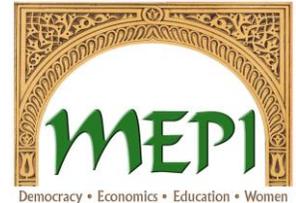


Announcement
Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program
Three-Month program (March 12 –June 1, 2012)



Program Overview:

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, are pleased to announce the call for applications for the sixth year of the **Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF)**. This three-month program will provide emerging civic leaders and democracy activists between the ages of 25-40 with the opportunity to enroll in academic skills and practical learning experiences at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, New York. They will complete academic coursework at Syracuse followed by professional experiences at Washington, DC-based institutes and organizations. This program will run from March 12, 2012, to June 1, 2012. An alumni conference will be held in the MENA region in the last quarter of 2012.

Interested applicants should submit - to the U.S. Embassy in Amman - no later than October 23, 2011, an updated resume and two essays of no more than 1000 words each, written in English, which answer the following questions:

1. How will a MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship enable you to better lead your community or country towards greater democracy and citizenship participation in the institutions and activities of government?
2. What do you hope to gain from this program 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?

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with a bachelor's degree and sufficient English language fluency to function successfully in an American academic and professional environment. Applicants should also have 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.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- 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.)
- S/he has demonstrated a 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.
- S/he has exhibited leadership skills and the capacity to apply the opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit an organization, sector, or community.
- S/he has demonstrated a level of English language fluency sufficient to function successfully in high-level academic and professional environment.
- S/he has at least a bachelor's degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment.
- S/he has not already completed a similar academic degree or internship in the United States, is not subject to J-visa restrictions.

Description of the Program

Academic Component:

The LDF 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 at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/>) Fellows are expected to be active participants in all seminars and workshops that address 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.

Internship component:

After completing the academic portion of the program, participants will engage in a seven-week professional assignment with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization of interest in Washington, DC. Through this component of the program, 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.

Costs:

MEPI and Syracuse will cover international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend in the United States. Fellows will travel to the United States unaccompanied.

Submitting applications

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a current CV as well as responses to the essay questions, by email, with the subject line “MEPI LDF application – (Your Name)” to MEPI Amman at MEPI_Amman@state.gov by Oct 23, 2011. For further information, please call MEPI Office at 00962-6-590-6295. Selected candidates will be notified in December 2011.

For further information, questions related to academic and internship components to this program. Please visit the websites for this program at the following link:

<http://mepi.state.gov/opportunities/mepi-exchange-programs/leaders-for-democracy-fellowship.html>