



Franklin Fellows Program

January 2020



About the Franklin Fellows Program The complexity of issues facing the U.S. government has never been greater. To tap the knowledge of expert American citizens, the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) created the Franklin Fellows Program, <https://careers.state.gov/work/fellowships/franklin-fellows>.

This program provides unique opportunities for experts with a minimum of five years of relevant, professional-level experience to perform a year of public service at the Department of State or USAID. The goal of the program is for Fellows to provide valuable advice, opinions, alternatives, or recommendations on foreign and development policy. Fellows, in turn, enhance their own knowledge of government, gain valuable professional experience and enrich their universities, organizations, firms, and communities upon their return.

The Franklin Fellows Program welcomes seasoned professionals with a range of backgrounds and experiences - from bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to counterterrorism, economics, nonproliferation, disease, and other global issues. Experts in finance, information technology and other organizational management functions can serve as Fellows. The State Department does not compensate Fellows. Rather, sponsoring institutions continue to provide compensation and benefits during the period of the fellowships. Sabbatical leave provided by universities for tenured faculty is a good example. Self-nomination, with individuals covering their own costs, is also possible.

As of January 2020, 250 Franklin Fellows have served in the Department, USAID, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. They have come from more than 50 academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and companies.

Who Is Eligible? The Franklin Fellows Program is open to mid- to upper-level experts from the private and non-profit sectors. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and be able to obtain a security clearance if hired. While the Department or USAID will make the final selection and placement of Fellows, they take into account candidates' preferences and suggestions.

For more information, please write us at FranklinFellowsProgram@state.gov

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