



**The Riley Institute is now accepting applications for the 2026 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
“Voices of the Future” Program in Shenzhen, China**

Participants will attend the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)](#) as delegates, representing the United States. They will interact in a variety of forums with student delegates from the other 20 member economies, as well as with leading business, education, and government leaders. The program is intended to increase understanding of international politics and economics, but more importantly, to bring together future leaders from each of the 21 member economies to foster greater sensitivity and mutual understanding. Politics and International Affairs Professor Glen Halva-Neubauer, Economics Professor Jessica Hennessey, and The Riley Institute co-coordinate the program.

Prior Furman APEC Voices of the Future delegations have traveled to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico '02; Santiago, Chile '04; Busan, South Korea '05; Hanoi, Vietnam '06; Sydney, Australia '07; Singapore '09; Yokohama, Japan '10; Honolulu, Hawaii '11; Bali, Indonesia '13; Beijing, China '14; Manila, Philippines '15; Da Nang, Vietnam '17; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea '18; Bangkok, Thailand '22; and Lima, Peru '08, '16, and '24.

All program fees, air transportation, lodging, and some meals are covered by The Riley Institute and the Politics and International Affairs and Economics departments. Students will pay \$200 total to cover the cost of overhead expenses by May 5, 2026.

The exact program dates are TBD, but the trip will likely be one week in length and will occur in mid-November. In the fall, we will receive additional information from the APEC Voices of the Future program organizers. Most years, Furman is able to send between four and six students to APEC. We will also identify two students who will be alternates should someone be unable to go. Students who attend this program will miss class for a week and are responsible for proactively communicating with their professors and making up any missed work.

Delegates will be selected through a competitive application and interview process. Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Politics and International Affairs or Economics major
- Must have or secure by August a valid passport that will not expire before May 2027
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Complete the [online application form](#)
- Personal interview (if necessary)

The application deadline is **Sunday, April 19, 2026**. All application materials should be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on this date.

Please contact Kendall Gallagher-King (kendall.gallagher@furman.edu) at The Riley Institute with any questions.