



Important Information for Selected Participants

Program Dates January 7–17, 2026

Location: Rwanda - Kigali and surrounding communities

Student Commitment

Active participation in field research, community engagement, cultural immersion, and a final group presentation

Eligibility

Open to second-year or higher undergraduate students enrolled in a university based in New York or Connecticut, and in good academic standing.

Exceptional first-year students may be considered based on faculty recommendation.

Selected Participants

10 students will be selected in total:

- 5 students for Genocide Study & Historical Memory
- 5 students for Governance & International Relations

Program Sponsorship

The Nation Voice Foundation will fully sponsor:

- Round-trip international airfare included for selected participants
- Accommodation and in-country transportation
- Scheduled meals and program resources

Please note: Visa fees, travel vaccinations (if required), insurance, and personal expenses are not included and must be covered by the participant.



Governance & International Relations

Key Academic Overview

This research track explores Rwanda's governance model and international engagement strategies developed in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide. Through local fieldwork, institutional visits, and guided discussions, students will examine the mechanisms of political leadership, decentralization, and international cooperation in a post-conflict society.

Core Areas of Engagement:

- Analyzing policies implemented to promote national unity, justice, and stability, such as community justice systems (e.g., Gacaca) and national reconciliation efforts.
- Understanding how community-based decision-making functions in Rwanda, including the roles of village councils, district authorities, and citizen participation mechanisms.
- Investigating Rwanda's presence in regional and international organizations (e.g., African Union, United Nations), and its contributions to peacekeeping, diplomacy, and international development.
- Exploring how Rwanda collaborates with foreign governments and development agencies to implement national strategies in education, health, and infrastructure while aiming for long-term self-reliance.

Academic Structure:

Research immersion: 4 hours/day (January 12–15)

Cultural integration and site-based learning: 3 hours/day

Historical sessions and survivor dialogue: 1–2 hours/day

Total documented engagement: approximately 32 academic hours

Program Highlights:

January 9 – Educational field journey to genocide memorials, survivor meeting, and reflection at Lake Ruhondo

January 16 – Collaborative academic presentations and program



Daily Schedule

January 7–17, 2026

January 7:

- Arrival: Check-in at accommodation.
- Welcome Dinner: Introduction to the program, orientation, and networking with fellow participants.

January 8:

- Morning:
 - Orientation session and introduction to the Nation Voice Foundation's projects and objectives.
- Afternoon:
 - Visit to Kigali Genocide Memorial — A profound experience to understand Rwanda's history and resilience.

January 9- Journey to Musanze (Ruhengeri): Memory, History, and Reflection (All Tracks)

Morning:

- Early departure from Kigali (approx. 2-hour drive) to Musanze.
- Participants will begin the day with a personal testimony session led by a Genocide Survivor, followed by guided visits to key genocide memorial sites that preserve the memory of 1994.

Afternoon:

- Lunch in the Musanze region, followed by continued historical exploration and moments of guided reflection on Rwanda's journey of healing, justice, and national restoration.
- Late Afternoon (Optional):
- Visit to Lake Ruhondo for a peaceful group moment of reflection, journaling, and rest surrounded by nature.

Evening:

- Return to Kigali (if staying centrally), or
- Overnight stay in Musanze region (based on group logistics and accommodation)

January 10–11: Free Days – Personal rest, optional local exploration

Research Schedule from January 12 through January 15, 2026

Track 1 – Governance & International Relations

Morning (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM):

- Visits to local government offices, district councils, and administrative units
- Meetings with policy makers and youth council representatives
- Briefings at ministries or partner development agencies
- Field-based observation of community-led governance practices
- Roundtable discussion on political reform and national reconciliation
- Interactive workshop on Rwanda's foreign policy and diplomacy
- Visit to international NGO or UN-affiliated project site
- Group debrief and preparation of policy reflections

Lunch Break (1:15 PM – 2:45 PM):

- Provided at accommodation or community locations.

Afternoon (3:00 PM – 6:00 PM):

Cultural Exchange & Community Engagement:

- Interactive Sports & Activities: Friendly matches with locals, including football and other traditional sports, promoting teamwork and connection.
- Cultural Immersion: Guided community visits, traditional dance performances, storytelling sessions, and exploring local art and crafts.
- Community Events: Participating in local festivals, workshops, and collaborative art projects.

Dinner (6:30 PM):

- Provided at the accommodation.

January 16 – Final Presentations & Closing:

- Group research reflections, share key insights, and wrap up field projects.
- Special Closing Dinner: Celebrate the journey with all participants, sharing experiences, reflections, and stories from the expedition. Certificate Awards.

January 17:

- Departure: Farewell and check-out.

Application Information

The Student Humanitarian Research Expedition to Rwanda is a fully funded academic program open to undergraduate students enrolled at accredited universities in New York and Connecticut.

Students selected for this immersive research experience will have all major travel and program-related costs covered.

Submit your application by September 25, 2025, using the form linked below.

Only 10 students will be selected through a competitive review process in partnership with participating universities.

Apply Now: [Application Form: Humanitarian Research Expedition to Rwanda](#)

Important Notes for Student Participants

- Please note that some activities or research visits may be adjusted due to weather conditions, security protocols, or logistical updates.
- Students are expected to maintain respectful conduct, cultural sensitivity, and full daily participation.
- Final schedules and assignments will be shared closer to departure, and participants must be flexible and responsive to program guidance.

Questions and Application Support

If you have any questions or need support with your application, please reach out to us at info@nationvoice.org.

Thank you for your interest in this academic opportunity. Best of luck. We hope to see you in Rwanda.