



VETERANS INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

THE MISSION

On November 9, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13518, Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government, which establishes the Veterans Employment Initiative. The initiative is a strategic approach to helping the men and women who have served our country in the military find employment in the Federal Government. In support of this initiative and in recognition of a veteran's natural potential as a source of talent for diplomacy and development, the U.S. Department of State launched the Veterans Innovation Partnership (VIP), a new public-private alliance platform aimed at serving America's veterans and separating service members by preparing them for diplomacy and development careers, providing education and employment resources and expertise while enhancing America's global leadership.

THE FOCUS

The main focus of VIP is to build and deploy strategic partnerships between the U.S. government and the U.S. private sector to mobilize resources and build networks to promote foreign affairs career opportunities for veterans. VIP provides partners with opportunities to engage with like-minded businesses, organizations, and academics while focusing on the following three elements of engagement to support veterans' transition to diplomacy and development careers:

EDUCATION ▶ Assist with educational opportunities to study international relations

FELLOWSHIP ▶ Establish fellowship opportunities at USG foreign affairs agencies

EMPLOYMENT ▶ Facilitate international public and private employment opportunities

THE CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP

Secretary Kerry launched VIP on October 31, 2013. The U.S. Department of State invites private sector companies, foundations, and civil society organizations to join us in answering Secretary Kerry's calls to provide career experience opportunities for American veterans who are interested in foreign affairs, development, and international business careers.

THE FELLOWSHIP

The VIP fellowship will include the following components:

- Full-time employment beginning in Fall 2014 and lasting for one year
- Responsibilities and compensation commensurate with a Master's degree
- Mentoring and professional development opportunities throughout the year

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

VIP fellowships are only open to veterans who:

- Are enrolled in a Master's degree program in the preferred fields of International Business, International Relations/ Affairs, Public Policy, Public Administration, or related field (this includes MPA, MPH, MPP, MBA, and JD degrees)
- Completed a Master's degree in the preferred or related fields listed above less than two years prior to applying for the fellowship (except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who will have up to six years after degree completion to apply)
- Are able to obtain a Secret level security clearance
- Possess outstanding leadership and life experience, as well as excellent academic, cross-cultural and communication skills
- Have a cumulative GPA for the master's degree of 3.2 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent

To apply for the Fall 2014 round of fellowships, please submit a résumé to apply@VIPfellowship.org by September 15, 2014.





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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the selection criteria?

Criteria include outstanding leadership and life experience as well as excellence in academic, cross-cultural and communication skills. Please send your résumé to apply@VIPfellowship.org by September 15, 2014.

Where would Fellows work?

Participating agencies include the Department of State (DoS), Agency for International Development (USAID), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). All positions will be in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Fellows will be placed in the positions.

What is the timing of the program?

Subject to funding and further arrangements, the application deadline is currently September 15, 2014, with participants beginning their fellowship in Fall 2014.

Will compensation be provided?

Yes. Details will be announced at a later date by the administering partner. Subject to funding and further arrangements, we expect that fellows will receive a stipend similar to that of a GS-9 federal employee, approximately \$52,146-67,787 over the twelve months dependent on education and experience. Relocation expenses will not be covered.

What are the security clearance requirements?

Participants must receive a Secret security clearance and pass a suitability review. The hosting agency will initiate and pay for the background investigation and clearance review. Applicants must cover costs for fingerprinting, document preparation and mailing. While having a previous security clearance can assist and expedite the review process, a new or revalidated clearance is required that is specific to the VIP fellow's agency and position.

What are the options for conversion to a Federal job?

The VIP Fellowship is aimed at providing experiential learning that builds on a completed Master's degree and that Fellows may bring to the private as well as public sector. This program is not designed to lead to federal employment and does not convey preference in seeking such an appointment nor does it convey the ability to convert non-competitively to a competitive service federal position. For participants seeking a federal appointment, however, the VIP Fellowship experience should improve their ability to compete for such positions.

LEARN MORE

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For more information about the VIP program, please contact the Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships (S/GP) at partnerships@state.gov or 202-647-2200

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