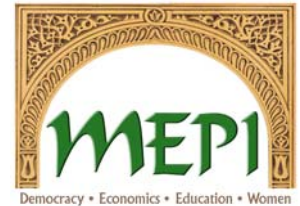


Announcement
Middle East Partnership Initiative
MEPI
Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program
Three-Month program (March 22nd –June 4, 2010)



The Middle East Partnership initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the fourth year of the "**Leaders for Democracy**" Fellowships Program (LDF). This three-month program will provide emerging civic leaders and democracy activists between the ages of 25-40, from across the Middle East and North Africa, with the opportunity to enroll in academic skills and practical learning experiences at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, New York; they will complete academic coursework at Syracuse and professional experiences in Washington, D.C. The fellowship will cover international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend in the United States. This program will run from March 22, 2010, to June 4, 2010. Fellows will travel to the United States unaccompanied

Interested applicants should submit, to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, no later than October 15, 2009, an updated resume, and two essays of no more than 1000 words each, written in English, which answer the following questions:

1. How will a MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship enable you to better lead your community or country towards greater democracy and citizenship participation in the institutions and activities of government?
2. What do you hope to gain from this program and what are your plans to apply the experience it offers? What changes do you hope to bring about in your country during the next 10 years?

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to applicants between the ages of 25 and 40 with a bachelor's degree and English language fluency to function successfully in an American academic and professional environment.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- S/he has at least five years of experience working as a professional in a political reform field, (e.g. Civil society, rule of law, human rights, family law reform, etc.)
- S/he has demonstrated a commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future, and an equal commitment to being a leader of positive change within his or her own country.
- S/he has exhibited leadership skills and the capacity to apply the opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit an organization, sector, or community.
- S/he has demonstrated a level of English language fluency to function successfully in high-level academic and professional environments.
- S/he has at least a bachelors degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment.
- S/he has not already completed a similar academic degree or internship in the United States, is not subject to J-visa restrictions, and is not an employee or the spouse or child of an employee of the U.S. government.

Description of the Program

The program will begin with a six week of academic coursework that includes topics on leadership, democracy, comparative politics, civil society, communication, conflict resolution, and change management at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/>) from March 22nd-April 2009. Participants are also expected to lead discussions and make presentations to the fellows and the broader Maxwell School Community.

After completing the academic portion of the program, participants will engage in a six-week professional assignment with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization of professional interest in Washington DC. Through this component of the program, participants will gain practical experience about the ways that such institutions interact with government and civil society while also gaining valuable knowledge, experience, skills and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits back home.

Submitting applications

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a current CV as well as responses to the essay questions, by email, with the subject line “MEPI LDF application – (Your Name)” to Cultural Attaché Laura Brown at PAAmman@state.gov by 16th October 2009. For further information call Cultural Affairs Specialist, Ruba Matarneh at 00962-6-590-6295. Selected candidates will be notified in December, 2009.

Background on the Middle East Partnership Initiative: For more information on MEPI please see www.mepi.state.gov .

For further information, questions related to academic and internship components to this program :Please visit the websites for this program at Syracuse University <http://mepi.cp.maxwell.syr.edu>. <http://mepi.cp.maxwell.syr.edu>.Further