



Application for the 2016 MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program (LDF) is now open!

The US Embassy Tel Aviv's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program and the international non-profit organization, World Learning are pleased to announce a call for applications for the tenth year of the LDF project. **The fellowship will run from September to December 2016 in the United States.**

Program Overview: This project provides emerging and mid-career civic leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with the opportunity to complete an academic training at the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville, Virginia and gain relevant professional experience within a practicum host organization in Washington, D.C. The fellowship will cover the cost of international and domestic travel, health insurance and housing and provide a moderate living stipend to cover meals and incidentals. **Fellows are expected to travel to the United States unaccompanied.**

The project is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with a minimum of a bachelor's degree and sufficient English language fluency to successfully function in an American university and professional working environment. Applicants also should have at least five years of professional work experience and both the capacity and commitment to apply the experience gained through the Fellowship in developing and implementing a project that will benefit an organization, specific community and/or sector in their home countries.

Follow-up: To promote program sustainability and create a multiplier effect, participants will create and implement follow-on projects in their home communities. Action plans for the follow-on projects will be developed and finalized throughout the course of the program.

Academic Component: The LDF program begins with five weeks of academic training on leadership, peace and conflict mitigation, comparative politics, civic engagement, advocacy, communication, and change management, among other topics. Fellows are expected to be active participants in all seminars, workshops and activities including theoretical debates and active skills-building sessions. Fellows are also expected to participate in group work, lead discussions and make presentations to the other Fellows in their cohort and to the broader UVA community.

Internship Component: After completing the academic portion of the program, each participant will engage in a nine-week practicum placement within a relevant non-governmental or public policy organization in Washington, D.C. Through this component

participants will gain practical work experience and learn about the ways that such organizations interact with government and civil society. Fellows will also gain valuable knowledge, experience, skills and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits back home. For each Fellow the internship component will culminate in the development and finalization of a project or deliverable of benefit to both the Fellow and the organization. These will be presented and shared with the rest of the cohort at the end of the component.

Costs: The US Embassy's MEPI program, through World Learning, the University of Virginia will cover international travel costs, health and accident coverage, housing, and a moderate living stipend to cover meals and incidental expenses in the United States for all Fellows. All Fellows will travel to and from the United States in unaccompanied status.

Eligibility:

1. s/he are between the ages of 25 and 40
2. s/he has at least five years of experience working as a professional in a political reform oriented field, (e.g., civil society, rule of law, human rights, family law reform, etc.);
3. s/he has demonstrated a strong commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future and an equal commitment to being a leader of positive change within his or her own country;
4. s/he has exhibited leadership skills over time and the capacity to apply the experiences and opportunities presented in this program in a project that will benefit an organization, sector, or specific community upon her/his return;
5. s/he has strong English language fluency sufficient to function successfully in a high-level academic as well as professional environment;
6. s/he has at least a bachelor's degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment;
7. s/he has not already completed a similar academic degree or internship in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions.
8. s/he doesn't have dual American-Israeli citizenship or permanent residents of the United States.

Application and deadline:

Each candidate should submit the following application materials to mepitelaviv@state.gov by **May1, 2016**.

- a) LDF Application Form – US Program
- b) LDF Application Annex A. Professional Reference Form, to be sent by the professional reference directly to mepitelaviv@state.gov

Interviews: Due to the high volume of applications, only successful applicants will be notified and invited for personal interviews to be held in Tel Aviv on Friday May 6th.

We look forward to receiving your applications!