



U.S. Embassy Cairo

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

Description:

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the seventh year of its Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program. This project advances reform efforts in the Middle East and North Africa by providing emerging civic leaders and democracy activists the opportunity to spend several months in the United States to gain academic skills and practical experiences as well as networking opportunities with like-minded professionals. It will take place March 18 to June 14, 2013 and be hosted by Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse, New York. The fellowship will cover international travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend over the course of the project.

The project is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with bachelor's degrees and sufficient English language fluency to function successfully in an American academic and professional environment. Applicants also should have at least five years of work experience and the capacity to apply the opportunities presented by the fellowship in a way that would benefit an organization, sector, or specific community in their home countries. Fellows are expected to travel to the United States unaccompanied. An alumni conference will be held in the region in the last quarter of 2013 (details to follow at a later time).

The LDF project begins with five weeks of academic coursework that addresses topics of leadership, democracy, democratic transitions around the globe, comparative politics, civil society, communication, conflict resolution, and change management, among others. Fellows are expected to be active participants in all seminars and workshops that include theoretical debates as well as active skills-building sessions. Participants are also expected to lead discussions and make presentations to the Fellows and the broader Maxwell School community. After completing the academic portion of the project, each participant will engage in a seven-week professional assignment with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization of interest in Washington, D.C. Through this component of the project, participants will gain practical experience about the ways that such institutions interact with government and civil society while also gaining valuable knowledge, experience, skills, and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits back home.

Application Requirements:

Completed applications must include:

- 1) An essay of no more than 1,000 words, written in English, which answers the following questions:
 - How will MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship enable you to better lead your community towards greater democracy and citizen participation in the institutions and activities of government?
 - Specifically, what do you hope to gain from this project and what are your plans to apply the experience it offers?
What changes do you hope to bring about in your country during the next 10 years?
- 2) An updated resume
- 3) A copy of Egyptian ID/passport

Applicants may also include up to two letters of recommendation, but these are optional. Please note that only applicants fulfilling the program's requirements will be considered for an interview.

Please submit your applications and supporting documentation by email to:

CairoMEPI@state.gov with the Subject line: 2013 MEPI- Leaders for Democracy

Deadline for Applications: November 15, 2012 at 4:30 PM (Cairo)

Kindly note that the selected applicants will be contacted for an interview on November 25-26, 2012