



Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program

A Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

Submission Deadline
February 9, 2018

Instructions for Applicant

Give this form to a relevant professional reference and ask him/her to fill out the form completely. This form must be uploaded before you can submit your application. **Fill-in your first and last name and email address in the form below before sending this to your reference to complete.**

Information about the LDF Program for the Professional Reference

The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program is a leadership exchange program for mid-career professionals ages 25-35 from the Middle East and North Africa. The program aims to provide leaders the opportunity to spend over three months in the United States (for high-proficiency English speakers) or Lebanon (for high-proficiency Arabic speakers) to gain academic skills and practical experience as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers and professionals.

The Arabic Language program will take place in Lebanon from July 14, 2018 to October 6, 2018 and the LDF English program will take place in the United States July 28, 2018 to October 20, 2018. Fellows chosen to participate in the English language program will travel to the United States to first attend a four-week academic component at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina while the Fellows chosen to participate in the Arabic Language program will travel to Lebanon to first attend their academic component at the American University of Beirut. Program participants will subsequently be placed in host organizations aligned with their professional interests for an eight-week practicum experience in Washington, D.C. for the US participants and in Beirut for the Lebanon participants.

Participants will be required to implement follow-on activities upon their return home that will help the participants stay in touch with each other and reflect on their experiences and integrate their learning into their civic activities at home. An important goal of the program is that the leaders will impact others through community-oriented follow on projects.



Instructions for Professional Reference:

The LDF program features a unique kind of educational and practicum experience. This applicant will be involved in an exchange program in the U.S. or Lebanon, with close contact with other leaders from the Middle East and North Africa region, in a challenging learning environment, that will require cross-cultural adjustment and an extended period of functioning as a member of a group. To succeed, the applicant must have a high degree of motivation and the ability to adjust to people of different social and cultural backgrounds. Please be very honest in your assessment of the applicant to help us to determine whether the applicant is an appropriate fit for this kind of program.

Please indicate your estimate of the following characteristics as to how they pertain to the applicant by marking an "X" in the appropriate box. If you wish to add comments, please do so on another sheet of paper.

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Applicant First Name: | |
| Applicant Last Name: | |
| Applicant Email Address: | |

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| First Name: | |
| Last Name: | |
| Street Address: | |
| City: | |
| Country: | |
| Telephone Number: | |
| Email Address: | |



| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Job Title: | |
| Place of Employment: | |

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

How long have you known the applicant? _____

III. APPLICANT RANKING

| Applicant Quality | Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Unknown |
|---|-----------|------|---------|------|---------|
| Leadership potential | | | | | |
| Participation in community and extracurricular activities | | | | | |
| Initiative and proactiveness | | | | | |
| Sense of responsibility | | | | | |
| Ability to take direction | | | | | |
| Consideration for and interest in others and their views | | | | | |
| Intellectual curiosity and imagination | | | | | |
| Ability to express self | | | | | |

IV. SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please print your responses to the following questions:



What do you see as the strengths of this applicant?

What do you see as the weaknesses of this applicant?

How well do you believe the applicant will be able to work with others in the LDF group to resolve problems?

What challenges do you foresee the applicant might face in participating on this program?

Please comment on the applicant's overall suitability for the program, including leadership and interpersonal skills.

Signature _____ **Date (dd/mm/yy)** _____

Please submit this reference form by February 9, 2018. Thank you!