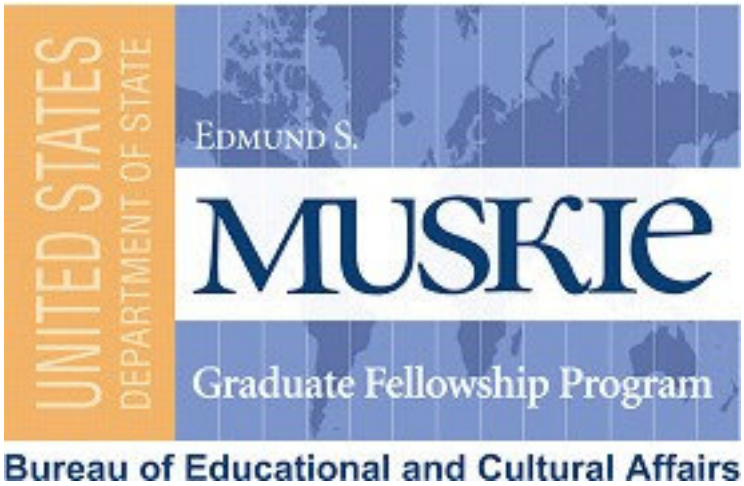
APPLICATION

2012 EDMUND S. MUSKIE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Department of State providing opportunities for Master's level study in the United States. In addition to course work, fellows perform community service projects, virtual exchange projects, and conduct internships.

The competition is open to citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
5:00 pm, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

2012 Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program

A PROGRAM OF THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Thank you for your interest in the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program.

For more than half a century, the United States has supported international educational and cultural exchange programs as an investment in global understanding and peace. Such exchange programs have a long track record of bringing future leaders from around the world to the United States.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 to support democracy and economic development in Eurasia, the Muskie Program provides opportunities for outstanding professionals to study for advanced degrees in the United States. Over the past eighteen years, more than 4,000 men and women have studied in 11 academic fields at over 200 U.S. universities. At the end of their academic component upon return home, fellows are also eligible to take part in alumni activities that further promote the goals of the Muskie Program.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State is responsible for the management and oversight of the Muskie Program. Underlying the role of exchanges in U.S. foreign policy is the belief that mutual understanding is of vital importance in an increasingly interdependent world and that person-to-person exchange and training is the most effective way to promote mutual understanding. International exchanges enhance the effectiveness of the United States in dealing with other nations, and the exchange of persons and ideas is essential to the promotion of democracy, economic prosperity, international cooperation, peace and security around the world.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has awarded IREX a cooperative agreement to conduct a merit-based competition to recruit, select, place and support fellows throughout the academic components of the program.

IREX Make a Better World

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development.

This application is free and may be reproduced.

Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program (Muskie)
PAPER APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: The Muskie application is a PDF document and information typed into it cannot be saved. Please print the application and fill it out by hand or print it immediately after completing it on your computer.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM GOALS

The Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, was designed to identify exceptional individuals who are committed to a future of service and leadership in their home countries and provide these individuals with Master's level academic study and professional experiences in the United States.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Muskie program provides opportunities for Master's level study in the United States to citizens from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,** and **Uzbekistan** in the following fields:

- Business Administration
- Economics
- Education
- Environmental Management
- International Affairs
- Journalism and Mass Communications
- Law
- Library and Information Science
- Public Administration
- Public Health
- Public Policy

Citizens from **Russia** and **Ukraine** are eligible only for the following fields:

- Business Administration
- Economics
- Law
- Public Administration
- Public Policy

Master's applicants may indicate a preference for **one- or two-year programs** in the above fields. The selection committee, the United States Department of State, and IREX will make the final decision as to

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

length and type of program. Please note that most degree programs are 2-year programs, with the exception of law programs. Approximately 66 master's-level fellowships will be awarded throughout Eurasia. **Fellows may not choose their own host institution.**

Under the terms of this grant and the laws governing the J-1 visa required for participation in the Muskie Program, fellows must return to their home country immediately upon completion of the program for a period of at least two years. Fellows are not eligible for visa extensions or transfers (for example J1 to F1) under any circumstances. No exceptions will be made.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Virtual Exchange: To expand connections between Americans and citizens of the fellows' home countries, fellows will be encouraged to implement a Virtual Exchange Project. Fellows will connect a group of students or professionals in their home country to a group of students, professionals, or technical expert(s) in their host university or host community using online tools.

Community Involvement: To further build fellows' professional skills and expose them to the principles of community service and social responsibility in the United States, fellows will also be required to participate in a volunteer community service project related to their professional interests during the first academic year.

Internship Component: Internships provide an essential opportunity for fellows to gain professional experience and skills which they can directly apply to their future careers in their home countries. Fellows will conduct a full-time internship during the summer following their first academic year. Fellows will have the option of extending their internship or conducting a second internship before their departure home.

TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates will be considered without respect to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or gender. Competition for the Muskie Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

- Is a citizen of and qualified to hold a valid passport issued by the country of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan;
- Currently resides in their country of citizenship;
- Submits an application in their country of residence;
- Is the recipient of an undergraduate degree (four- or five-year study) by the time of the application (undergraduate degree must be in law in order to apply to the Muskie Program in the field of law);
- Submits a complete application and two copies (for a total of three) by the application deadline (or submits the online application);
- Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in the summer of 2012;
- Is able to receive and maintain a US J-1 visa;
- Is committed to returning to their home country in Eurasia after completion of the program;
- Is proficient in spoken and written English at the time of the application.

Individuals in the following circumstances are NOT eligible for the Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program:

- US citizens and permanent residents of the United States;
- Spouses of US citizens and permanent residents of the United States;
- Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the United States;
- Individuals who have already been recipients of and participated in the Muskie Fellowship;
- Individuals who are not citizens, qualified to hold a passport from one of the 12 participating countries;
- Individuals currently residing or working outside their country of citizenship;

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the US government (e.g., Public Affairs Sections at US embassies or other US government agency) for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of application;
- Individuals who have applied for US permanent residency in the past three years;
- Local employees of US missions abroad who work for the US Department of State or USAID are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment;
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of US Department of State or USAID employees for a period of one year following the termination of such employment. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents;
- Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime as further detailed by ECA;
- Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to apply for any IREX-administered programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

The US Department of State and IREX reserve the right to verify all of the information included in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

Applications not meeting the above technical eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE GRANT

- J-1 visa support;
- Roundtrip travel from fellow's home city to their host institution in the United States;
- Tuition and additional mandatory university fees;
- Health benefits plan;
- Monthly allowance for living expenses;
- Limited allowance for books;
- An Orientation program; and
- Alumni networking and training opportunities.

The Muskie program provides no financial support for dependents.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The Muskie Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed by a bi-national panel of academics, regional experts, and alumni. Chosen semi-finalists will be interviewed in their home country by a bi-national committee of US academic specialists, program alumni, and US embassy representatives. Selected semi-finalists will take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), as well as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), if applicable, in early 2012. Program finalists and alternates will be chosen based on results of the initial application review, interview committee, and test scores.

IREX staff provides administrative support only and does not vote in the final selections. All applicants will be notified of their status in late spring 2012. Fellowships will begin in August 2012. Due to the volume of applications received, IREX will not be able to forward explanations to applicants that were not chosen as program finalists.

Selection panels will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- Academic excellence
- Flexibility and suitability as a graduate exchange student

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

- Relevant work experience
- Demonstrated leadership potential
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Commitment to returning to their home country in Eurasia after program completion and sharing the benefit of the program with their community
- Commitment to becoming engaged in work and/or volunteer endeavors designed to benefit the development of the home country, following the program
- Preference will be given to those applicants from outside capital cities
- Preference will be given to applicants who have not had prior US study abroad experience

---

PLACEMENT: Please note that some finalists will be placed in one-year programs. IREX attempts to make the best placements possible, taking into consideration the applicant's professional interests, academic credentials and test scores. **It is not possible to meet every applicant's preference for program length.** Applicants must be prepared to accept either a one-year or a two-year program.

The Muskie program works with over 100 host universities that apply to host Muskie fellows in specific fields of study. If you are selected for a Muskie fellowship, you will be placed at a Muskie host institution that has applied to host a fellow in your field of study. *You cannot be placed at an institution that did not officially apply to host a Muskie fellow in your field of study.*

All attempts are made to place fellows in programs that correspond to their academic and professional interests as described in the application.

GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Please answer **ALL** questions on the application in English (except where specified).
- Write your full name, country of residency, and date of birth in the top right corner of each page.
- **Include your full name as it appears on your international passport. Write your family name (surname) first, exactly as it is spelled on your international passport (if available).** Do not translate name spellings (for example, write Mariya and not Mary).
- Include complete contact information (including index codes for all addresses and city/country codes for all phone and fax numbers). Do not translate street or city names into English, only into the English alphabet (for example, write Prospekt Mira instead of Peace Avenue).
- DO NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- All forms and supporting materials should be typewritten (if possible) and submitted with the completed application. Handwritten applications must be neatly printed in black ink. All statements of purpose and program of study essays must be typewritten.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND FORMS INSTRUCTIONS

- Please fill out all questions and attach all required documents in the supplemental application.

NOTES:

- **Any documents submitted in addition to those specifically mentioned in the supplemental application will be discarded and not considered.**
- **Applications that include plagiarism or other evidence of academic misconduct will be disqualified. All essays will be checked using plagiarism detection software.**
- **Semi-finalists will be required to bring certified/notarized copies of university transcript and diploma in the language of instruction and English translation at the time of the interview.**

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The deadline for applications for the Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program is **5:00pm, Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011**. Applications may be submitted at the IREX office in your country of citizenship, to IREX representatives, or, in some countries, to Educational Information Centers in Eurasia (please confirm application submission locations with your in-country IREX office). DO NOT send applications to the IREX office in Washington, DC. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. No application will be returned to the applicant after the end of the competition.

Applicants must submit the original application and two (2) complete copies for a total of three (3) applications. *(NOTE: Applicants with internet access may also choose to submit online applications at www.irex.org.)* Applicants should also keep a copy for their own records. **Each application should be submitted in the following order and stapled once:**

Application
Signed Privacy Policy Statement
Statement of Purpose Essay
Program of Study Essay
Two completed Reference Forms
List of Courses and Grades
Resume/CV
Copy of International Passport (If applicable)
Copies of TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, or GMAT score reports (if applicant has previously taken the exams)

Please note: In accordance with local law, applicants from Russia and Ukraine are required to submit a personal data privacy form, available here: www.irex.org/application/edmund-s-muskie-graduate-fellowship-program-application

---

Application submission locations

ARMENIA

IREX Office
8 Saryan Street
0002 Yerevan, Armenia
Tel: + (374-10) 52 66 21
+ (374-10) 52 66 23
Skype: Muskie.Armenia
Web: www.irex.am
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IREXArmenia

AZERBAIJAN

IREX Office
Caspian Business Center
40 J. Jabbarli Street, 3rd floor
AZ 1065 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel: +(994-12) 497 3902
Web: www.irex.az
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IREXAzerbaijan

GEORGIA

IREX Office
6 Marjanishvili, 3rd Floor
0102 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 322 91 26 08
Web: www.irex.ge
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IREXGeorgia

KAZAKHSTAN

IREX Office
60 Zhybek Zholy Street
Suite 12, 3rd floor
050002 Almaty, Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 (7272) 73-41-50
Web: www.irex.kz
Facebook: http://on.fb.me/irexkazakhstan

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

KYRGYZSTAN

IREX Office
265A Prospect Chui, Room 106
720071 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: + (996-312) 61-08-11
+ (996-312) 64-26-12
Web: www.irex.kg

MOLDOVA

IREX Office
202 Stefan cel Mare Blvd, 3rd Fl.
Chisinau, MD-2004, Moldova
Tel: + (373-22) 233-231
Web: www.irex.md

RUSSIA

IREX Office
Khohlovsky pereulok 13, Building 1
109028 Moscow, Russian Federation
Tel: + 7 (495) 956-09-78
+ 7 (495) 956-09-77
Web: www.irex.ru
Vkontakte: http://vkontakte.ru/muskierussia
Twitter: http://twitter.com/#!/muskierussia

TAJIKISTAN

IREX Office
40 Pushkin Street
734000 Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel. + (992 37) 227-58-91/22, 227-79-49
Web: www.irex.tj

TURKMENISTAN

IREX Office
Gorogly Street, 48A, 1st Floor
744000, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Tel: +(993-12) 97 08 10

UKRAINE

IREX Main Office
Vul. Saksaganskogo 36D
2nd Entrance, 5th Floor
Kyiv, 01033, Ukraine
Tel: + (380) 44-586-27-80, 537-06-04
Web: www.irex.ua

UZBEKISTAN

US Embassy Tashkent
3 Moyqorghon Street, 5th Block
Yunusobod District
100093, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
e-mail: **tashkent-program@state.gov**

IREX does not administer the Muskie program in Uzbekistan. Please note that citizens of Uzbekistan should contact the US Embassy in Tashkent at tashkent-program@state.gov for information on how to apply.

MUSKIE TIMELINE

November 2	Application deadline
November/December	Initial application review to select semi-finalists
Late December	Semi-finalists notified; standardized testing scheduled
January/February	Interviews and standardized testing (if applicable) in home countries
May	Finalists and alternates announced
June	Pre-Departure Orientations in capital city of each country
Early August	Welcome Orientation Workshop in Washington, DC

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

General descriptions of each Muskie program field are given below. This information is offered as a reference guide only.

Applicants should note the following:

- Individual academic host institution programs of study may differ in course offerings, subspecialties, and academic requirements.
- In some cases, **the degree title may differ as well**. For example, fellows applying for International Affairs may be placed in a program offering a degree in International Development, if that corresponds with their interests.
- It may not be possible to make an exact match between a fellow's field of interest and a graduate program, as many factors, including the strengths of a candidate's application, affect the final placement.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully research potential fields of interest, either through the Internet, printed material, or other sources. Each applicant can only choose one field of study, and this field should be the applicant's chief area of interest. The selection committees will consider very carefully the chosen field of study and the applicant's interest and ability to succeed in that field.

Business Administration
The study of the operations, management, and leadership of businesses and organizations. The study of business administration covers theory, but is focused more on practical applications, including working with case studies and in groups. ***Subspecialties include: accounting, banking, entrepreneurship, finance, general management, human resources management, international business, investment, electronic commerce, management of information systems and technology, marketing, operations management, strategic management, and logistics management, among others.***

Economics
The study of the production, supply, demand, and allocation of resources in society. Employing a combination of both theory and mathematics, economics examines economic trends and predicts future developments in society, analyzes the effects of government economic policy on the economy, and assesses how governments, private institutions, and households make decisions in varying economic conditions. Economics examines a wide range of practical topics, including inflation, unemployment, and taxes. ***Subspecialties include: agricultural economics, applied economics, development economics, econometrics, environmental and resource economics, international economics, macroeconomics, microeconomics, labor economics, economic policy, public finance, and urban and regional economics, among others.***

Education
The study of theory and practice of learning and teaching, including such issues as education policy, research, and administration. Education encompasses all levels of education, from primary to higher education. ***Subspecialties include: education policy, education administration and leadership, curriculum and instruction, education psychology and counseling, special education, adult education , among others.***

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Environmental Management and Policy
The study of the policies and decisions of both businesses and governments in managing the use of natural resources to limit negative effects on the environment. Environmental Management and Policy also concerns natural environmental hazards and their effect on public health and encompasses a wide range of issues such as the management of hazardous waste, urbanization, air and water pollutants, and trends in human activity with respect to the environment. ***Subspecialties include: environmental policy, energy policy, water resources management, natural resource management, and sustainable development, among others.***

International Affairs
The study of a wide range of interrelated topics including politics, history, foreign policy, culture and economics with the goal of examining trends in political processes, historical developments, and societal change with respect to how countries' leaders and citizens behave in an international context. ***Subspecialties include: comparative and regional studies (Latin American, African, etc.), international communication, international development, international peace and conflict management, international economics, international law, international environmental policy, and international security and diplomacy, among others.***

Journalism and Mass Communications
The study of all aspects of mass communications, including print (newspapers, journals, etc.) and broadcast (radio, television, Internet) media, media management, and communications research and strategy. ***Subspecialties include: cross-cultural communications, media management, public relations, print journalism, online journalism, and broadcast journalism, among others.***

Law (LLM)
The study of one particular field or specialization of law. The Masters of Law (LLM) program is designed to provide lawyers with a specific in-depth concentration. Candidates for this field of study in the Muskie Program must have a law degree from their home country. ***Subspecialties include: intellectual property law, human rights law, international comparative law, environmental law, and tax law, among others.***

Library and Information Science
The study of the classification, storage, and management of a variety of material, including books, magazines, electronic data, historical documents, and other archival materials. Library and Information Science focuses on the impact of technology on managing collections. ***Subspecialties include: archives/records management, digital libraries, school media, information systems, academic librarianship, public librarianship, and library administration and management, among others.***

Public Administration
The study of management as it relates to government sector (local, state, federal) or organizations serving the public. ***Subspecialties include: local governance, healthcare management, criminal justice, public management, non-profit management, public finance, and city/urban management, among others.*** *PLEASE NOTE that many U.S. universities have an overlap of public administration, public policy, and/or political science courses. You will be placed at a university that applied to host in the field of interest you indicated, but this field may be a specialization or concentration, and the degree name may be different (i.e., "Masters of Political Science," "Masters of Public Affairs" or "Masters of Urban and Public Administration.")*

Public Health
The study of all issues related to public health, including the management of public health institutions and formation of public health policy. ***Subspecialties include: environmental and occupational health, international health, healthcare management, epidemiology, family and child health, health communication and promotion, and public health policy, among others.***

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Public Policy

The study of decision-making and policy formation in the public sector through the analysis of economic and political factors. Public Policy focuses on studying information and data to develop alternative approaches to dealing with current issues and problems. ***Subspecialties include: policy analysis, environmental policy, education policy, energy policy, public health policy, economic policy, security policy, social policy, and international affairs, among others.*** *PLEASE NOTE that many U.S. universities have an overlap of public administration, public policy, and/or political science courses. You will be placed at a university that applied to host in the field of interest you indicated, but this field may be a specialization or concentration, and the degree name may be different (i.e., "Masters of Political Science," "Masters of Public Affairs" or "Masters of Urban and Public Administration.")*

Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2011