

Announcement
Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
CIVIC EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP
(CELF) at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse
University from January 15 – May 30, 2010



The Middle East Partnership initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the **“Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) program ”**. This five-month program will provide up to 60 academics from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) an opportunity to participate in individually tailored programs at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse University in upstate New York. Fellows will participate in curriculum development, teaching skills and civic engagement seminars, and professional networking initiatives that broaden their contacts with individuals and academic institutions in the United States. Program participants will receive a certificate from the accredited institution upon the successful completion of the program.

MEPI, through its implementer, Syracuse University, will cover all international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend in the United States for all Fellows participating in the program. All Fellows will travel to the United States in unaccompanied status. Final selection of recruited candidates will be made by Washington, our MEPI regional offices and Syracuse.

Interested applicants should submit to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, no later than August 26, 2009, an updated resume, and two essays of no more than 500 words each, written in English, which answer the following questions:

- a) What has influenced your thinking about civic engagement? What are the prospects for greater civic engagement in solving social problems and fostering participatory democracy in your country and how do you see the connection between your field of study and improving the prospects for civic engagement in your country?
- b) What hopes and plans do you have about improving the quality and capacity of your educational institution in your field of study? How do you see yourself leading this change?

Program Overview

The objective of the CELF program is to enhance international standards in social science education through improved curricula development and course delivery, increased institutional capacity, expanded student and faculty engagement; and improved critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators in institutions of higher education.

The CELF is a five- month fellowship opportunity for university teachers and scholars from the MENA region. The objectives of the program are to:

- 1) Promote democracy and international standards in social science education in MENA countries striving to develop their civil society capacity on the university policy level;
- 2) Enhance the quality of education through improved curricula development and delivery, increased institutional capacity, and expanded student and faculty engagement;
- 3) Fully develop the critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators to enhance their ability to disseminate critical civic education material to their students.

Fellows will be provided with faculty mentors, based on their interests and expertise, and will meet with them on a weekly basis throughout the semester. Fellows develop individual work plans for the three substantive areas of the program, namely:

- 1) Curriculum development;
- 2) Teaching and research skills development;
- 3) Professional enhancement and networking activities.

The program will work with Fellows before they arrive in the United States so that they can maximize their time while they are in country.

Eligibility Criteria

CELF is open to individuals working in an accredited institution of higher education for a minimum of five years and not more than ten years with at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications. Though Ph.Ds (completed or in progress) are preferred, the minimum requirement for the candidates is a completed Masters degree in one of these fields.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Has completed Masters degree in one of these fields: social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications;
- 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;
- Has demonstrated a commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future, and an equal commitment to improving the quality and capacity of educational institutions in their field of study;
- Has exhibited long-time leadership skills and the capacity to apply opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit an education institutions, organization, sector, and/or communities;
- Has a level of English language fluency to function successfully in a high-level academic and professional environment; successful applicants will be requested to submit TOEFL scores at a later date;
- Has not already completed a similar academic degree or residency in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions;
- Has letters of support from the institution that will allow the applicant to study in the United States.

For further information, questions related to this program. Please visit the websites for this program at Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu>)

Applicants should submit their resumes and essays electronically to Cultural Affairs Officer Laura Brown at PAAmman@state.gov. Finalists will be notified in September 2009.