

Frequently Asked Questions for YSEALI PFP Programs

Do I need to pay for the program? What are the costs?

If you are selected as a finalist, American Councils and the Department of State will cover all costs associated with your international travel, visa, and basic living costs in the US. There are no required costs to Fellows.

Am I eligible to apply?

Please see eligibility requirements on page one of this flier and on the application at <https://ais.americancouncils.org/pfp>. These are firm requirements and no exceptions will be made. Regarding work history eligibility, the economic empowerment theme is very broad and a wide variety of professionals are eligible. The shared vision of YSEALI Professional Fellows in the economic empowerment cohort is to expand economic opportunities for their communities, citizens and country. Successful applicants will be able to address how these ideals are present in their work and careers.

Where will I live?

Fellows will live with volunteer host families identified by American Councils. This is a required part of the program.

Where will I work?

Host institutes will match Fellows with worksites in the U.S. While Fellows may express a preference early in the process for a particular type of site, please note that host institutes have final say over all sites and Fellows may not choose. Exact office matches may not be available however it will be in the same field. Fellows must keep an open mind about placement.

How do I get a U.S. visa?

If you are selected for the program, the host institute will assist you in applying for a J-1 visa. All visa fees will be covered by the program as well as travel to the visa interview. However, a J-1 visa is required for the program. If you are rejected for a J-1 visa you will not be eligible to participate. Host institutes can assist Fellows in the application process, but have no role in decision-making.

What if I am currently working or studying abroad? Am I eligible?

No. All Fellows must be current residents and citizens of the country cohort for which they are applying.

What will I do at my worksite?

PFP experiences are often very Fellow-driven. This means that the Fellows who are most successful think about their goals for the program in advance of their arrival and share them with their future worksites. It is recommended that Fellows also share information about their background and experiences at home. While at your U.S. worksite you will likely engage in a wide range of activities, which can include shadowing important meetings, conducting research, presenting on relevant topics, participating in office events, and many other activities.

How are Fellows selected?

Fellows are selected through a competitive nationwide search that involves an extensive written application and interviews with host institutes, partner organizations and U.S. Embassy staff.

Where can I learn more about PFP?

Theme: Civic Engagement

Implementing Partner: **University of Montana**

Application Dates: **October 1 - November 16, 2018**

Program home page: <https://mansfieldcenter.submittable.com/submit/123035/burma-myanmar-yseali-professional-fellows-application-spring-2019>

Application link: <https://sites.google.com/view/myanmarpfpmontana/home>

Theme: Economic Empowerment

Implementing Partner: **American Councils**

Application Dates: **October 1 – November 16, 2018**

Program home page: <http://professionalfellows.americancouncils.org/>

Application link: <https://ais.americancouncils.org/pfp>

Theme: Governance and Society

Implementing Partner: **American Councils of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)**

Application Dates: **October 1 – November 16, 2018**

Program home page: <https://www.acypl.org/what-we-do/professional-fellows/>

Application link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACYPLYSEALIPFP_Spring2019_Application

Theme: Sustainable Development and the Environment

Implementing Partner: **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)**

Application Dates: **October 1 – November 16, 2018**

Application home page: <https://icma.org/programs-and-projects/yseali-professional-fellows-program>

Application link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring19_YSEALI_ICMA

What is the YSEALI Professional Fellows Program?

The Professional Fellows Program (PFP) is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs', Professional Fellows Division. The program brings emerging leaders to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. Launched in 2013, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) strengthens leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. These two programs have come together as the new YSEALI PFP to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the United States and Southeast Asia, and nurture an ASEAN community.