FELLOWSHIPS:
WRITING A GRADUATE SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Doctoral applications are a time to show well-prepared, and fully fleshed out, research proposals. The “persona” should be less present here than in a fellowships application statements. Language without superfluous floral additions will help in getting your proposal across within the word count.

Below, write down notes to answer each of these questions. Be sure to then add each of these details into your proposal. You will note that these questions demand specificity. The same graduate school personal statement cannot be sent everywhere, but rather, needs to be tailored to that specific department. Investing this time will reap rewards later down the line in interviews and conversations with potential faculty mentors.

1) What global challenge do you want to tackle in your professional career?
   Find three scholarly articles that address this current issue.

2) What research centers or initiatives at your proposed school of study are working on many of these similar issues?
3) Find a faculty member who is leading this discourse at the specific university. Find one article that they have written recently that resonates with your proposed research topic. Note that article below. Write about why their research aligns with your goals and what you would hope to study under their tutelage?

4) Are there other departments that would supplement your studies while you are a doctoral student?

5) Does the location (beyond the school campus itself, looking to the city/state/country where the campus is based) benefit or add to your research capacity? If so, how?

6) What do you plan to do with your research after the completion of the program? How do you think this will shift the current discourse with regards to the global challenge you highlighted in your first answer?

CIPE encourages students to connect with a Yale-NUS faculty member to discuss these notes before writing their first draft of their doctoral research proposal.