



Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

*A Program sponsored by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of the U.S.
Department of State*

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

Submission Deadline

March 05, 2016

Instructions for the Applicant:

Give this form to a relevant professional reference and ask him/her to fill out the form completely and submit it to IraqMEPI@state.gov by the application deadline. **Please make sure to provide your professional reference with the same first and last name and email address that you use to submit your LDF application so that they can include the same information on their professional reference form.**

Information about the LDF Program for the Professional Reference

The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program is an exchange program for mid-career professionals ages 25-40 from the Middle East and North Africa. The program aims to provide civic leaders and democracy activists the opportunity to spend over three months in the United States (for high-proficiency English speakers) or Lebanon (for Arabic speakers) to gain academic skills and practical experience as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers and professionals.

The Arabic Language program will take place in Lebanon from July to October 2016 and the LDF English and will take place in the United States from September to December 2016. Fellows chosen to participate in the English language program will travel to the United States to first attend a five week academic component at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia while the Fellows chosen to participate in the Arabic Language program will travel to Lebanon to first attend their academic component at the American University of Beirut. Program participants will subsequently be placed in host organizations aligned with their professional interests for a nine week practicum experience in Washington, D.C. for the US participants, and Beirut for the Lebanon participants.

Participants will be required to implement follow-on activities upon their return home that will help the participants stay in touch with each other and reflect on their experiences and integrate that learning into their day-to-day lives at home. An important goal of the program is that the leaders will involve and train others through community-oriented follow on projects.

Instructions for Professional Reference:

The LDF program features a unique kind of educational and practicum experience. This applicant will be involved in an exchange program in the US/Lebanon with close contact with other leaders from the Middle East and North Africa region in a challenging learning environment that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of functioning as a member of a group. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people



of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is an appropriate fit for this kind of program. Please indicate your estimate of the following characteristics as to how they pertain to the applicant by marking an “X” in the appropriate box. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper. **Your answers will remain confidential.**

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant First Name:	
Applicant Last Name:	
Applicant Email Address:	

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Street Address:	
City:	
Country:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Job Title:	
Place of Employment:	

In what capacity have you know the applicant?

How long have you known the applicant? From: _____ to: _____
Year Year



III. APPLICANT RANKING

Applicant Quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Consideration for and interest in others and their views					
Leadership potential					
Ability to take direction cheerfully					
Takes Initiative					
Sense of responsibility					
Ability to adjust to and cope with new situations					
Intellectual curiosity and imagination					
Ability to express self					
Participation in community and extracurricular activities					
Ability to follow through with projects					

IV. SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please print your responses to the following questions:

What do you see as the strengths of this applicant? And weaknesses?

How well will the applicant be able to work with others in the LDF group to resolve problems?

What challenges do you foresee the applicant might face in participating on this program?



Please comment on the applicant's overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

Signature _____ *Date (dd/mm/yy)* _____

Please submit this reference form before the application deadline. Thank you!