



Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and the international non-profit organization, World Learning, are pleased to announce a call for applications for the tenth year of the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) programs. These programs provide emerging and mid-career civic leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with the opportunity to complete an intensive specialized academic training at either the University of Virginia in English or the American University of Beirut in Arabic and gain relevant professional experience within a practicum host organization in Washington, D.C. or Beirut. This 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.



The programs are open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 35 with a minimum of a bachelor's degree and sufficient English or Arabic language fluency to successfully function in an English 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. The fellowships will run from the end of February through May 2017 in the United States and Lebanon. Fellows are expected to travel to the United States or Lebanon unaccompanied.

Quick Facts:

Program Objective

Advance governance and empower civil society leaders by providing academic learning and practicum experience, as well as support and reinforce alumni linkages with counterparts across the region.

Program Activities

- ✓ Five weeks academic learning
- ✓ Nine weeks practicum
- ✓ Alumni engagement

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. Lebanon Program participants may also have the opportunity to participate in a one-week long study tour in the United States in the summer of 2018.

"The most rewarding part of LDF was meeting excited and interested young men and women from all over the Arab world who share with me the same interests and concerns, even though we have different personalities and origins." – LDF program alumnus



Deadline for Application Submission is October 31, 2016

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- a) Be between 25 and 35 years of age;
- b) Have at least a bachelor’s degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment;
- c) Have strong English or Arabic language fluency sufficient to function successfully in a high-level academic as well as professional environment.

“The program has completely changed my life and changed the way I look at things.” – LDF program alumnus

PROGRAM THEMES & ILLUSTRATIVE TOPICS:

Leadership

Topics may include:

- Individual and group leadership
- Professional collaboration
- Strategic planning
- Management of a change process

Communication

Topics may include:

- Advocacy
- Public speaking
- Networking
- Effective public discourse
- Media and Social Media
- Campaigning
- Research

Democracy and Governance

Topics may include:

- Comparative democracy and governing systems
- Ideology
- Pluralism and tolerance
- Citizenship
- Transitions
- Transparency

Civic Engagement

Topics may include:

- Political and social stakeholders
- Civil society rights and responsibilities
- Community organizing
- Community engagement and participation

Conflict Transformation

Topics may include:

- Individual and group conflict transformation
- Human rights and the rights of marginalized groups
- Social justice
- Peace building, negotiation and reconciliation

Sample Day Agenda at the Host University:

- 7:30am Breakfast at hotel
- 8:45am Meet with LDF group and University Staff on campus
- 9-10:30am Visit a local NGO and participate in a civic engagement workshop on grassroots mobilization and activating marginalized communities
- 11-12:30pm Meet one-on-one with NGO leaders
- 12:45-2pm Lunch at a downtown café
- 2-4:00pm Participate in research or volunteer activities with a local NGO
- 4:00pm Afternoon debrief, group discussion and reflection on the day
- 5:30pm Free night on own or with other Fellows (dinner, movie, cooking, sightseeing, etc.)