



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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## Franklin Fellows Program

*"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin*

President Obama has stated that "government does not have all the answers, and...public officials need to draw on what citizens know." Therefore, he directed the Administration "to find new ways of tapping the knowledge and experience of ordinary Americans – scientists and civic leaders, educators and entrepreneurs – because the way to solve the problems of our time...is by involving the American people in shaping the policies that affect their lives."

Since the end of the Cold War, the range and complexity of issues facing Americans and the larger international community have grown exponentially. In order to strengthen its ability to deal with this plethora of issues and to involve Americans in creating the policies to confront them, the Department of State created the **Franklin Fellows Program**. This program provides **unique opportunities** for professionals with a minimum of five years of relevant experience to serve a detail or sabbatical year as Franklin Fellows at the Department of State or at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The **goal** of the program is for Fellows, serving as consultants, to provide valuable and pertinent advice, views, opinions, alternatives or recommendations on foreign policy and development issues facing the nation.

Such critical international security challenges include: bilateral and multilateral diplomacy; policy planning; nuclear nonproliferation; human rights and democracy promotion; protecting the environment; global women's issues; terrorism; public diplomacy; consular services to U.S. citizens; promoting trade and assisting U.S. business abroad; providing disaster and humanitarian assistance; development alliance building; war crimes issues; the global scourges of HIV/AIDS and other trans-national diseases; human trafficking and child labor; and many, many more.

**Who Is Eligible?** The **Franklin Fellows Program** is open to mid/upper-level professionals from both private-sector and non-profit entities. It is not open to U.S. Government employees. Fellows must be U.S. citizens and be able to obtain a security clearance. The clearance will be processed prior to the start of the Fellowship. The Department will make the final selection and placement of Fellows but will take into account candidates' preferences and suggestions from the nominating/funding entity.

The Department welcomes professionals with a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. Fellows will contribute their knowledge and expertise to the strengthening of policy formulation and programs within the Department of State and USAID. Further, Fellows may work with other government entities, such as the Congress, White House, the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Homeland Security and other Executive Branch agencies, depending on their duties. Fellows will enhance their own knowledge of government and global issues, gaining valuable professional experience and enriching their nominating organizations and communities upon their return.

**Program Details:** Fellows will be matched with State Department and USAID offices that can utilize their expertise. The expected duration of the Fellowship will be approximately

one year, with a maximum of a one-year extension. Fellows must recuse themselves from matters that might directly and predictably affect the financial interests of their employers and must comply with other federal ethics regulations. Applicants must submit a financial disclosure form and receive an ethics clearance, prior to serving.

**Information for Organizations Interested in Funding/Nominating Fellows:**

Approved, non-federal entities may participate in the Franklin Fellows Program as follows:

- First, such entities, once approved by the Department of State, may continue the salaries and benefits of their nominees who are selected. Remuneration for Fellows who are being funded directly by their nominating organizations shall remain the sole jurisdiction of the Fellow and the home organization. These Fellows will serve in the Department as unpaid consultants/experts.
- Second, approved entities may donate funds as a gift to the Department of State for support of otherwise-unfunded Fellows.
- Third, approved entities may nominate Fellows whom they fund partially or not at all. Because appropriated funds are not available to support the salaries and benefits of Franklin Fellows, the Department of State would rely on donations, if available, to support unfunded or partially-funded Fellows. At present, there are no such funds available.

**Individuals** may self-nominate, if a sponsoring organization is not available. However, please note that appropriated funds are not available for this program. The Franklin Fellows Program cannot financially support self-nominated Fellows.

**Security Clearance/Official Travel:** The Department of State will cover costs associated with the security investigation and clearance, as well as transportation and per diem necessary for official travel, once the Fellow begins service.

**Contacts/Website:** Additional information about the Franklin Fellows Program can be found at <http://careers.state.gov/FF>. Points of contact at the Department of State are:

- ❖ William P. Pope, Senior Advisor for Fellows (private sector and overall coordination), 202-261-8865 and [popewp@state.gov](mailto:popewp@state.gov)
- ❖ Mark Schall, Advisor for Fellows (individual candidates), 202-261-8866 and [schallmd@state.gov](mailto:schallmd@state.gov).
- ❖ Joanne Martin, Advisor for Fellows (academia), 202-261-8871 and [martinjm@state.gov](mailto:martinjm@state.gov)
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