

Governance & Society Professional Fellows Program

Are you an emerging leader engaged in the fields of Governance & Society?

Apply today to join the

Professional Fellows Program (PFP)

and gain hands-on experience and practical skills through a short-term fellowship in the United States in Spring 2025!

Eligibility Requirements

- Be between 25-35 years old and speak fluent English
- Be a citizen and current resident of:
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye, or Ukraine
- Have at least two years relevant work experience and be currently employed
- Have demonstrated leadership and collaborative skills



Program Benefits

Each Governance & Society Fellow will:

- Be matched with a full-time fellowship placement host at a U.S. organization focused on issues relating to the Fellow's work in their home country.
- Gain first-hand knowledge about U.S. institutions and build networks with U.S. counterparts.
- Participate in a fully funded program with comprehensive on-program support. Travel and living arrangements will be covered, and participants receive emergency health benefits on program.
- Become part of the prestigious PFP Alumni network with access to valuable resources and an international network of like-minded professionals.

About the Program

Governance & Society Professional Fellows expand legislative access and civic participation in policy formulation for all members of the community.

Fellows come from a variety of professional backgrounds including but not limited to:

- Local and National Governance
- Public Administration/Policy-making
- Civil Service
- Nonprofit Management
- Legislation and Legal Services
- Civic Engagement and Advocacy



**Application Deadline:
April 30, 2024**

For more information, visit
www.professionalfellows.americancouncils.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Professional Fellows Program? The Professional Fellows Program (PFP) is a two-way global exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by American Councils for International Education. PFP brings emerging leaders in the fields of Governance and Society to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. Participants spend about 6-weeks in the United States, during which they receive hands-on experience in local government offices, private businesses, and non-profit organizations through carefully designed full-time fellowships.

Am I eligible? How do I apply? For more details and to apply, visit: www.professionalfellows.americancouncils.org

How are Fellows selected? Fellows are selected through a competitive nationwide search that involves a merit-based selection process. This includes an extensive written application and in-person interview. The selection of finalists is determined in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy.

Who will be in my cohort? PFP is open to applicants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine under the Governance & Society theme; and applicants from Belarus and Russia under the Innovation & Entrepreneurship theme. All PFP fellows will engage in collaborative programming such as orientation and closing activities.

Where will I live? PFP Fellows are housed in a variety of accommodations including U.S. host families, university housing, extended stay hotels, or some combination of these options. At a minimum, all Fellows will be provided a home hospitality experience such as dinner with an American host family or a local cultural excursion.

Where will I work? American Councils will match Fellows with placement organizations in the U.S. based on their professional interests. While Fellows may express a preference for a particular type of office, American Councils has final say over all sites and Fellows may not choose their own placement. Not every type of office will have an exact match in the U.S., so Fellows are encouraged to keep an open mind about learning how U.S. offices work around different issues.

Do I need to pay for the program? What are the costs? If selected as a finalist, American Councils and the U.S. Department of State will cover all costs associated with your international travel, visa, and basic living costs in the U.S.

How would I get a U.S. visa? If you are selected for the program American Councils will assist you in applying for a J-1 visa. All visa fees will be covered through the program as well as travel to the visa interview. However, the granting of a J-1 visa is a requirement for the program, and if you are rejected for a visa by the Consular section at the U.S. Embassy, you will not be eligible to participate.

What if I am currently working or studying abroad? Am I eligible? All PFP Fellows must be current residents and citizens of the country cohort for which they are applying. (Note: Citizens of Ukraine who are currently residing outside of Ukraine are eligible to apply, provided they left Ukraine no earlier than February 2022.)

What will I do at my worksite? PFP experiences are fellow-driven. This means that the fellows who are most successful often think about their goals and objectives for the program well in advance of their arrival and share those goals with their future fellowship hosts. Fellows will engage in a wide range of activities, which can include shadowing meetings, conducting research, presenting on relevant topics, participating in office events, and many other activities.

Will COVID-19 impact my participation in the program? The in-person, U.S.-based fellowship is contingent upon favorable travel conditions. In the event there are travel restrictions or others factors that could adversely impact the health, safety, and welfare of program participants and hosts, PFP will pivot the in-person, U.S.-based exchange to virtual programming.