



GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING TO EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS' USA PROGRAM

Background

Each year, Eisenhower Fellowships' USA Program seeks approximately 10 diverse, dynamic doers to join its influential global network. This nationwide application process is highly competitive, with an average selection rate of 10-15% each year. We seek ambitious, disciplined rising leaders with the vision to make the world a better place as well as the ability to create and implement a concrete plan to make that vision a reality post-fellowship. Fellows represent all professional sectors – private, public and nonprofit – and hail from any number of careers, from journalism to the military to higher education to private corporations to the theater 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 an Eisenhower Fellow, in constructive projects and initiatives designed to enhance the values of Eisenhower Fellowships: peace, prosperity and justice.

The USA Eisenhower Fellowship is aimed at mid-career leaders, U.S. citizens or permanent residents, who have a demonstrated track record of accomplishment as well as the potential to go further and beyond their chosen field. Typically, Fellows range between 32 and 45 years of age at the time of fellowship. This age range has proven to be most amenable to the fellowship experience, with Fellows having attained the maturity to take advantage of the program and represent Eisenhower Fellowships abroad, as well as 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.

Eisenhower Fellowships only accepts individual applications, and does not support fellowship programs for couples/partners. EF does not support dissertation research or research while the candidate is still in school. Fellowships cannot be used to solicit funds or function as an extended business trip.

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. It is suggested that you compose all answers offline, and cut and paste them into the online version once you are ready to submit. Suggested word counts are also below.

SECTION 2: 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 5: 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 6: Proposed fellowship travel

Word Count: 500 words

- Read carefully through the list and consider the one or two best countries that are relevant for your fellowship. We prefer proposals that are creative and push you outside your comfort zone. Regional proximity is a plus.
- As this is a proposal and depends in part upon different internal considerations of Eisenhower Fellowships, you may want to include one or two options in the event we cannot accommodate your first-choice destination(s).
- Do not propose countries that are not on the list.

SECTION 7: Proposed project or initiative

Word count: 500 words

- We prefer proposals that are focused on action and impact, and less on simply sharing accumulated knowledge. Proposals to write a book, blog or manual on best practices are generally not well-received. Proposals that identify a key issue 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; creation of an incubator/accelerator for social enterprise; development of programs (advocacy and education) to implement a culture of sustainable finance in the banking industry; expansion of a successful social services nonprofit to include a for-profit enterprise and a leadership academy; creation of a private hospital dedicated to maternal health;

Secondary objectives/interests

Word Count: 250 words

- There may be side avenues of interest that support your key focus or are of great professional interest. Do not expect more than 20% of fellowship meetings to be dedicated to secondary objectives, so keep these realistic in scope. Hobbies (golf, learning a second language) are not appropriate.

SECTION 8: Proposed fellowship design

Recommendation: a minimum of 8 proposals

- This is not meant to be a definite or comprehensive list of people and/or organizations you seek to connect with on fellowship. 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.
- If you do not know specific individuals or organizations in the country you intend to visit, 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 so that local country partners can easily understand and help translate these ideas into meetings and other experiences.
- 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 as you work with EF's program team to create your fellowship. If accepted as a Fellow, program staff will work with you to further flesh out this information, which will be a key jumping-off point for your fellowship program.