## 

## **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWS SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY, IN**

## **June 24-July 22, 2025**

**Personal information**

First name: **Adam**

Middle name (if in passport): *(None)*

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High school name and address: **Mihály Fazekas High School - 1082 Budapest, Horváth Mihály square 8.**

Medical, dietary or personal considerations: **peanut allergy**

Previous study or travel in the United States-when and how long: **None.**

**My detailed answers to the following questions in no more than 300 words each:**

1. **Motivation and Goals**: Why I am interested in participating in the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute and how I believe this experience would help me achieve my personal and academic goals:

The Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute is an unparalleled opportunity for me to immerse myself in a new culture and engage with diverse perspectives while partaking in prearranged educational and social programs. I am particularly drawn to the program's focus on diplomacy and sustaining democracy, as I believe it is crucial to have a deep understanding for these to allow upkeeping a well-functioning society. I am eager to learn how different cultures approach these concepts and refine my debate skills through interaction with people from various backgrounds. I believe that engaging in respectful dialogue, even when faced with differing viewpoints, is essential for fostering mutual understanding.

This experience directly aligns with my personal goal of becoming a more globally aware and empathetic individual. By engaging in community service projects, I anticipate gaining firsthand experience of the social issues faced by different communities. Learning about these challenges, and contributing even in a small way to potential solutions, would help me develop a better understanding of social responsibility and the importance of active citizenship. Furthermore, I hope to gain a greater perspective on the political landscape in America, observing how its democratic institutions function in practice. Academically, I believe that the insights gained from this program would significantly enrich my studies in political science and international relations.

The practical experience of observing a different political system and engaging with diverse perspectives would provide a valuable foundation for my future possible career aspirations, perhaps in fields like international diplomacy or policy analysis. The opportunity to visit the United States and experience its culture firsthand, from its vibrant cities to its diverse landscapes, is an added bonus that would further broaden my horizons and provide lasting memories.

1. **Extracurricular Activities**: What extracurricular activities I am currently or have been involved in, and I have gained from participating in them:

Extracurricular activities form an integral part of my life, allowing me to develop valuable skills beyond the classroom. Currently, I am actively involved in playing the violin, singing in the school choir, practicing karate, and attending language classes in German. I also dedicate my time to teaching younger children at Logiscool, and attend practices for the International Linguistics Olympiad, as well as history faculty meetings out of pure interest. Previously I also swam and played soccer from a young age, thanks to my parents' support and encouragement.

Playing the violin is more than just a hobby; it's a form of artistic expression that allows me to bring joy to others, simultaneously training my mind and improving my focus. Similarly, singing in the school choir allows me to be part of a group that I can contribute to and find joy in as well.

My goals with attending German classes, are driven by my desire to broaden my cultural horizons. I find that learning a new language opens doors to new perspectives. Attending the IOL practices further fuels my passion for this and allows me to delve into the intricacies of linguistics.

Teaching younger children at Logiscool and Alphacademy has been a particularly rewarding experience, as it helps me reinforce my own understanding while fostering patience and communication skills.

Sports have always been an indispensable part of my life. Karate, that I have been doing for almost 10 years now, has taught me the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, qualities that are useful both inside and outside of the dojo.

I hope these activities, shape me into a well-rounded individual equipped with a diverse skill set and a passion for continuous learning. They not only enrich my life but also prepar me to engage effectively with the world around me.

1. **Community Service Experience**: Describing the community work I have done, what I have learned from these experiences, and how have they shaped my interest in civic engagement:

I believe community service is meaningful part of a well-balanced life. On several occasions, I have served as a karate referee, contributing to the smooth running of competitions and supporting my club and competitors. This role has faced me with challenges in fairness, impartiality, and the ability to make quick decisions under pressure. Additionally, I have volunteered my time in the school library, helping carry and organize new student books on separate occasions.

Within my class, I have always found it natural to assist my classmates, whether it is explaining concepts or sharing my notes to ensure everyone has a chance to succeed. This has also contributed to me becoming one of the administrators of our online class chat server. In this space, I strive to maintain a supportive and democratic environment. For this, I have organized smaller votes on various class-related matters, trying to ensure decisions are made collectively. This has provided me with practical knowledge in facilitating discussions and mediating different viewpoints. It is a valuable practice in the importance of active participation in shaping our shared experiences.

Besides my current activities and strict schedule, I am driven to contribute more to my community, also through my future career. Despite my aversion to supporting wars preventing me from considering a military career, I have interest in potentially becoming a police officer in the future, as I see it as a way to ensure the safety of the community and help those in need. Furthermore, I am intrigued by the possibility of entering politics, with a desire to become a truly uncorrupt politician who prioritizes the needs of the people and works towards positive change. I believe that active and ethical participation in civic life is crucial for building a better future.

1. **Leadership Experience**: Leadership roles and training programs I have participated in, my responsibilities, and what impact I had on my team and community:

Throughout my experiences, I have had the opportunity to take on various leadership roles that have shaped my understanding of responsibility and teamwork. On several class excursions, I have taken the initiative to help arrange logistics and serve as the main cook. This involved planning meals, organizing supplies, and ensuring that everyone was well-fed and taken care of. These experiences taught me the importance of preparation, resourcefulness, and catering to the needs of a group.

Beyond specific roles, I believe I have cultivated a general trust with my teachers, who often rely on me for various tasks and responsibilities, indicating a level of dependability and leadership potential they recognize in me. This trust has allowed me to further develop my leadership skills in various contexts. For instance, I have organized and led teams of four in several competitions, including an ongoing four-round programming tournament. My responsibilities included delegating tasks, coordinating our efforts, and ensuring that we worked cohesively towards a common goal. These experiences honed my ability to motivate others, manage time effectively, and navigate the challenges of collaborative problem-solving.

In my role as a teacher at Logiscool, I strive to go beyond simply imparting knowledge. I see my role as an opportunity to guide young minds, fostering respect for others, critical thinking, and mindfulness about certain processes. I believe that education extends beyond the subject matter, and I aim to instill values that will help my students become well-rounded individuals.

Furthermore, I have also taken on leadership roles in more personal settings. When a close friend faced academic difficulties and even considered switching schools, I did my best to provide support and guidance. Through persistent encouragement and helping him develop more effective study strategies, I convinced him to persevere and try again, but with a renewed approach. This experience reinforced my belief in the power of empathy and the importance of supporting others through challenges.

1. **Post-Program Community Project**: Participants are expected to implement a service project in their community after returning home. Describing a project idea I would like to pursue and how it would reflect the values and skills I hope to gain from this program:

Upon returning from the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute, I plan to initiate a project that fosters a stronger sense of community and facilitates communication within our school. My vision is to create a dedicated online platform where our high-schoolers can easily voice their opinions, share resources, and stay informed about school life. This platform would serve as a centralized hub for students to comment on various aspects of their school experience, from highlighting issues with facilities to sharing helpful learning materials and promoting community events.

This digital space would be designed to encourage open dialogue and collaboration. Students could raise concerns, offer suggestions for improvement, and engage in constructive discussions about matters that affect them. The platform could also facilitate the sharing of class related materials, study guides, and other academic resources Furthermore, it could serve as a bulletin board for school events, extracurricular activities, and other opportunities, ensuring that all students are well-informed and have the chance to participate. I also envision incorporating a mechanism for teachers to engage in the platform, perhaps through dedicated channels for announcements or Q&A sessions, fostering a more connected and responsive school community.

This project directly reflects the values of active citizenship and community building that I hope to deepen through the program. The program's emphasis on diplomacy and cross-cultural understanding would be invaluable in helping me navigate the complexities of launching such an initiative. I believe that this knowledge would be crucial in effectively presenting my vision to the school administration, garnering support from fellow students, and ultimately, creating a thriving online community that benefits all. This project would not only enhance the school experience for current students but also leave a lasting legacy of improved communication and collaboration for future generations.

1. **International experience**: Describing any study abroad or exchange programs I have participated in:

I have not participated in any study abroad or exchange programs.

1. **Career plans:** Describing my career plans:

While financial stability is a practical consideration in any career path, my primary motivation is not driven by monetary gain. I envision a career structure that allows me to combine financial security with opportunities to contribute to society, creating a balanced and fulfilling life. Ideally, I would pursue a high-level education in engineering, as the intricacies of engineering design and problem-solving deeply fascinate me, and I believe this field offers immense potential for innovation that can benefit society. The remote aspect of this would also afford me the flexibility to dedicate time and energy to other pursuits that directly serve my community and align with my values, regardless of geographical constraints.

Alongside a career in engineering, I am drawn to the idea of engaging in work that directly helps others. This could manifest in several forms, such as leveraging my technological skills, perhaps by developing new and more efficient ways for dealing with global problems such as pollution. Furthermore, I find the prospect of pursuing teaching or mentorship roles particularly rewarding, as it allows me to share my knowledge and inspire the next generation. Alternatively, I see myself becoming actively involved in political activities aimed at positive societal change, advocating for policies that promote equity, sustainability, and progress. I believe that a fulfilling career path should encompass both personal growth and the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Therefore, my career plans are centered around building a robust professional foundation while simultaneously seeking avenues to contribute my skills and passions to the betterment of my community, whether through technology, education, or civic engagement. I am confident that by pursuing this multifaceted approach, I can create a career that is both personally satisfying and socially impactful, allowing me to contribute meaningfully to the world around me.