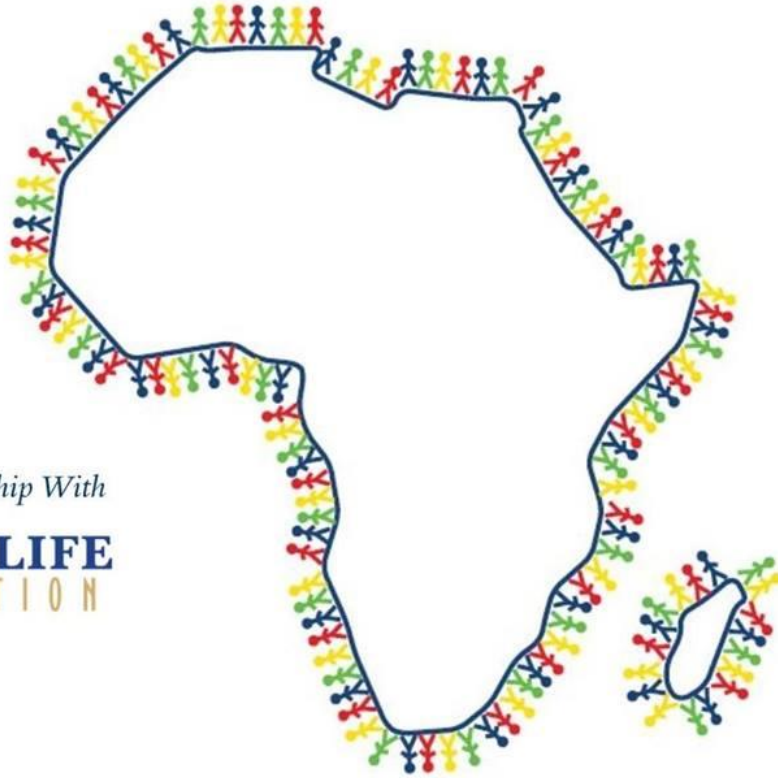


# Yale Young African Scholars



*In Proud Partnership With*

**HIGHERLIFE**  
FOUNDATION

## Mentorship Prospectus

# Overview

By providing thought provoking academic content, YYAS aims to train and mentor engaged, dynamic young African leaders of tomorrow. YYAS is looking for volunteer mentors who will help 3-4 program alumni as they start to think about applying to university. All mentors commit to engaging with students at least once a month during the 2018-2019 academic year. Volunteer mentors play a crucial role in providing the necessary post-program support to help students transition from high school to university.

**Eligibility:** Anyone familiar with the U.S. university application process is invited to sign up. Please note, however, that **you must have completed at least one year of university in order to be a YYAS mentor.**

Below are examples of conversations that mentors will be expected to have with students.

## **1. Extracurricular Activities & Community Engagement**

Our students are at a critical time in their high school careers where they need to begin to think about developing and strengthening their non- and co-academic interests. Getting involved in clubs, sports, (volunteer) work or other activities outside the classroom can provide new skills and help them learn about themselves. As you talk to your mentees, you want to explain the role that extracurriculars play when applying to university.

## **2. Exploring Academic Interests for University and Beyond**

Students' academic interests and potential fields of study play a big role in where they choose to apply and enroll, and this can often be an overwhelming thing to consider. In order to better support our students as they start thinking about what universities they are interested in, you should discuss with your students what their academic interests are, however defined or not they may be. Mentees will benefit from advising that exposes them to a wide range of academic and career opportunities. It's an important time to get them to think critically about what they think they are interested in, as well as how to link that to certain majors and university opportunities.

## **3. Standardized Test Prep**

Over the next year, mentees will start to think about standardized tests (SAT, ACT, TOEFL). You'll want to explain the role that these tests play in the university application and admissions process.

Find out where your students stand with standardized test preparation and work with them as they prepare a timeline for preparation and test-taking. The students all received some practice materials during the YYAS Program last summer but might be looking for some more resources. The College Board and ACT websites have several practice tests for students to take online or download and use.

#### **4. Financial Aid**

It is never easy to talk about financing your college education, especially if you are an international student trying to study abroad.

Below are some tips you can give your scholars to help them navigate the world of financial aid:

- Explain the different types of aid available:
  - Need based
  - Academic merit
  - Work study/On-campus student jobs
- Every school has its own policy on how much money they allocate to international students.
  - Check each school's website to see what is available for international students.
- Send emails to their admissions or financial aid office to get more information.
- The scholars should be aware that they will need to provide some kind of statement of finances from their parents or guardians with documents from the bank. These will have to be translated into English if applicable.

#### **5. Guide to writing university application essays**

Students will likely have to write one longer essay and a few short essays (1-2 paragraphs each) as part of their applications to universities, especially in the U.S. Be sure to emphasize that these essays serve a dual purpose: they demonstrate to the admission committee that the student has strong written English skills, and they introduce him/her to the committee in his/her own "voice", giving them a perspective of the student as a person (rather than as a list of grades, activities, or accomplishments).

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer mentor for our YYAS scholars, please fill out this form by no later than Friday, 14 September 2018:

[https://apply.globalscholars.yale.edu/register/yyas\\_mentorship\\_2018](https://apply.globalscholars.yale.edu/register/yyas_mentorship_2018)