"It is in the national interest that our future leaders in all walks of life have opportunities to observe firsthand the important and challenging tasks of American government."

President Johnson’s Executive Order creating The White House Fellows Program, October 3, 1964

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson founded the White House Fellows Program to give promising young leaders “first-hand, high-level experience in the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs.” After forty-five years, this legacy continues under President Barack Obama. Since the program’s inception, more than 600 outstanding men and women have become White House Fellows, each chosen because of their extraordinary leadership ability and service to others. Under President and Mrs. Obama’s leadership, the White House Fellows Program continues to be the nation’s most prestigious public service fellowship.
Being a White House Fellow is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The purpose of the White House Fellows Program is to provide accomplished and highly motivated young Americans with first-hand experience in the process of governing the nation and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society.

Selection as a White House Fellow is based on a combination of the following criteria:

- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal Government, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

PREREQUISITES

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens.
- Employees of the Federal Government are not eligible unless they are career military personnel.
- Applicants must have completed their undergraduate education and be working in their chosen professions.
- There are no formal age restrictions. However, the fellowship program was created to give selected Americans the experience of government service early in their careers.

The education program is an important aspect of the Fellowship experience, and increases the Fellow’s exposure to renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. White House Fellows participate in off-the-record, candid discussions with dozens of individuals including Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House officials, Members of Congress, military leaders, journalists, historians, business executives, and leaders of non-government organizations. Fellows also study U.S. policy in action both domestically and abroad by participating in policy study-trips during the year.

In addition to the education program, White House Fellows have a strong legacy of service to the Washington, D.C. community. Each class completes one or more community service projects during their year as a Fellow.

Perhaps the most enriching component of the program is class fellowship, which often results in enduring friendships. Alumni convene at yearly meetings in Washington, D.C., and eagerly welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the nation.

Since 1964, White House Fellowships have offered outstanding Americans the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with each other and the world around them. In return for the privilege of participating in the Fellowship year, alumni have gone on to become leaders in their respective communities and professions, and have continued their lifelong commitment to the Fellowship’s mission of active citizenship and service to the nation.

Applications are available on our website, and must be completed online. Please visit our website, www.whitehouse.gov/fellows, for further details and instructions.