



Est. 2025

## About Us

Babel Institute is an independent, nonpartisan public policy think tank dedicated to advancing practical policy solutions to the social, economic, and political challenges facing young people around the world.

Founded in 2025, Babel brings together young leaders, scholars, and policymakers to ensure that the voices and perspectives of the next generation inform the decisions that shape their future. Through research, education, and community engagement, we develop solutions that are just, actionable, and centered on the needs of young people.

At the heart of our mission is Verity Voices Journal, the publishing arm of the think tank and our youth-centered platform for commentary and storytelling.

At Verity, we combine rigorous research with lived experience to examine critical issues such as migration, climate change, education reform, youth justice, and affordable housing. Our goal is to connect empirical analysis with first-hand experience, ensuring that policy is both evidence-based and responsive to the realities of the people it aims to serve.

## Babel Scholars Program Overview

Babel Scholars Program is a one-year fellowship that provides up to 100% tuition assistance to university students in Africa for a single academic year. Throughout the fellowship, scholars will conduct original research, receive mentorship, and participate in policy roundtables.

The program is designed to support African students who demonstrate exceptional academic potential and a strong commitment to driving positive change in their communities.

Throughout the fellowship, scholars will produce a range of written outputs that reflects analytical rigor and original thought. This includes essays that connect personal perspective to broader policy questions, as well as op-eds that offer concise, accessible arguments designed to bring youth voices into public debate. Select pieces will be edited and published in Verity Voices Journal, providing scholars with the opportunity to share their work with a wider audience.

### Babel Scholars Program in Ghana

## **Program Outcome**

Graduates of the Babel Scholars Program complete the fellowship with a portfolio of original essays and op-eds examining social, economic, and political issues affecting young people in Africa. Selected pieces are edited and published in Verity Voices Journal.

In addition to their published work, scholars complete the program having participated in policy roundtables with Regional Studies Directors and Fellows. These sessions examine how youth-related challenges manifest across different regions and explore potential policy responses. Through these discussions and mentorship, participants gain a clear understanding of how policy recommendations are developed, debated, and refined through dialogue, and they leave the program prepared to contribute meaningfully to serious policy discussions.

## **Babel Scholars Program in Ghana**

We are seeking to partner with one university in Ghana for a pilot program. We are looking to select two high-achieving undergraduate students to join our inaugural cohort for the Spring 2026 semester. We would provide each scholar with a \$500 scholarship to support tuition costs for the semester.

In return, scholars would spend the semester engaged with our Africa Studies Program, producing monthly written outputs, receiving mentorship from our leadership team, participating in policy roundtables with our Regional Studies Directors and Fellows, and serving as mentors to participants in our Emerging Leaders Program in Ghana.

## **Time Commitment and Program Activities**

Scholars are expected to commit approximately 8 to 10 hours per week during the semester. This time is dedicated to the following activities:

- Researching and writing one to two original policy-focused outputs each month that examine social, economic, or political issues affecting young people in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Participating in scheduled policy roundtables with our Regional Studies Directors and Fellows to discuss youth-related challenges and potential policy solutions.
- Meeting regularly with the Program Director to receive guidance on research, writing, and professional development.
- Serving as mentors to participants in the Emerging Leaders Program in Ghana through group mentorship sessions and facilitation of an essay contest.

## **Babel Scholars Program in Ghana**

## Program Eligibility

Babel Scholars Program is a highly selective fellowship open to undergraduate students in Africa who demonstrate academic excellence and a clear commitment to public service. Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student at the partner university.
- Possess a strong interest in public policy, governance, international development, or related fields.
- Demonstrate a strong record of academic excellence, research capability, and intellectual rigor.
- Show evidence of leadership potential in academic, civic, or professional settings.
- Demonstrate English-language proficiency sufficient for conducting original research, participating in policy roundtables, and publishing written work.

## Selection Process

Scholars will be selected through a competitive application process jointly coordinated by Babel Institute and the partner university. Applications will be reviewed based on academic performance, writing ability, and demonstrated interest in public service. Final selections will be made by Babel Institute in consultation with the partner institution.

## Role of the Partner University

The partner university is not responsible for funding, staffing, or administering the fellowship. The university's role is limited to supporting student outreach, verifying enrollment status, and serving as a point of contact for coordination with Babel Institute.

## Benefits for the Partner University

Partner university benefit from participation in the Babel Scholars Program in several ways:

- Tuition support for selected high-performing undergraduate students.
- An opportunity to extend the partnership beyond the pilot semester and to explore expanding the number of participating students in future cohorts.
- Eligibility for partner university students to apply for paid roles within Babel's Youth in Journalism program, including Youth Journalist, Youth Correspondent, and Youth Contributor positions.
- No financial or administrative burden. We cover all fellowship funding, training, and programming.

## Babel Scholars Program in Ghana