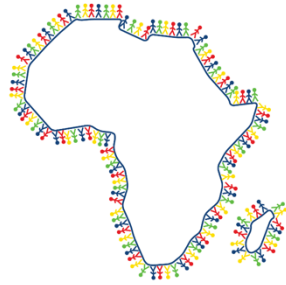




Yale Young African Scholars



Mentor Prospectus



Program Overview

Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) is an intensive academic and enrichment program designed for African secondary school students who plan to pursue higher education and desire to make a meaningful impact as young leaders on the African continent and beyond.

The YYAS team is looking for volunteer mentors who will help our young alumni navigate the university application process (including pre-university programs such as African Leadership Academy) **over the next three to five (3-5) months**. All mentors will be assigned to a small group of YYAS alumni (3-4 mentees total) and will be expected to communicate with each one **at least once every two (2) weeks** on various aspects of university readiness. Given the geographic scope of the program, mentorship will take place entirely online. The program will utilize Canvas for sharing documents/resources and communication between mentors and mentees.

In general, we expect mentors to follow through with their support of mentees until they submit their university applications. Once you are assigned mentees, we will send you a detailed **Mentorship Guide** with checklists, dates, and more information. YYAS staff will check in periodically and send regular email reminders to make sure you and your mentees are on track. Please note each student's application timeline will likely be different since application deadlines vary. Therefore, it is important to help each student establish their own timeline to complete various aspects of the application.

At a minimum, mentors will be expected to support students in the following areas as deemed necessary:

- Research universities to apply to, considering cost and financial aid
- Revision of application essays
- Draft application components, such as an extracurricular activities list

To express interest in becoming a mentor each cycle, we ask all prospective mentors to complete the interest form **by 1 August each year**.

We look forward to the prospect of having you join us this year as a mentor! After you've read this prospectus in its entirety, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or comments at african.scholars@yale.edu.

Why become a YYAS Mentor?

- Gain experience in international education and youth development with a diverse group of African students
- Learn about contemporary education policy in Africa
- Develop experience in providing guidance and support to high school-aged students in an advisory role
- Further develop organizational and task management skills
- For exceptional service, receive recommendation letters and/or endorsement for applications to internships, full-time positions, and/or graduate studies.

Qualifications and Skills

- Open to current undergraduate/graduate students and early career professionals
- Strong organizational, task management, and communication skills
- Must be attentive to messages sent by YYAS staff or mentees
- Must have familiarity with the U.S. college application process
- Experience studying in an African country (for secondary/high school) is desirable, but not required
- Experience working with high school-aged students is desirable, but not required
- Familiarity with the YYAS program is desirable, but not required

Considerations

- The program will run from **early/mid-September to the end of January**
- Time commitment is roughly **4-6 hours per month**; this depends on your work style
 - We recommend consistency on a weekly or biweekly basis (depending on your schedule) so students can also make time for rewriting and any extra research based on your recommendations (e.g. each Wednesday use an hour to message/edit)
- Flexibility is crucial – **mentees range in their needs and access to internet**
- The YYAS team has extensive experience that mentors can utilize to best serve your students; **we are always available to support mentors** as they navigate this commitment

Proposed Timeline*

1 August

- Deadline to submit interest form

Early/mid-September

- Receive mentorship guide and mentee assignments
- Receive invitation to Canvas website
- Attend training workshop
- Review the statement of interest forms of your mentees

Rest of September

- Connect with mentees; inquire more about their college list/goals based on the statement of interest
 - *Inquire about applying early decision/action as this will shift their timeline*
- Assist mentees review the materials about the college application process and financial aid/scholarships (found on Canvas)
- Send mentees first round of feedback on any application materials by the end of the month

October

- Continue to review application materials and send feedback
- Assist mentees with determining who and how to ask for recommendation letters
- Check in about their college list and give advice based on whether it is appropriate (utilize our training and mentorship guide to navigate those conversations)
 - For instance, generally it would not be appropriate for *any* student to apply only to highly selective universities in one country

November

- Continue to review application materials and send feedback
- By the end of the month, check in with mentees about the status of their applications

December

- Continue to review application materials and send final feedback before regular deadlines (majority tend to be on or around 1st January 2023)

January

- Check in with mentees about status of any remaining applications (if needed)
- Inform YYAS team of any continued support any students may need beyond January

**Dates and tasks are subject to change. We will provide more details to the tasks above in the mentorship guide shared with all participating mentors.*