



The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the U.S. Embassy in Oslo are pleased to announce a four-week Summer Institute – the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship (BFTF), for up to 45 young Europeans and Americans. The institute intends to foster relationships among the younger generations of Europeans and Americans to promote awareness of shared values in light of the global challenges of the 21st Century.

The BFTF Institute, which will be organized at [Wake Forest University in North Carolina](#), will be designed for 35 European students and 10 Americans, ages 16 to 18 as of June 25, 2016. It will take place from June 25 to July 23, 2016.

The BFTF Summer Institute will enable teenagers to participate in an intensive, four-week exchange program in the United States that focuses on global issues facing both European and American youth. The Institute will focus primarily on an exploration of issues through interactive activities, practical experiences, and other hands-on opportunities. Participants will learn more about democratic practices, volunteer service, conflict resolution, problem solving, communication skills, critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity, youth leadership, team building, and the media. The Institute also explores how freedom of expression both provides rights to and imposes responsibilities on citizens. Fellows will participate in a variety of activities such as training sessions, workshops, community-based programs, study tours, and cultural events. In addition, community service activities, social and cultural activities, and homestays with American families will deepen the Fellows' experience of U.S. society during their exchange.

The initiative is named after the legendary American statesman and diplomat Benjamin Franklin in honor of the inspiration his own life and career provides to those who are working to strengthen transatlantic cooperation. In today's terms, Franklin could be called a transatlantic man, someone whose career, interests, studies and life took him back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, bringing Americans and Europeans closer in understanding.

The goals of the Institutes are:

- to develop a commitment to transatlantic cooperation
- to foster relationships between American and European youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups
- to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Europe/Eurasia
- to develop a network of youth leaders who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers through positive action

Participants are expected to develop a project plan while in the U.S., which will aim to amplify the goals and values of the program. Upon returning to Norway, the Fellow will present what they have learned as well as seek to implement the project plan to the best of their ability.

Very good knowledge of English is required as the seminars are conducted in English. Any applicant who is selected will be expected to fully and seriously participate in all program components during the four weeks. Participants should be ready to inform and educate Americans about the Norwegian culture and society in non-structured gatherings and in public presentations.

All costs will be covered by the U.S. Embassy and Department of State.

Application Requirements and Procedure

The U.S. Embassy in Oslo invites students from all over Norway to apply.

Young people from all over Europe/Eurasia will compete for the 35 BFTF 2015 spots. The U.S. Embassy in Oslo will select one primary candidate to be the Norwegian nominee for participation in the Institute. We know with 95% certainty that the primary candidate will be selected.

Requirements:

- Be 16-18 years old as of June 25, 2016
- Highly proficient in English
- Committed to enrolling in high school/university in Norway in fall of 2016
- Demonstrate strong leadership potential and interest in transatlantic relations and the United States
- Sustained high level of academic achievement (attach preliminary high school grades)
- Demonstrate a commitment to community and extracurricular activities (attach CV)
- Have had little or no prior U.S. study or travel experience
- Be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive
- Willing and able to fully participate in an intensive summer program
- Comfortable with campus life, shared living accommodations, travel and interaction with a multinational group of participants from Europe and the United states

How to apply:

Send an e-mail to osloirc@state.gov, where you include the [application form](#), a copy of your preliminary high school grades, a CV, and a short essay where you answer the following question in English (max 400 words altogether):

Pick one American from history or fiction to converse with for an hour and explain your choice. What would you talk about?

We encourage you to be creative in your pick. Focus on yourself: Choose someone who has actually caused you to change your behavior or your worldview, and write about how this person influenced you.

We may have follow-up questions as part of stage two of the application process.

Deadline for applications: March 29, 2016.

For more information:

For questions, e-mail us at osloirc@state.gov

Read about and see photos of Mairuan's BFTF experience from 2015: [Part 1](#) – [Part 2](#)

More information from Wake Forest University: <http://bftf.org/>