POLICY CENTER FOR THE NEW SOUTH
THINK • STIMULATE • BRIDGE

Youth Policy Center

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MARCH-JULY, 2026

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

What is the Mentorship Program?

The **Mentorship Program** is a **joint initiative** of the **Policy Center for the New South** (PCNS) and the **Youth Policy Center** (YPC), designed to support the development of early-stage, policy-oriented young researchers through a structured research and writing journey.

Through **direct engagement** with **PCNS Senior Fellows** and **Experts**, selected participants will strengthen their analytical and policy-writing skills while **developing** a concrete **research output.** Mentees will be guided throughout the program to produce a **policy brief** aligned with PCNS thematic areas, bringing emerging perspectives into policy research and dialogue.

Key Information

Program Dates: March – July 2026

Location: Policy Center for the New South (PCNS), Rabat

Format: Hybrid (in-person and virtual engagements)

Languages: English, French, Arabic

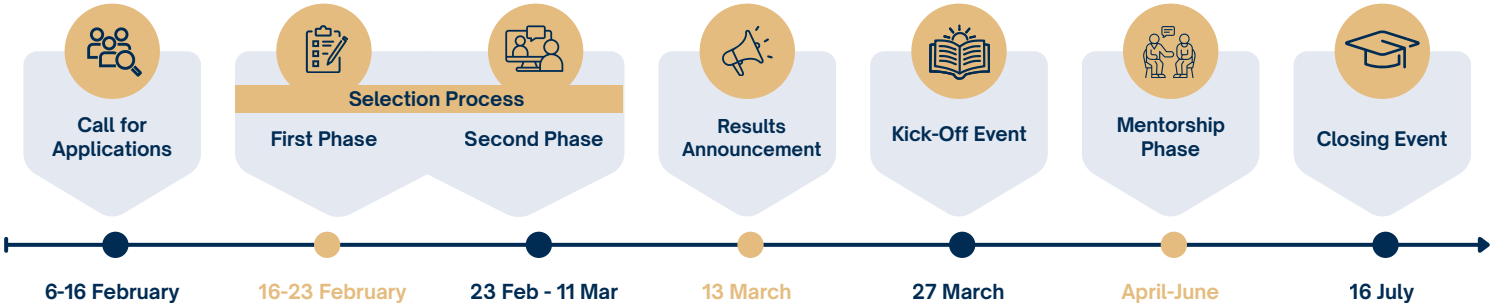
Participants: 6 young researchers

Output: 6 policy briefs developed under the mentorship of PCNS Senior Fellows and Experts

What the Program Offers

- **Personalized mentorship** from leading **PCNS Senior Fellows** and **Experts**
- A **structured pathway** to develop policy-writing and analytical skills
- **Access** to **workshops** and **thematic sessions** supporting the development of key research and policy competencies
- **Developing** and **writing a policy brief** under the **guidance** of **PCNS Senior Fellows** and **Experts**
- **Selected briefs** will be published on the **Youth Policy Center platform**
- A **certificate of completion** awarded at the end of the program

Timeline & Format



The **PCNS–YPC Mentorship Program** will run from **March to July** and will be delivered through a **hybrid format**, combining **in-person** and **virtual engagements**.

The program will launch with **a kick-off event** in late March at the **Policy Center for the New South in Rabat**, bringing together **mentees** and **mentors**, to introduce the program structure, and set the foundations for the research journey.

During the **core mentorship phase (April–June)**, mentees will follow a structured research and drafting pathway, including a **minimum of five mandatory meetings** (at least one to two in person) with the mentors.

Each mentee will benefit from the guidance of **two dedicated mentors, one PCNS Senior Fellow** and **one PCNS Expert**, ensuring complementary academic and policy-oriented perspectives throughout the process.

This **co-mentorship approach** provides close, continuous support across all stages of research and writing, ultimately leading to the **completion of a high-quality policy brief** aligned with PCNS thematic priorities.

Participants will have the flexibility to draft their policy brief in **Arabic, French,** or **English**, according to their preferred working language and research focus.

Who Can Apply ?

Aged **22 to 25** years old

Residing in **Morocco**

Currently enrolled in a Master's program

Fully available to commit to the program period

Pursuing **studies aligned with PCNS** thematic areas, such as:

- International Relations
- Geopolitics
- Political Science
- Public Policy
- Economics
- Social Sciences

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. **Shortlisted candidates** will be contacted for **a second phase of the selection process**, which may include:

- **A short written submission** (600 words max) for **each proposed topic,** outlining the rationale behind the topic choice and the intended analytical approach
- An **interview** with the selection committee



Use of AI-Detection Tools

To ensure the **integrity and originality** of the work produced throughout the program, the Mentorship Program applies high academic and professional standards of authorship.

AI-detection tools will be used during the **selection and drafting process**, and participants are expected to submit original work developed through their own analysis and engagement with mentors.

Logistics



Participants are responsible for arranging their **own transportation** for the **kick-off** and **closing events.**

How to Apply?

Please fill out the form **here**

Or scan the **QR code**

For inquiries related to the program, please contact: mentorship@policycenter.ma