

2017 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

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



**MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP**
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

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THE APPLICATION PROCESS.



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LOOKING FOR UP TO

1,000 LEADERS 2017

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