



2014 Legislative Fellows Program

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is pleased to announce the development of a Legislative Process and Governance Fellows Program for 24 young political and policy leaders from Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and the United States.

ACYPL's Legislative Fellows Program will provide international participants with an in-depth, hands-on exploration of the vital role that a diverse civil society plays at all levels of our country's political processes and how this involvement informs and enhances political transparency and accountability as well as American democracy. In so doing, foreign fellows will strengthen their understanding of American governance, politics, and the legislative process. The American program participants will gain knowledge and insight into the government and political dynamics of the country in which their hosted fellows live and work. By then travelling to these countries, they will gain personal perspective into the challenges and opportunities of local political and government systems and share professional knowledge, strategic advice, best practices, and shared aspirations.

These exchanges will serve as a foundation on which to establish sustainable or continue two-way partnerships between the young political and policy professionals from these Southeast Asian nations and their American counterparts, with the goal of promoting and strengthening civil society, good governance, and mutual understanding and trust.

Legislative Fellows Program applicants must be:

- Between the ages of 25-35
- Fluent in oral and written English
- Provide a comprehensive, well-conceived written project framework for a project to be refined and implemented with input and assistance of an American mentor in the Fellow's home country
- Self-directed and able to work effectively in cross-cultural settings
- Demonstrated commitment to public service
- Leadership potential in government, private sector, or civil society
- Committed/ able to organize an 8-10 day program in applicant's country for American mentor including joint outreach and capacity building activities.
- May not hold a dual-US citizenship **or** have travelled on a J-1 visa for a Department of State sponsored program in the past two years

Program Structure

The Legislative Fellows Program will be broken down into four (4) phases:

Phase A-I/ B-I

All international fellows will travel to Washington, DC for a 5-day program orientation and federal government overview as well as a welcome reception and cultural outings.

Each fellow will participate in a 3-week intensive internship in a separate political, policy, or civil society office with day-to-day mentoring and guidance from a single point of contact (state host) who is an ACYPL alumnus.

At the conclusion of the program, all international fellows will return to Washington, DC for a 3-day Professional Fellows Congress where they will interact and share their experiences with other international fellows of different programs.

The internship office and the ACYPL state host will be responsible for ongoing monitoring of internship experiences and addressing individual issues and concerns. They will also be responsible for organizing weekly roundtables for fellows to share insights, questions and concerns, and to work with fellows to develop strategic plans for Phase II of the exchange activities.

Phase A-II/ B-II

During the time between the departure of the international fellows and travel of the ACYPL alumni host, ACYPL partner organizations will coordinate via email with each international fellow and their American counterpart to solidify a final strategic plan for an 8 -10 day in-country program that will include follow-up on the international fellow's project, on-site consultancies, professional meetings, community outreach activities, media availabilities, and opportunities aimed at sharing expertise, gaining knowledge, and increasing understanding between the fellows, their American hosts, and the larger community. ACYPL will monitor the development of these in-country program plans through ongoing communication with our partners and ACYPL alumni participants.

Prior to international departure, ACYPL will conduct pre-departure meetings via conference call with each American participant as well as provide briefing and background materials.

The American state host who supervised the fellows in Phase A-I/B-I will travel to their fellows' countries to participate in joint outreach and capacity building activities, spending a week in each country.