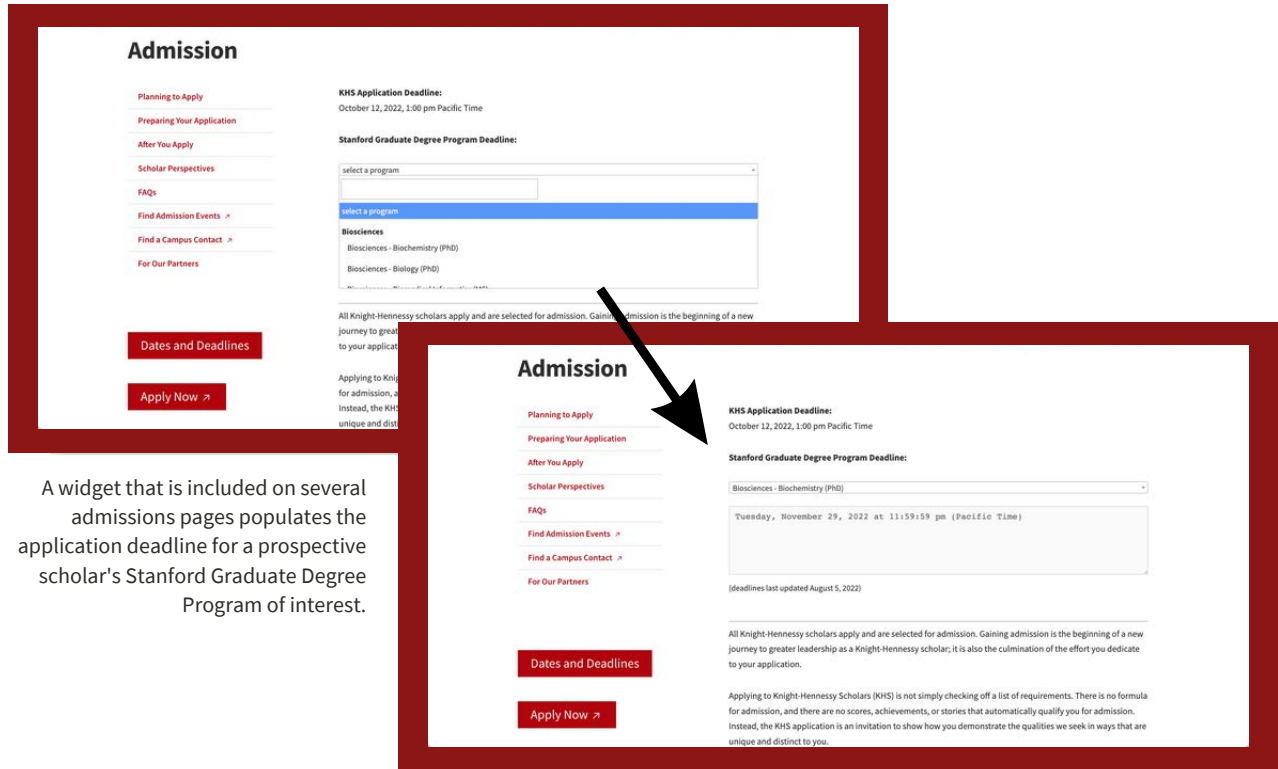
* indicates new in 2022



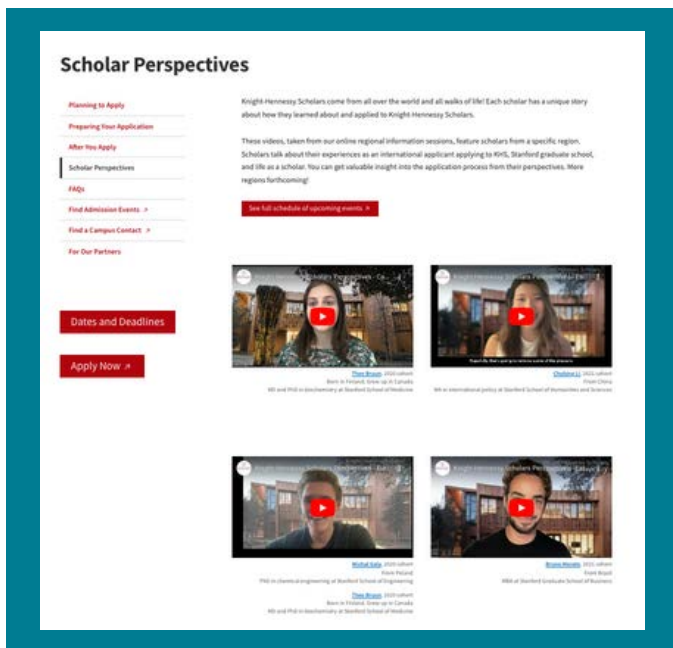
Among U.S. citizens/residents
 63% identifying as a person of color
 13% U.S. military

Admission

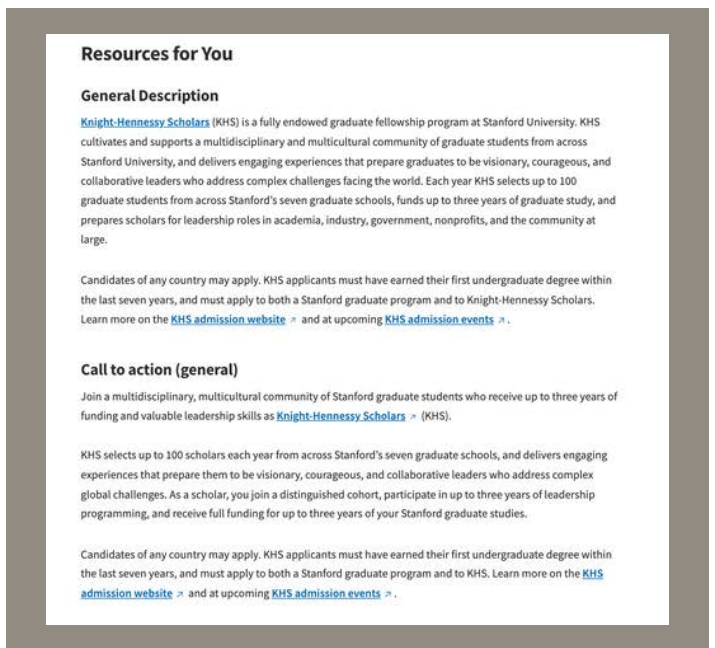
To enhance our outreach efforts, we redesigned our website, which includes expanded information and resources for prospective scholars and partners.



A widget that is included on several admissions pages populates the application deadline for a prospective scholar's Stanford Graduate Degree Program of interest.



The Scholar Perspectives page features testimony from several international scholars on their Knight-Hennessy journey.



The For Our Partners page promotes helpful resources and updated program language.

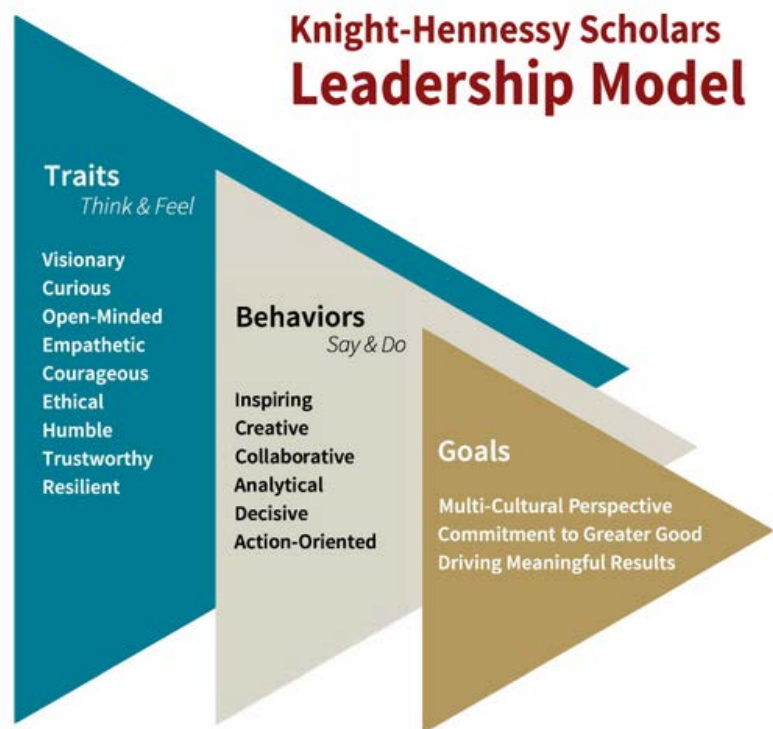
King Global Leadership Program



Scholars participate in the King Global Leadership Program (KGLP), which includes workshops, lectures, projects, and experiences that strengthen leadership capabilities. Through KGLP, scholars collaborate and prepare to address important challenges and opportunities facing the world, such as climate change, healthcare, government and policy, and education. They participate in core and elective programs, as well as scholar-led events.



Our leadership model shapes KGLP programming as we aim to provide meaningful experiences to scholars. KHS continues to develop emerging leaders who have a strong multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective, a commitment to the greater good, and the tools needed to drive meaningful change.



King Global Leadership Program

Throughout the year, scholars form teams to work on “**KHeystone Projects**” to collaborate on projects across disciplines. These projects range from increasing foreign language fluency and training public school system leaders, to supporting aspiring African scholars and researching the importance of achieving carbon neutrality.



DreamxAmerica, created and led by Andrew Hanna, joins storytelling and economic impact to highlight and support immigrant, refugee, and first-generation entrepreneurs across America. The DreamxAmerica documentary is now streaming on PBS, made free for all in collaboration with PBS Chicago/WTTW. DreamxAmerica partners with Kiva U.S. to lead the DxA-Kiva Special Initiative, distributing highly accessible, zero-interest and zero-fee loans to small businesses across the U.S. In 2021, DreamxAmerica was honored on Fast Company's World Changing Ideas list.



[Website](#)
[Documentary on PBS](#)
[Feature in Forbes](#)

Elective programming includes weekly “**Curiosity Corners**” which feature Stanford faculty and expert guests who discuss topics aligned to quarterly themes, ranging from science and technology to arts and music. Guests present case studies to scholars, who have the opportunity to think through ideas and solutions, and then discuss these with the broader group.

McMurtry Leadership Lectures and keynote talks feature leaders in their field and, this year, brought two Nobel laureates, Frances Arnold and Malala, to KHS, as well as renowned social scientist Raj Chetty and architect Jeanne Gang. These inspiring individuals give scholars an opportunity to learn more about specific fields of study or work, including genetic engineering, social activism, economic empowerment, and design for a greener planet.



King Global Leadership Program



Community and Connection

After a year apart due to the global COVID pandemic, a significant focus of our programming has been rebuilding community and increasing opportunities for connection. We brought all scholars together for a **fall retreat at Asilomar in Monterey**, where they had the opportunity to meet and learn from Michael Tubbs (Stanford 2012), former mayor of Stockton, to discuss leadership lessons with John Hennessy and Tina Seelig, and to build important connections after so much time away.



During spring quarter, we again brought the scholar community together for a **retreat at Stanford Sierra Camp**, where scholars led discussions on topics most important to them and enjoyed dedicated time together, to further strengthen bonds within the community.

We re-introduced **Global Travel Study Trips**, which take groups of scholars to destinations around the world with Stanford faculty leaders who facilitate on-the-ground learning about local and global issues through formal talks and informal meetings with regional experts. This year, scholars visited Berlin, Costa Rica, Istanbul, and Norway.

Looking Ahead

We said goodbye to our largest class of scholars to date, who completed their degree programs or their three years with KHS in the spring of 2022. We look forward to continuing to engage with these alumni as mentors and speakers in the program, and leaders in the community.



Scholars

Scholar Highlights

In their own words, Knight-Hennessy scholars reflect on their experiences with the program:



Scholar Close up: **Sarah Baran**, 2020 cohort
MA International Policy '22



Growing up in a 7,000 person town in Ohio, I had never heard of Stanford. I could never have imagined that I would complete a fully-funded masters at the university. I am the first person from my immediate family to earn a post-graduate degree, and I am the first person from my hometown to attend Stanford. I am filled with gratitude at this opportunity and to be part of the Knight-Hennessy Community.

What are you passionate about and why? What global challenges are you interested in working to solve?

Before Stanford, I was a humanitarian aid worker for six years. Responding to crises in Kenya, Somalia, and Bangladesh, I learned first-hand the aid industry's possibilities and shortcomings—as well as my own. I managed budgets of \$50 million and teams of over 200 people to respond to the threat of famine, droughts, flooding, conflict, cholera outbreaks, and the displacement of millions of people. Working on the frontlines amid these crises, I've seen how policy has the potential to unlock—or prevent—systemic change.

How will you use your education from Stanford and KHS to impact the world?

I am dedicating my career to reforming the humanitarian sector to improve the efficacy of aid. Having just completed my master's in International Policy from Stanford, I will now be working for the largest global aid donor—the US government Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance—as a Humanitarian Policy and Programs Advisor.

How has KHS helped you?

I am incredibly blessed to have found a career that I believe in to the point that I have risked my life for the work, and I am dedicating my future labor to it. Unfortunately, I made less than \$30k annually, and I knew it would not make sense financially to return for a masters unless it was funded. Without KHS, I would not have even considered Stanford.

Being part of the KHS community means I stand in awe, inspired by the brilliance, character, and compassion of my closest friends. Over the last two years, I have been enveloped in a community that loves me deeply and has poured into my personal and professional growth. I've been asked really hard questions, learned a tremendous amount from my peers, and am pushed daily to be a better person. I am motivated by so many of my peers working towards the same goal of greater justice, access, and opportunity for those who are marginalized.

The elements of the program I took the most away from were those that challenged the way I thought, helped me refine skills, and build community.

Scholars



Scholar Close up: Daniel Gajardo, 2020 cohort
MSc Environment & Resources (E-IPER) '23; MA International Policy '22

What are you passionate about and why? What global challenges are you interested in working to solve? How and why?

I am passionate about healing our relationship with nature. After taking a stab at issues of climate change and environmental degradation from the perspectives of engineering, NGOs and the private sector, I have become increasingly convinced that the roots of the issue lie deeper into the objectives we pursue as a species, even our spirituality. Because of this, I have spent my time at Stanford exposing myself to environmental issues from lenses of social science, class, justice, politics and law. For now, I am looking at ways I can engage in environmental politics and policy-making.

How has KHS helped you?

KHS has helped me in my personal and professional journey. It has been where I have met some of the most inspiring people in my life. This includes staff, scholars and speakers who we've had the privilege of having at Denning House. The diversity of life stories and how each one navigates their own positionality while trying to make a contribution to wicked problems, has been extremely energizing, and given me a unique support network to reach out to when the next steps get blurry. Second, it has been a space to have uncomfortable conversations and engage in respectful disagreement, which have become key skills as I go about my graduate school experience.

What is one highlight of your experience in the King Global Leadership Program?

One of the highlights was facilitating a conversation between students and John Doerr, who had been recently announced as the main donor for Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability. I had initiated the event months before, with the intention of inviting him to discuss his new climate book, *Speed & Scale*. However, with the donation announcement the event took an unexpected turn, and we had the chance to have a very engaging conversation about the new school's priorities and funding sources. Talking with John about it gave us a glimpse into the complexities of the project and inspired us to keep advocating for what we believe in.

Scholar Achievements



Eli Cahan, 2019 cohort, Health Policy MS, led a two-year investigation into pregnant women facing violence along the U.S. - Mexico border, resulting in a [podcast](#) and [article](#), published in Capital and Main.

Scholars



Scholar Close up: Yesenia Ayala, 2021 cohort

MA Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies '22; MA Public Policy Candidate '23

What made you decide to attend Stanford and join KHS?

When I decided to apply to graduate school, I knew I wanted to be at a place where I could grow, learn, and most importantly be surrounded by people who care about our country and world. I wanted to be at a place that challenged and supported me as I think about how we as society can address social injustices. I wanted to be at a place where I could continue to pave that path that those before us already started and moved forward. I perfectly remember reading both about the Stanford Graduate School of Education and KHS, and telling myself, "I want to be part of these communities of leaders who care and want to think and act on issues our society faces." The more I engaged and spoke to students, faculty, and members of these communities, the clearer my decision became - those interactions reinforced the type of conversations and community I was hoping to find.



What are you passionate about and why? What global challenges are you interested in working to solve?

I am passionate about education access particularly for those who have historically been marginalized in our society. As a first-generation college graduate, access to higher education completely changed my life and my family's as well. It introduced me to an unknown world filled with opportunities. Through that same access, I learned about the systemic issues that limit opportunities for communities. I learned about the role of public policy and systems in shaping those experiences. I am interested in ensuring students access the quality education they deserve, and that policy reflects their experiences. I'm interested in working across research, practice, and policy as we look at these issues and find pathways to ensuring all students and their families access the quality they deserve.

What does the KHS Fellowship mean to you?

The KHS Fellowship represents three words for me: community, support, and access. With community, I've been able to be part of a group of individuals who are smart and curious. My peers challenge my thinking and simultaneously serve as thought partners as I have engaged in meaningful conversations about policy, our society, and our world in general. They have also served as a community through their support. When I think of support, I think about the support I've received during both the positive and challenging moments of graduate school. The KHS community has been extremely supportive and shows up when I've most needed it. Lastly, access is important to me. I would not be at Stanford if it wasn't for our fellowship. As a first generation college graduate and someone who hopes to continue her career in public service, financial access is extremely important. In addition, the access to academic enrichment funds and leadership opportunities has allowed me to continue growing and access meaningful opportunities.

Scholars



Scholar Close up: Misha Baitemirova, 2020 cohort
MS Biomedical Informatics '22, MBA Business '23

My first year at Stanford was virtual as I started in the fall of 2020. All of the classes were online, and every interaction was through our laptop screens and Zoom. I, my professors, and my classmates struggled, and it was difficult for us to connect and build a community without in-person interactions. During that time, KHS gave me a sense of belonging and helped me believe the fact that I have finally made it to Stanford. The community of scholars and the KHS team provided me with the stability I needed in uncertain times and helped me stay motivated and centered. We had micro community nights that were packed with fun and wit, and we had inspiring talks and follow-up conversations. The energy I got from my KHS interactions carried me through the online year and I am extremely grateful to be a part of this community.

Knight-Hennessy scholars continue to use their voices to raise awareness and address important challenges facing the world.

Here are some accolades, awards, publications, and accomplishments of Knight-Hennessy Scholars:

Scholar Achievements



Mohamed Hussein, 2018 cohort, Marketing PhD candidate, spent fall semester teaching a behavioral economics course at Middlebury College.



Anela Arifi, 2020 cohort, Environment and Resources PhD candidate, gave a talk on [the Power of Projects](#) for the International Greenwich Olympiad.



Henry Bair, 2021 cohort, MD candidate, created and co-hosts a [podcast](#) on meaning in medicine.



Yousuf Khan, 2019 cohort, Molecular and Cellular Physiology PhD, MS Biomedical Informatics candidate, published a [review](#) in *Critical Reviews in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* on converting chemical energy into physical motion.

Arts & the Denning House Collection

The Denning House Collection is at the center of the arts at KHS and is an integral part of the scholars' daily experiences. The arts expose scholars to creative and unique perspectives that are essential to the development of leaders.

Last July, Denning House installed a commissioned work by Teresita Fernández, *Apparition (Golden)*, inspired by the natural setting of the Palo Alto Baylands and a rethinking of landscape and place, as well as by diverse historical and cultural references. In the year ahead we have plans to introduce a new artist to the collection and to welcome Nick Cave and Teresita Fernández to spend time at Denning House in fellowship with scholars.



Teresita Fernandez

Apparition (Golden), 2021

Wood, charcoal, and aluminum

162.25" x 358" x 4"

Installed July 2021

Congratulations to the **Knight-Hennessy scholars** who completed the program this year.

2022



Knight-Hennessy Scholars cultivates and supports a multidisciplinary and multicultural community of graduate students from across Stanford University, and delivers engaging experiences that prepare graduates to be visionary, courageous, and collaborative leaders who address complex challenges facing the world.

Visit kh.stanford.edu to learn more.

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We thank you for your support and generosity.