

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) – The Washington Fellowship

The Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. The Washington Fellowship, which begins in 2014, will bring 500 young leaders – including a number of Gambians - to the United States each year for academic coursework and leadership training and will create unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in leading organizations, communities, and countries.

The online application for the Washington Fellowship is currently available. Completed applications, including all supporting documents, are due by 12:00 midnight Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014.

The program has four major components:

- A prestigious six-week summer leadership institute at a U.S. college or university campus with three thematic tracks: business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public administration.
- A Presidential summit for all participants in Washington, DC.
- Internships in the U.S. for approximately 100 of the 500 participants, awarded on a competitive basis.
- Follow-on activities for all participants on the continent after they return home.

Eligibility criteria for the Washington Fellowship:

- Applicants must be a citizen of and reside in The Gambia or other applicable sub-Saharan African countries, the full list is below*.
- Speak, read, and write proficiently in English.
- Be between 25-35 years of age at the time of application submission, although exceptional applicants younger than 25 will be considered.
- Have a proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business or entrepreneurship, or civic engagement.
- Demonstrate a commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship.
- Be committed to return to Africa and contribute their skills and talents to build and serve their communities.

The online application is available at <http://www.irex.org/applyyali>.

More information on the program can be found at <http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov>.



WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

A new flagship program for Africa's most promising young leaders

**To be eligible for the YALI Washington Fellowship one must be a citizen and resident of one of the following countries:*

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.