

## Weather Alert

### Special Weather Statement until 3PM CDT WED

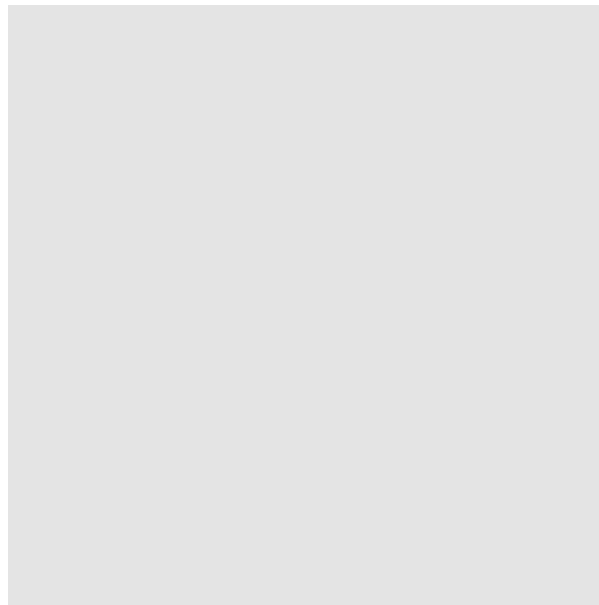


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## WKU graduate receives \$45,000 scholarship to study at prestigious London school

By AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 8 min ago



Lillian Nellans

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For as long as she can remember, Lillian Nellans has dreamed of helping to make the world a safer place for the vulnerable and powerless.

Now, after graduating from Western Kentucky University this spring, she's using a \$45,000 Rotary Foundation Global Grant Scholarship to study international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Nellans said she's most interested in studying violence between ethnic and religious groups and genocide.

"People need to have security and know that they can live without fear of war and fearing for their lives," Nellans told the Daily News, noting that she'd like to do research for an organization like Human Rights Watch or Amnesty International.

Nellans, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, won the 2018 Ogden Foundation Scholar award, which is the highest recognition at WKU a graduating senior can receive for demonstrating excellence in academics and public service.

Nellans' application was sponsored by the Bowling Green Rotary Club and the Langley Park Rotary Club in Beckenham, England.

She was on WKU's Forensics Team and won a national championship in impromptu speaking at the American Forensics Association tournament in 2017, according to a news release.

Nellans was also a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, volunteered with refugee and immigrant children, taught philosophy in a juvenile detention center and campaigned for reproductive rights and rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



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Nellans' published research she conducted under the guidance of Marko Dumancic, an assistant professor of history, suggested that patriarchal societies are more likely to experience genocide, according to the release.

Cory Dodds, coordinator of nationally competitive opportunities in WKU's Office of Scholar Development, helped Nellans apply for the scholarship. He sees her as a highly capable ambassador for WKU and Bowling Green.

"I think she will represent WKU well," he said.

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### **Aaron Mudd**

Education reporter. Covers education and related issues, focusing primarily on the Bowling Green and Warren County public school districts and Western Kentucky University.