Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

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

Application Form for the US-based Program

Submission Deadline
April, 21st 2016

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative and implemented by World Learning, the LDF Program will provide emerging 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 network with like-minded peers and professionals.

The Arabic Language program will take place in Lebanon from July to October 2016 and the LDF English program 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.

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

Accommodations will include double-person hotel rooms, dorm lodging or shared apartments. A stipend will be provided during the program to cover meals and incidentals. The cost of international and domestic travel, program-related ground transportation, and other logistical arrangements will also be covered.

The project is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with a minimum of a bachelor's degree and sufficient English or Arabic language fluency to successfully function in an American or Arabic language 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.

We seek candidates with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, proven leadership abilities, the ability to work in a cross-cultural setting and a commitment to the program and follow-on activities. Those selected will come from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, organizations, and political orientations. We also aim for gender balance. Written and oral English proficiency is required for the US-based program as the participants will need to converse about complex political and global issues with U.S. peers and experts. To select the best candidates, we will review applications based on clearly defined criteria, including:

- Demonstrated a strong commitment to being a leader of positive change in your community
- Demonstrated tolerance and a desire to work collaboratively with a diverse cohort of peers irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, religion, political views and socioeconomic status;
- Interest in participating in the program and sharing the experience with others; and
- Commitment to the implementation of a follow-on project.

Preference will be given to applicants with relevant professional achievements who have not previously visited the United States. Please find the application form below. Early applications are encouraged. Please note that due to the volume of applications, we will only contact semi-finalists. We appreciate your interest in this program.

LDF PROGRAM APPLICATION

Applications should be completed in English.

Please answer **ALL** of the application questions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April, 21st,2016

I. BIO-DATA INFORMATION

Personal Information

First Name:	
Middle Name(s):	
Last Name:	
Gender:	
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy):	

Permanent Address

Street (1):	
Street (2):	
City:	
Zip Code:	
Country:	

Contact Information (best way to reach you)

Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	

Additional Information

Do you have a valid passport? (Y/N):	
How did you first hear about this program? (Please be as specific as possible):	

Have you previously traveled to the United States? If yes, please indicate time and circumstances. Also, please indicate if the travel was sponsored by the U.S. Government, and if so, which program:

Do you have any health condition that substantially impacts:

a. Physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?
(List and explain condition)

b. Hearing/Seeing abilities
(List and explain condition)

c. Mental/Emotional abilities
(List and explain condition)

Professional Information (take as much room as you need to write your answer**s)**

Name of Employer/Organization: _____

Your Job Title: _____

Full Work Address: _____

_____

Work Telephone: _____

Work E-mail Address: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Describe your job responsibilities:

List any other current job titles (if any), employers, and years at position:

List your previous job titles, employer, and years at position for up to 3 previous positions:

Education Information (including current work-in-progress degrees)

Please list any degrees or diplomas earned, name of school, year received:

Memberships or Affiliations

Please list any current memberships or affiliations to groups, associations or networks that you have:

English Skills

Please rate and mark your level of English for the following categories with an X:

Comprehension:	Excellent _____	Good _____	Adequate _____	Poor _____
Reading:	Excellent _____	Good _____	Adequate _____	Poor _____
Speaking:	Excellent _____	Good _____	Adequate _____	Poor _____

II. PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Please provide a brief biography of no more than 200 words that describes your personal background and professional experience as it relates to the goal of the LDF program - advancing civic engagement and reform efforts in the Middle East and North Africa. The biography should include any relevant projects or volunteer work and any noteworthy accomplishments (such as articles published or awards received).

III. ESSAY QUESTIONS

The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program selects qualified and dedicated individuals from throughout the MENA region who have demonstrated their potential to be great leaders in their

respective communities. Along with submitting with your application an updated resume or CV, please answer each of the following essay questions written in English (for the US Program).

Question 1 (500-word limit)

What knowledge, skills and abilities do you hope to gain as a result of participating in this program? Who else would benefit from your participation in the program?

Question 2 (500-word limit)

Describe one strength and one weakness of a community you are a part of (for example city or country). What are the causes of these strengths and weaknesses?

Question 3 (500-word limit)

Describe an experience or challenge that you have overcome. How did you overcome it? What did you learn from that experience?

Question 4 (500-word limit)

How are you a leader in your community? Identify two to three leadership qualities that you have and examples of how you have used them.

Question 5 (500-word limit)

What do you hope to learn from other LDF participants during the program? What are you hoping to share about yourself and bring to the group?

IV. LDF PROJECT PLAN

Selected candidates are asked to start the fellowship program with a project plan in mind to implement when they return back home after the program. These plans are then revisited, worked on and finalized by the end of the fellowship. Please describe below a potential relevant project idea that you imagine working on in your community after returning home. The plan should include a project objective, an outline of project steps and activities, a timeline, any resources needed, and any other information you find useful to share. (500-1000 words):

Project Name:

Personal Interest in this Project Idea:

Project Objective (what are you hoping to achieve? Be specific!):

Project Steps/Activities:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Project Timeline:

Total Length:

Key Deadlines:

Resources Needed:

Additional Information (if applicable):

V. CERTIFICATION

Are you willing to share hotel rooms/living space during your program? (Y/N):

Are you willing to participate in all stages of the program, including working on a follow-on project within your community upon returning home? (Y/N):

Are you available to participate, either in person or via phone/Skype, in a selection interview within the next two months as well as travel to participate in the LDF US program which will take place in from September - December 2016?

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen, I will participate in ALL program activities in the United States and in my country, including the pre-departure preparation activities and the follow-on activities.

Applicant Signature Date

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. Please note that due to the volume of applications received, only semi-finalist candidates will be contacted.

Good luck!