



*Embassy of the United States of America*

February 15, 2013

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Ambassador McKinley and Country Team

**THROUGH:** DCM – Perry Holloway

**THROUGH:** PAS – Linda Gonzalez

**FROM:** CAO – James Russo

**SUBJECT:** FY – 2014 International Visitor Leadership Program  
Request for Nominations

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IV) is the flagship professional exchange program of the Department of State. The IV program annually brings to the United States approximately 5,000 foreign nationals from all over the world to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand. The visitors are current or potential leaders in government, politics, media, education, the arts, business and other fields. Among the thousands of distinguished individuals who have participated in the IVLP since its inception almost seven decades ago are more than 290 current and former Chiefs of State and Heads of Government, 2,000 cabinet-level ministers, and many, other distinguished leaders from the public and private sectors. From Colombia, former presidents Belisario Betancur and Cesar Gaviria Trujillo participated in this program.

We invite you to submit your nominations for the FY-2014 program by identifying outstanding candidates and preparing a strong written nomination for a three-week or two-week U.S. visit providing both professional enhancement opportunities as well as a comprehensive introduction to American society, culture, and values. These emerging young leaders in various professions receive in-depth exposure to issues of importance to U.S. mission objectives in Colombia.

**We ask that you send in your nominations to PAS no later than by April 12, 2013**, after which the Embassy Selection Committee will review and select the best candidates according to Integrated Country Strategy goals. Your thoughtful nominations and justifications are the key to this important exchange program. Barring a significant cut in our budget, we expect to have between 35-40 total grants again next year.

Ideal candidates are in their late twenties to early forties, have had relatively limited exposure to the United States, and are already established in government, NGOs, industry, media, education, or the arts. Senior officials are usually not appropriate for the IVLP since many people in senior ranks have already had significant U.S. experience and, more importantly, are unable to be away from their positions for the time that the program requires. Embassy officers **should know the nominees personally** and believe that these contacts will develop into important Embassy interlocutors and future leaders of Colombia.

As a reminder, ***Multi-regional Programs*** are for groups of 10-20 participants nominated by embassies around the world and conducted in **English**. The list of FY-2014 multi-regional programs is attached. ***Regional Programs*** are for groups of 10-20 participants but conducted with **Spanish interpretation and thus suitable for candidates who do not speak English**. Program themes are chosen to reflect issues of importance to Latin America. The FY-2014 list of regional programs is attached. You will note some overlap in the two programs.

Only completely filled out nomination forms can be accepted for consideration by the Selection Committee which is composed of representatives of all major Embassy sections. Please also look closely at the Integrated Country Strategy priority goals in developing your detailed objectives and justifications for your candidates since the Selection Committee will address priority goals.

Please submit completed forms to James Russo, Cultural Officer, PAS (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), by COB April 5, 2013, and by e-mail: [RussoJL@state.gov](mailto:RussoJL@state.gov). Please also address any questions you have about the process to my extension 2989 or to Cultural Specialist Marlene Saavedra at extension 2752 or at [SaavedraM@state.gov](mailto:SaavedraM@state.gov). This packet of information is also posted under International Visitor Leadership Program on the home page of the Bogota Intranet Web Site.

ATTACHMENTS:   Nomination Information  
                      Nomination form  
                      Sample nomination  
                      List of RP and MRP projects

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The Ambassador  
DCM, Perry L. Holloway  
PAO, Linda Gonzalez  
POL, Drew G. Blakeney  
AID, Peter R. Notiello  
DAO, Col. Phillip K. Abbott  
DEA, Jay Bergman  
CONS, Roberto Powers  
ECON, Laura A. Lochman  
FAS, Joseph Lopez  
APHIS/USDA, Peter Fernandez  
FCS, Cameron Werker  
ICE, Stephen Kleppe  
JUDATT, James A. Faulkner  
JUSTICE, Paul Vaky  
LEGAT, Keith A. Byers  
MGT, John E. Olson  
MILGP, Col. Chris Lukasevich  
NAS, James B. Story  
OFAC, Mark A. Samara  
ORA, Julio R. Royal  
RSO, Stephen Brunette

## INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NOMINATION INFORMATION

### DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The three general categories of International Visitor Leadership Programs are:

1. ***Multi-regional Programs*** for groups of 10-20 participants nominated by embassies around the world and conducted in **English**. The list of FY-2014 multi-regional programs is attached.
2. ***Regional Programs*** for groups of 10-20 participants but conducted with **Spanish interpretation and thus suitable for candidates who do not speak English**. Program themes are chosen to reflect issues of importance to Latin America. The FY-2014 list of regional programs is attached.
3. ***Single Country Projects and Individuals Traveling Together***
  - a. ***SCPs*** are for four or more grantees who share similar interests not covered by Regional Programs; include Spanish interpretation and other enhancements, like drivers and a welcome luncheon.
  - b. ***ITTs*** are for two or three individuals with shared interests who travel together with one consecutive interpreter but no additional enhancements.

**NOTE: *Individual Programs*** are for a single participant and are designed by the Embassy to meet the participant's particular interests. Individual programs, however, have two drawbacks. They are more expensive and they reduce the total number of IVs we can send in a year. It is also much more difficult to make high-level appointments for an individual than for a group. We therefore highly recommend that grantees be nominated for group projects. Exceptions should be made only for special VIPs.

### NOMINATION INFORMATION

Two portions of the nomination form require a short narrative:

1. **Post Objectives**: You can explain why the program for your candidate would benefit to the U.S. and ties to Mission Program Plan/Mission Strategic Plan goals.
2. **Justification for Nomination**: In the justification, **you should provide detailed information on why you see your particular nominee** becoming important to the Embassy in the future and what their role is now and how this will be enhanced by the program. Nominations with inadequate justifications may lose out to less-qualified nominees with better-written justifications. The selection committee will weigh why this nominee is particularly suited and how nominee could contribute to Mission goals in years to come.

Other important factors to consider are the nominee's:

- educational background

- diversity
- geographic location
- current position
- future prospects
- access to major decision-makers
- other variables that distinguish the nominee

The Selection Committee will attempt to strike a balance among all Mission goals. Not all nominees are accepted for programs; therefore, if you inform contacts that you are nominating them please let them know that the process is competitive and does not automatically lead to participation. While we do not have our budget yet, we anticipate funding 35 to 40 participants like we have during the past several years.