

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

APPLICATION

Q: How do I input my name into the application?

A: You should type your name exactly as it appears on your passport or other official government identification documents. For example, passport says: NGOZI John Michael. He should type “John Michael” in the given names field and “Ngozi” in the surname field.

Q: I am unable to move past the general information section. How do I apply?

A: Please review the requirements. The application will not let you proceed unless you meet the requirements and complete the section.

Q: I signed up for email updates from the YALI Network and cannot get into the Mandela Washington Fellowship online application system. What do I do?

A: Signing up for YALI Network email updates does not create an account for you in the online application system. You must create a separate account to apply through the Fellowship online application system at yali.state.gov/apply.

Q: How can I log in to the application system and see my information from last year?

A: The application has changed and all previous applications have been cleared. You cannot log in as a returning user and will need to register again in order to complete the 2016 application.

Q: Can I submit a paper copy of the Fellowship application?

A: No, you must submit your application through the Fellowship online application system. Paper applications, or applications by email attachment, will not be accepted.

Q: Can I submit more than one application for the Fellowship?

A: No, you may submit only one application. Submitting additional applications will not increase your chances of getting in. If you do apply more than once, your applications will be disqualified.

Q: I have multiple email addresses, including some for personal use and some for my work. Which one(s) should I use for the Fellowship application?

A: You should use the email address that you access most frequently and that can be accessed from any Internet connection. Work email addresses that cannot be accessed outside your office are not recommended.

Q: I cannot afford to pay an application fee. How should I apply?

A: The Fellowship application is free to all eligible applicants.

Q: What is plagiarism?

A: Plagiarism is a type of deception in which a person presents another person’s writing, ideas or materials as their own without crediting the source. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden at many organizations and academic institutions in the United States, and those who plagiarize their application materials will be disqualified. IREX and the Department of State will be checking all applications for plagiarism. For more information, visit www.plagiarism.org.

Q: I have a physical disability or special need and I need another person’s assistance to complete my application. Is this considered plagiarism?

A: Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the Fellowship! Applicants with physical disabilities or special needs who require another person’s assistance to complete an application may do so. However, the thoughts, ideas and content of their application must be their own; they cannot collaborate with the person assisting them on the content of their application.

Q: After I complete and submit my application, can I go back in and make changes or add supplemental materials at a later date?

A: No, once you have submitted your application, you can no longer add any additional information or make any changes. All information and documents must be uploaded prior to your final submission.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the academic institute focused on Energy?

A: Applicants from any of the three tracks may express their interest in the academic institute for 25 Fellows focused on Energy, although this placement will not be guaranteed. Priority will be given to applicants with working responsibilities in this field. If they are not chosen for the Energy institute, applicants will still be considered for the track they selected.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Age

Q: I am currently 35 years old but will turn 36 before the Fellowship application deadline closes. Am I eligible for the Fellowship?

A: No, you are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship. Applicants must be between the ages of 25 and 35 at the time of the application deadline. No exceptions will be made for candidates older than 35.

Q: I am younger than 25. Am I eligible for the Fellowship?

A: Yes, you may be eligible for the Fellowship. Though the target age range is 25 to 35, exceptional candidates younger than 25 will be considered for the Fellowship. All applicants must be at least 21 at the time of the application deadline.

Citizenship

Q: I left my African home country as a refugee and am now a U.S. citizen. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

A: No, you are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship. U.S. citizens, permanent residents or green card holders are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship under any circumstances.

Q: I have dual citizenship in my African home country and a non-eligible country. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

A: Maybe. If you live in Africa, you are eligible to apply for the Fellowship. If you are accepted as a Fellow, you must apply for your U.S. visa and enter the U.S. on your eligible passport. If you live outside of Africa, you are not eligible to apply regardless of your citizenship.

Q: I am an employee of the U.S. government but a citizen and resident of an eligible country. Am I eligible to apply?

A: No, you are not eligible. Employees and immediate family members of employees of the U.S. government are not eligible.

Residency

Q: What do you mean by country of residence?

A: Your country of residence is the country in which you currently live and have a physical address. You must live in an eligible country.

Q: I am a citizen of Ghana currently living in South Africa. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship? What option do I choose for my country?

A: Yes, you are eligible for the Fellowship. Applicants living outside their country of citizenship but in another eligible country may apply. Please be sure to select the correct country of citizenship, but list your current permanent address in the legal residence section.

Q: I am a resident of the United States, but I am originally from an African country. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

A: No, you are not eligible for the Fellowship. Residents of the United States, or any non-eligible country, are not eligible for the Fellowship under any circumstances, even those with temporary residency such as students.

Q: I am an African student studying in France. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

A: No, you are not eligible for the Fellowship. Residents of non-eligible countries are not eligible for the Fellowship under any circumstances, even those with temporary residency such as students. You may be eligible for a future Fellowship year once you permanently return to your home country, provided that you meet the other technical eligibility requirements.

Q: I am a citizen of a non-eligible country but have lived all my life in sub-Saharan Africa. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

A: No, you must be both a citizen and a resident of an eligible country to apply for the Fellowship.

Language

Q: How will language abilities be assessed?

A: Language abilities will be assessed via the application and, if chosen, an interview at the U.S. Embassy. TOEFL scores are not required.

Miscellaneous

Q: Must I have attended university or have a university degree to apply?

A: No. Formal education plays a role in what we are looking for in applicants, but you will not be disqualified if you do not have a formal degree.

Q: I am currently serving in my country's military. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Due to U.S. Congressional funding restrictions, we are unable to consider members of the military and defense ministries in 2016.

