eligibility
The Luce Scholars Program is open to:
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Graduating seniors, recent graduates, and young professionals under the age of 30. By June 20th of the year they enter the program, candidates must have received at least a bachelor’s degree and will not have reached their 30th birthday.
- Candidates with limited exposure to Asia, i.e., those who have not majored in Asian studies and who have spent less than an accumulated total of 18 weeks in one or more Luce Scholars placement countries in Asia since graduating from high school.
- Luce Scholars have backgrounds in virtually every field other than Asian studies, including but not limited to anthropology, architecture, arts, development, economics, education, environment, filmmaking, gender studies, humanities, international relations, journalism, law, medicine, public health, social sciences, STEM, and urban planning.

selection
Successful candidates should have a record of high achievement, outstanding leadership ability, and clearly defined interests with evidence of potential for professional accomplishments. After two rounds of one-on-one interviews, the new class of Luce Scholars is announced in February.

application
Detailed application information can be found on our website: https://www.luce.org/programs/luce-scholars/application-guidelines/. Luce Scholars are nominated by 75 participating colleges and universities. You may apply online any time. However, the deadline for schools to nominate their best candidates is November 1 each year for a new round of competition, and the schools often set their internal application deadline at September or early October.

The “Luce year” begins in late June with orientation in New York. Luce Scholars engage in intensive language study in Asia in July and August. Placements begin in September, and conclude with a wrap-up meeting in July of the following year.