

U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative



2014 Leaders For Democracy Fellowship

Application Deadline: **December 17, 2014**

The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a is pleased to announce the ninth year of its Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) project (English). This fellowship, organized by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), provides outstanding Yemenis working in the field of political reform with an intensive academic and practical training program in the U.S.

The program will take place from March to June 2015, at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse, New York. The LDF project 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, among others. Fellows are expected to be active participants in all seminars and workshops that include 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.

After completing the academic portion of the project, each participant will engage in a seven-week professional assignment with a relevant political, non-governmental or public policy organization in Washington, D.C. Through this component of the project, 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.

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

Ideal candidates should:

- Be between the ages of 25 and 40.
- Be fluent in the English language
- Have a Bachelor's degree
- Have at least five years of working experience

- Plan to remain working in the field of political reform for the foreseeable future
- 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;
- She/he has not already completed a similar academic degree or internship in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions;
- Have no prior travel to the U.S. or be subject to J-visa restrictions

For more information about this program, please visit:

<http://yemen.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/themiddleeastpartnershipinitiativ.pdf>

To apply, please send the following to PASSanaa@state.gov:

1- Please provide a brief **biography** of no more than 200 words that describes your personal background and professional experience as it relates to democracy building in your country of origin. The biography should include their current position, recent professional affiliations, and any noteworthy accomplishments (such as articles published or awards received)

2- An essay written in English, maximum length 1,000 words, answering the following questions:

1. The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program selects qualified and dedicated individuals from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region who have demonstrated their potential to be leaders in their respective communities. Please tell us why you think you have the potential to be a real leader in your country or local community
2. Specifically, what do you hope to gain from this project and what are your plans to apply the experience it offers?

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a at PASSanaa@state.gov