



Cleveland LEADS

Leadership, Exchange, and Diplomacy Scholars

Do you have what it takes to be a leader in an increasingly globalized world? How do topics such as global awareness, international complexity and diversity, intercultural understanding, and global competency impact what we do everyday in Greater Cleveland? Join LEADS to learn how young professionals can shape the region of Northeast Ohio through a more global lens!



Program description

The Cleveland LEADS program is a dynamic and interactive professional development program for young professionals.

During LEADS, participants explore their leadership styles, strengthen their global knowledge and competencies, and expand their understanding of the global economy, geopolitical trends, and management of global crises.

With local and international guest speakers and experts, LEADS explores Cleveland's place in a global context, and how young professionals can become globally-minded leaders to help shape its future.

"This program opened my eyes to the diversity of Cleveland. The techniques & strategies we learned to manage intercultural professional relationships are just as useful when dealing with a client in the United Kingdom as they are cooperating with a local team member who is from a different culture."

- Tristan Douglas, 2023 LEADS Participant



What is the course structure?

The program is held in-person. Sessions will take place on Monday evenings beginning September 28, 2026, from 5:30-7:30pm. Participants will also complete selected activities and pre- and post-session assignments on their own time, outside of weekly sessions.

What are the session topics?

- Who Am I as a Leader?
- Forging a Global City - Exploring the History, Culture, and Identity of Cleveland
- Cleveland & The Global Economy
- Cleveland's Global Footprint - Spotlight on Nonprofits
- How Culture Affects Worldview
- Strategies for a Culturally Diverse World
- Mapping Global Conflicts
- Global Crisis Management

Who is eligible?

- Young professionals under 35 years old, including college students.
- Young professionals in any field who seek to hold a leadership position in the future.
- No prior experience with global affairs or international travel necessary!

What is the cost?

The program cost is \$1,000. Thanks to foundation support, CCWA offers generous scholarships to help cover the program cost. Those that apply for scholarships will submit a \$160 tuition fee for the 8-week course (16 hours of instruction).

How do I apply?

To apply, complete your application at ccwa.org by September 21, 2026. For more information, contact Elizabeth Colvin at ecolvin@ccwa.org / 216.255.9002