

Frequently Asked Questions

Program: Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Eligibility Questions

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Humphrey Fellowship?

A: Mid-career professionals with a proven track record of leadership and a commitment to public service in either the public or private sector are eligible. Applicants must have a minimum of five years of full-time professional experience, a bachelor's degree (or equivalent), and demonstrated English language proficiency.

Q: Can I apply if I already have a Master's degree?

A: Yes. The Humphrey Fellowship is a non-degree program. Applicants with advanced degrees are welcome to apply as long as they meet all eligibility requirements.

Q: Can I apply if I'm currently pursuing a graduate degree?

A: Yes, but your application should demonstrate how the Fellowship aligns with your mid-career professional development. Priority is often given to those who are currently working.

Q: Is there an age limit?

A: There is no age limit; however, the program targets mid-career professionals, typically aged 30–50.

Q: Are individuals with disabilities encouraged to apply?

A: Yes. The program encourages applications from all qualified individuals.

Q: Can private sector professionals apply?

A: Yes. Professionals from the private sector are welcome if they demonstrate a strong record of public service and a commitment to community development.

Application Process Questions

Q: How do I apply?

A: Applications must be submitted online through the official application platform. Please visit MACEE's website for more information.

Q: When is the application deadline?

A: Please refer to the MACEE website for the most up-to-date application deadlines.

Q: Do I have to take the TOEFL iBT exam at the time of application?

A: No. You will be provided with a test voucher to take the test if shortlisted.

Q: May I submit IELTS instead of TOEFL?

A: No. Only TOEFL scores are accepted.

Q: How many reference letters are required for the Humphrey Fellowship application?

A: You must submit two (2) reference letters. Applications with fewer than two references will be considered incomplete.

Q: What should my referees include in their recommendation letters?

A: Your referees should provide insights into your professional achievements, leadership qualities, character, and potential for impact in your field. They should also speak to your ability to adapt to an international environment and benefit from a non-degree, professional development program.

Q: What if my referees submit their letters late?

A: All recommendation letters should be submitted by the application deadline. However, if your referees are not able to submit the letter(s) by the deadline, please reach out to the MACEE team.

Q: Can international students apply through MACEE?

A: No. MACEE only manages applications for Malaysian citizens. International applicants should apply through their country's Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy.

Program Experience Questions**Q: What is the Humphrey Fellowship Program about?**

A: It is a non-degree, professional development program that combines academic coursework, leadership training, networking, and a 6-week professional affiliation.

Q: Do I earn a degree through the Humphrey Fellowship Program?

A: No. Fellows receive a certificate of participation from the U.S. Department of State upon successful completion of the program.

Q: Can I choose the university I will be placed at?

A: No. Placements are determined by IIE based on your field of interest and background. Fellows are assigned to U.S. universities in diverse, multidisciplinary cohorts.

Q: What does a typical academic schedule look like?

A: Fellows take graduate-level courses that enhance their knowledge in their field, but they do not pursue a degree. Coursework is complemented by seminars, workshops, and site visits.

Q: What is a Professional Affiliation (PA)?

A: The PA is a six-week practical experience, similar to an internship, where Fellows engage with U.S. organizations, agencies, or companies related to their professional field.

Q: Will I have time to look for housing after arriving?

A: No. Fellows are generally expected to arrange their housing before arrival or immediately upon arrival with limited time available for in-person searching. Most U.S. host campuses are not equipped to support housing arrangements at the last minute. It is important to communicate with your university coordinator in advance to receive guidance or explore possible housing options early.

Q: Can I arrive early at my host university?

A: Flight arrangement and the date of arrival are arranged by the U.S. Embassy.

Q: Can you provide an overview of the key components and structure of the Fellowship?

A: The program is intensive and involves academic coursework, site visits, professional affiliations, and travel.

Q: Can I work during the Fellowship?

A: No. Employment outside of the Fellowship is not permitted.

Q: Will I have access to mentoring or support networks?

A: Yes. Fellows will receive support from the local campus coordinator and faculty advisors during the program.

Q: Is there cultural support for adapting to life in the U.S.?

A: Yes. The program includes orientation, cultural exchange activities, and ongoing support from host institutions and program administrators.

Family and Dependent Questions**Q: Can I bring my family with me to the U.S.?**

A: Yes, but at your own expense. The Humphrey Fellowship does not provide financial support for dependents.

Q: Will my family have access to healthcare?

A: Only the Fellow is covered under the program's accident and sickness insurance. You must arrange separate insurance for any dependents.

Funding and Support Questions**Q: What does the Fellowship cover?**

A: The Fellowship includes:

- Roundtrip airfare
- Monthly stipend
- Tuition expense
- One time settling-in allowance
- One time incoming travel allowance
- One time computer allowance
- Book allowance
- Professional activity allowance
- One time travel home allowance

Q: Will the stipend be enough to support me?

A: Yes. The stipend is designed to cover basic living expenses, but Fellows are expected to budget carefully, especially if bringing dependents.

Post-Program Questions**Q: What is expected of me after I return to Malaysia?**

A: Humphrey Fellows are expected to return to Malaysia and:

- Apply the professional knowledge, skills, and networks gained during the Fellowship to contribute to your field and community.
- Engage in knowledge-sharing activities, such as workshops, public talks, or policy initiatives that benefit your organization or sector.
- Promote the Humphrey Fellowship and Fulbright Malaysia opportunities within your networks to inspire future applicants and strengthen alumni engagement.

Q: Can I stay in the U.S. after the Fellowship?

A: No. Fulbright participants are subject to the J-1 visa two-year home residency requirement. This means they must return to Malaysia and reside there for a cumulative total of two years before they are eligible to apply for certain U.S. visas (such as H, L, or permanent resident status). However, this does not prevent you from visiting the U.S. temporarily on a tourist visa (B-2)..

Q: Can I reapply if I am not selected?

A: Yes. Unsuccessful candidates may reapply in future cycles.

Selection and Notification Questions**Q: When will final selections be announced?**

A: Finalists are typically notified around February, however this is subject to change.