



## Hemispheres Board Application 2024-25

### *Yale International Relations Association*

Dear Applicant,

This past year of Hemispheres has been one of the best yet. From international trips, to World fellow-led lessons in New Haven, the Hemi team truly succeeded in providing an excellent educational program for New Haven high school students. Having been in Hemi for two years, I have been incredibly privileged to work alongside people as wonderful, passionate, and caring as you all. Nonetheless, although I am grateful for everything that we have been able to accomplish thus far, there is still so much more work to be done and I am excited to lead a new team to take on the mantle this year.

Hemispheres is truly a unique space that helps bridge the divide between New Haven and Yale and allows us to enter dialogue with brilliant, highly-motivated New Haven high school students. Moving forward, I hope to recruit a board that can assist in organizing tours of Washington D.C & the UN headquarters in New York, expanding the mentorship program, creating a digital presence for Hemi, and establishing lasting partnerships with local New Haven organizations. Ultimately, I hope to work alongside you to fulfill our mission of “providing local public high school students with equitable access to an international affairs education that fosters a love of learning, professional skill development, and opportunities that vitalize class material through travel, and to empower informed global citizens within a community of friends and mentors from Yale and New Haven County.”

That being said, while I have my own ideas for potential directions, this application is a space for you to take ownership of your vision and is designed for you to share a plan forward for Hemi. I am excited to learn about you and your thoughts and visions for the program. Let's work together to make Hemi the best it can be!

Also, I understand that all of the below-listed positions are time-consuming, but trust that your work with Hemispheres will equip you with advanced training in running a nonprofit, coordinating logistics, leading teams, understanding budgeting, and fostering social integration. Most importantly, Hemispheres provides Board members a permanent home base at Yale and a community of friends in New Haven County.

Hemi is accepting applications for **one Director of Community, two Directors of Program Instruction, and one Director of Mentorship.** ***You are welcome to apply for more than one position, and please rank your preferences.*** If you are applying for more than one position, please answer the questions for each. Please specify position-specific responses. **Please send applications to [hemispheres@yira.org](mailto:hemispheres@yira.org) by September 10th, 2023 at 11:59 EST.**



### **All Hemispheres Board:**

All Board members are responsible for the selection of teachers, assisting in the teacher training process and chaperoning students at extracurricular events (i.e. YMUN, guest speaker events, New Haven outings, NY/DC trips, international conferences, etc.). All Hemispheres Board members are **required** to attend every Hemispheres class unless a pre-communicated or unexpected conflict arises. The Hemi Board will also meet weekly unless otherwise specified by the Director. Additionally, YIRA members are required to staff the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions in November and participate in YIRA Elections in April.

The **Directors of Community (2)** will facilitate student engagement in and enjoyment of the Hemispheres program, expedite a smooth week-to-week implementation, and assist in creating a digital presence for Hemispheres. At the beginning of the year, they will be in charge of Student Ambassador recruitment and training, as well as designing publicity materials for this and for the program as a whole. One important part of the position for this year will be to ensure students have affordable transport options to/from the program (i.e. organizing New Haven bus passes). This role also includes coordinating food for weekly meetings, and this person **must** be available every Friday shortly before the beginning of lessons to coordinate food delivery. Additionally, we're planning to visit more schools in-person this year to recruit students for Hemispheres, and the Directors of Community will work closely with the Director to drive this initiative. In addition, the Directors of Community will work with student ambassadors and strengthen ties with Dwight Hall in order to apply for funding. The Directors of Community should also coordinate feedback from students and teachers to improve their experience. These people will also be in charge of maintaining the Hemi website, creating/ maintaining an Instagram account for Hemispheres (Director will assist with this), and developing a new logo/ merch for Hemi. This position takes between 3-5 hours weekly, excluding weekly class time.

The **Directors of Program Instruction (2)** will coordinate the teaching aspects of the program, including guiding the international relations curriculum, recruiting teachers, and organizing teacher training sessions at the start of each semester. On a weekly basis, these people also briefly meet with teachers to discuss, debate, and analyze lesson ideas. The two people in this position can delegate weekly communications, such as assignment reminders sent to teachers. Another important aspect of teacher training is ensuring that teachers attend two classes they are not teaching each semester. Meeting with teachers one-on-one at the beginning of each semester would be a useful addition to help them identify what they do well and what could be improved. The Directors of Program Instruction will attend classes every Friday and give feedback to the teachers after each class. Like all board members, the Directors of Program Instruction will help with teacher recruitment, special event chaperoning, and overall organizational planning/discussion. This position may take around 4-5 hours outside of class during particularly busy weeks, and closer to 3 hours outside of class on a normal week.

The **Director(s) of Mentorship (1-2)** will plan a mentorship curriculum at the beginning of each semester that addresses students' professional needs. College application advice is important, but alternative post-high school opportunities need attention as well. Life skills, including technical skills like resume-writing, but general skills like confidence, should also be included. This is also an opportunity to bring guest speakers (potentially World Fellows), fun events, and bonding activities. The Director(s) of Mentorship will meet with the teachers planning mentorship every week to assure quality, effective mentorship instruction. They will also create mentorship training that supplements teacher training, helping teachers understand what mentorship



responsibilities entail and how to connect with students. Additionally, there is an opportunity for two people to hold this role, in which case each Director of Mentorship will have target grade-levels for mentorship in order to address unique mentorship needs. More specifically, there would be one Director of Mentorship for students in grades 9-10, and one Director of Mentorship for students in grades 11-12. If this sounds appealing to you, please note that in your application, **and specify which grades you would prefer to mentor**. As this position is relatively new, there is a lot of opportunity for innovation!

Regardless of your title, the Hemispheres Board is extremely collaborative. All positions require working closely together and supporting the organization consistently throughout the year. When applying, be mindful that being a part of the Hemispheres Board is not just a commitment to an extracurricular activity, but also to creating meaningful, impactful educational opportunities for New Haven County students who otherwise may not have the chance to learn about international relations. Hemispheres does serious and effective work, and our Board is at the forefront of it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hemispheres@yira.org](mailto:hemispheres@yira.org). I am also more than happy to chat over Zoom. I look forward to reading your applications and cannot wait to see you back at Hemispheres.

I hope that you will be excited by this impactful leadership opportunity and that you'll choose to pursue dedicating yourself to Hemispheres in this capacity this year.

Also, If you have any questions, YIRA will be hosting an informal information session on Tuesday, September 3rd from 7:00-8:00pm in LC 102. We encourage you to attend!

Best of luck,

Makda Assefa  
*2024-25 Hemispheres Director*



## Applicant Questions

### PART I. BASIC INFORMATION

Name -

Email address -

Cell Phone Number -

Class Year -

Major(s) (please include interdisciplinary programs):

Number of years with Hemispheres, and position -

Rank your interest in the position(s) in order of preference -

1. As a Hemispheres leader, leadership, teaching, and non-profit experience is a plus. Please list any relevant experience and include a brief description of your role and responsibilities.
  2. Serving on Hemispheres Board is a significant time commitment. How do you plan on balancing Hemispheres with your predicted academic and extracurricular obligations? Please mention all expected academic and extracurricular commitments, including positions that are pending. This is very important, **especially if you have outstanding Friday commitments.**
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### PART II. VISION

As a Hemispheres leader, you will be responsible for recruiting and managing an educational and administrative team of Yalies, a classroom full of New Haven students, an academic calendar, and a curriculum. In the questions below, please provide specific goals and detail how you would achieve them.

**Remember to write position-specific answers. If you are applying for several positions, you can write a separate response to each question accordingly.**

*Please limit responses to 100 words.*

1. Our mission statement is as follows: **“Hemispheres: To provide local public high school students with equitable access to an international affairs education that fosters a love of learning, professional skill development, and opportunities that vitalize class material through travel, and to empower informed global citizens within a community of friends and mentors from Yale and New Haven County.”** How would you use your role to assure that Hemispheres remains true to its mission statement? (This response could include how you envision Hemispheres programming this coming year.)
2. What improvements/changes would you make to the weekly experience of Hemispheres **students**? Feel free to address any of the following aspects, or think of new ones (e.g., lesson content, lesson structure, community atmosphere, feedback processes, food options, trips, etc.).
3. What improvements/changes would you make to the Hemi **teaching** experience? Feel free to address any of the following aspects, or think of new ones (e.g. teacher training, social events, group bonding, lesson structure, interaction with students).



4. [Optional] Are there any new projects or goals you would like to see Hemispheres take on? Please refer specifically to current aspects of Hemispheres you would like to expand on and/or ideas for new pursuits, and include a short timeline for how you would achieve these goals.
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### **PART III. ABOUT YOU**

While these are more open-ended questions, feel free to elaborate on your thoughts.

*Please try to keep responses around 100 words.*

1. Why do you want to be on the board of Hemispheres?
2. Describe a challenge you faced when being part of a team. How did you address it? What did you learn?
3. List 3 qualities of a good leader, and how you feel that you display them. Also, briefly explain why you think those specific qualities are important.
4. What would you look for in a successful Hemispheres teacher candidate? Feel free to refer to qualities at both stages of the teacher application process (application and interview).