ELIGIBILITY

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is open to young African leaders who meet the following criteria:

- Are citizens of and residents in a sub-Saharan African country;
- Are between the ages of 25 and 35 at the time of application submission, although exceptional applicants younger than 25 will be considered;
- Are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- Are eligible to receive a United States J-1 visa;
- Are not employees or immediate family members of employees of the U.S. government;
- Are proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English;
- Are not alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

- A proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business and entrepreneurship, or civic engagement;
- A demonstrated commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship;
- The ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and respect the opinions of others;
- Strong social and communication skills;
- A demonstrated knowledge, interest, and professional experience in the sector/track selected;
- An energetic, positive attitude;
- A commitment to return to Africa and apply leadership skills and training to benefit the applicant’s country, community, or school after they return home.

THE APPLICATION:

The application will collect basic information and will include questions regarding applicants’ professional and academic experience including professional background; educational background; honors and awards received; extracurricular and volunteer activities; and English language proficiency. As part of the application, applicants will also be asked to provide written responses to personal statements (essay questions). Additional elements, such as letters of recommendation or university transcripts, are optional and may supplement your application.

APPLICATION TIMELINE:

- **September 21, 2016**: Application opens
- **October 26, 2016**: Application closes
- **January - February 2017**: Semifinalists interviewed by local U.S. embassies and consulates
- **Late March 2017**: Applicants are notified of their status
- **April - May 2017**: Visa processing for finalists
- **June 2017**: Fellowship begins in the United States
LOOKING FOR UP TO 1,000 LEADERS 2017

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

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