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.
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 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.
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

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• 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

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**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

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**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

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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.

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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.**

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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.”)

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