



## GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING TO THE ZHI-XING CHINA EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIP

### A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS AND THE CHINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

#### **Background**

Each year, the Zhi-Xing China Eisenhower Fellowship seeks approximately 10 diverse, dynamic doers to award a four-week fellowship focused exclusively on China. This program was launched in 2015 after many years of partnership between Eisenhower Fellowships (EF) and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE). Starting in Beijing and ending in Shanghai, Fellows experience two to three weeks of individualized programming in cities and towns across China. The Zhi-Xing Fellows are selected as a cohort and must commit to the complete fellowship travel dates. For 2020, the fellowship will take place in June 2020.

#### **Application Process FAQ**

##### **Q: How do I apply?**

Applications are accepted via Eisenhower Fellowships' online application portal. [Please click here to apply.](#)

##### **Q: What is Eisenhower Fellowships looking for in an applicant?**

The application process is highly competitive. We seek ambitious, disciplined leaders with the vision to make the world a better place as well as the ability to create and implement a concrete project. Fellows represent all professional sectors – private, public and nonprofit – and hail from any number of careers, from journalism to politics to higher education to private corporations to the arts and beyond. What all Fellows share, regardless of their professional background or nationality, is a desire to make meaningful positive change in the world in collaboration with peers across sectors or borders. Successful candidates are eager to leverage the global network of Eisenhower Fellowships and engage, over their lifetime as Eisenhower Fellows, in constructive projects and initiatives designed to enhance the values of Eisenhower Fellowships: peace, prosperity and justice.

**Eisenhower Fellowships only accepts individual applications. EF does not support dissertation research or research while a candidate is still in school. Fellowships cannot be used to solicit funds or function as an extended business trip.**

##### **Q: What is the application timeline?**

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|----------------------------------|--|
| ○ November 15, 2019              | Application portal closes                            |
| ○ November 18 – December 9, 2019 | Phone Interviews for Semi-Finalists                  |
| ○ December 11 – 12, 2019         | Finalist (in-person) Interviews in Philadelphia      |
| ○ January 2020                   | Successful candidates will be notified of acceptance |

##### **Q: I submitted my application. When can I expect to be contacted by EF regarding my status?**

Every application received is reviewed by several EF staff members. If you are not selected for the Finalist interviews, you will be notified prior to December 11 of your status.

**Q: How many applicants are selected for the program?**

No more than 10 Fellows are selected.

**Q: When will the 2020 class be announced?**

We will announce the new class of Fellows in January 2020. To read about Fellows from the 2019 cohort, [click here](#).

**Q: How often are applications accepted?**

A Fellowship class is accepted every year for both USA Programs. You can read more about our other [program here](#).

**Q: If I am not selected, can I apply again?**

If you receive a letter asking you to reapply in a few years, we encourage you to do so. We are also happy to review applications from applicants who have advanced in their work and their social impact since their previous application.

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**About the Program**

**Q: How long is the fellowship?**

- The 2020 fellowship takes place during the month of June. You will arrive in Beijing and depart from Shanghai after the close of your program. Attendance for the entire program is required for participants.
- You will also be required to attend an Opening Seminar in Philadelphia with your cohort from April 5-8, 2020, and a Closing Seminar in Philadelphia where you receive your certificate and pin as well as report on your project. The Closing Seminar will take place in May 2021, the year after your fellowship travel.

**Q: How is the fellowship structured?**

- The program begins in Beijing with an Opening Seminar and ends in Shanghai with a Closing Seminar. Fellows experience two and a half weeks of individualized programming in cities and towns across Mainland China. Fellows follow an itinerary customized to fulfill their fellowship objectives and advance their project. When appropriate, Fellows may travel together to certain cities and attend meetings together. This is particularly true for overlapping project interests. Fellows meet experts and thought leaders in relevant fields and organizations to assist in project development and increase their effectiveness as leaders. Fellows are assigned a Program Officer from CEAIE several months in advance that will work with them to craft an individualized program.

**Q: What is the time commitment?**

*The fellowship is not a full-time commitment, but active and engaged participation is essential to creating a meaningful fellowship experience.*

Fellows must commit to:

- Participate in both Opening and Closing Seminars in Philadelphia
- Attend the full length of the program in China
- Devote several hours each week to networking and researching for their program
- Devote several hours monthly to the development of fellowship project

**Q: What expenses are covered during the fellowship?**

- Travel to interviews in Philadelphia (if selected as a finalist)
- Airfare and hotel in Philadelphia for Opening and Closing Seminars
- Roundtrip international airfare to China
- Daily stipend to cover meals and inter-city travel in China
- Coverage for travel between cities in China as well bookings at four star Chinese hotels
- Visa expenses up to \$250
- Necessary vaccines

**Q: What is the policy on spouses/partners and children joining the fellowship?**

- Your spouse or domestic partner is not invited as a guest of Eisenhower Fellowships or CEAIE. EF and CEAIE cannot provide financial or logistical support for spouses as part of the Zhi-Xing program. Due to the intensity of your travel schedule, we recommend individual travel during your program. We suggest you plan travel with your spouse before or after your Opening or Closing Seminar to allow for your full attention to your program.
- Children are not allowed on fellowship. You will have an intense travel schedule, and the fellowship involves not only appointments during the day but also evening activities and travel. We suggest you take advantage of being abroad to plan a family vacation for before or after the fellowship.

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## **About You**

### **Q: What are the guidelines for eligibility?**

- 32 – 45 years of age: the fellowship is aimed at mid-career leaders who have a demonstrated track record of accomplishment as well as the potential to go further and beyond their chosen field. This age range has proven to be most amenable to the fellowships experience, with Fellows having attained the maturity to take advantage of the program and draw upon the experience to catapult them forward as thought leaders and influencers for years to come. Applications received from candidates outside of this age range will be considered, but their likelihood of selection is less.
- A desire to make meaningful positive change in the world through collaboration with peers across sectors and borders.
- Eager to leverage the global network of Eisenhower Fellowships and engage, over their lifetime, in constructive projects and initiatives designed to enhance the values of Eisenhower Fellowships: peace, prosperity and justice.
- Hold U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.

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## **Tips for Completing the Application**

Please make sure to answer all questions in the online application thoroughly. Be concise, focusing on the most important and relevant information required to answer the question, as well as any basic context about the issue needed by the reader to understand it completely.

Make sure to review all answers for grammar and spelling, as any mistakes will lessen the impact, as well as consideration, of your application. Suggested word counts are also below.

### **SECTION 3: Description of organization / your role and influence**

#### **Word Count: 250 words**

- When describing your organization and your role, please try and use your own words rather than copy existing language from a website or other standard text.
- When describing your role, please consider how your current job position will allow you to take advantage of the fellowship and achieve the impact you propose through the project or initiative. From this vantage point, what resources do you have to support your vision and take your impact and leadership to the next level – along with the network of Eisenhower Fellowships?

### **SECTION 6: Description of leadership / personal initiative**

#### **Word Count: 500 words**

- Please provide some insight into yourself through a short narrative of demonstrated achievement, either personal or professional, that speaks to the quality of your leadership, influence and ability to get things done. Explain why it mattered and what positive difference it made in your organization, business and/or community.

### **SECTION 7: Interest in China**

#### **Word Count: 500 words**

- Please provide your reasons for wanting to visit China and its relevance to your professional interests and fellowship project. Describe any involvement in cross-border collaborations, or aspirations to be involved in such initiatives, especially between the U.S. and China.

### **SECTION 8: Proposed project or initiative**

#### **Word count: 800 words**

- We prefer proposals that are focused on action and impact, and less on sharing accumulated knowledge. Proposals to write a book, blog or manual on best practices are generally not well-received. Proposals that identify a key problem that is clearly defined plus an idea that could potentially alleviate it and improve the quality of life for a specific group of people are preferred – knowledge translated into action. We recognize that this is a proposal and not a blueprint for what might actually be implemented. We expect that your ideas might change over the course of the fellowship and beyond.
- What we expect to see in this portion of the application is your dedication and passion to an issue and a program or policy that you will design and lead to reduce the negative impact on people and their lives. Examples of past projects

include instituting policies and practices to change the culture of a criminal justice agency; creating an incubator/accelerator for social enterprise; developing programs (advocacy and education) to implement a culture of sustainable finance in the banking industry; expanding a successful social services nonprofit to include a for-profit enterprise and a leadership academy; creating a private hospital dedicated to maternal health.

## **SECTION 9: Proposed fellowship design**

**Recommendation: please include a minimum of 10 organizations or individuals**

- We are interested to see how you translate your objectives and vision of fellowship and your fellowship project into concrete meetings and exchanges with people and organizations. This is not meant to be a definite or comprehensive list of people and/or organizations you seek to connect with on fellowship.
  - This section is essential in helping Eisenhower Fellowships understand exactly what you want to do and achieve on fellowship and how you think this might best be achieved, as well as what networks you seek to access and/or leverage if you are selected as a Fellow. Also in such case, program staff will work with you to further flesh out this information, which will be a key jumping-off point for your fellowship program.
  - If you do not know specific individuals or organizations in China, due to language and other barriers, please be as specific as possible in describing the profile or position of the person or the role of the organization.
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