



ANNOUNCEMENT THE FALL 2021 YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE (YSEALI) ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Mission to Vietnam seeks candidates for the Fall 2021 Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship on civic engagement, environmental issues and natural resource management, and social entrepreneurship and economic development. Vietnamese citizens between the ages of 18 and 25, full-time undergraduate students or those who have graduated from college, university, or other institutions of higher learning, who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university or place of work, an interest in community service and volunteerism, and have a good command of English, are invited to apply for the program. The application deadline is **11:59p.m., Sunday, June 13, 2021.**

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is a public diplomacy program designed to advance regional strategic goals, break down barriers that separate the next generation of leaders in Southeast Asia, and link those emerging leaders to the United States.

The YSEALI Academic Fellowship is an intensive short-term academic program whose purpose is to provide groups of young leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States and a particular theme, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The Fellowship will include a virtual academic residency and an integrated in-person experience approximately two to three weeks in length at a U.S. host institution. During the academic residency, participants will engage remotely from their home countries in Institute activities including academic sessions, site visits, leadership development exercises, and cultural activities. If conditions allow, participants will travel to the U.S. in spring 2022 to participate in educational and cultural activities inside and outside of the classroom, lectures and site visits to local communities. The in-person component in the United States will be organized taking into consideration all necessary safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, local, and campus authorities.

Applications are being accepted for the following three YSEALI Academic Fellowship Programs:

- 1) **The YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Civic Engagement** will provide Fellows with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society both as individuals and groups. The Fellowship will define civic engagement, examine its development in the United States, and explore topics such as active citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, and volunteerism. Other topics such as civil rights, social justice, entrepreneurship, ethics, leadership, and media will be discussed. Fellows will also have the opportunity to meet with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of non-profit organizations. Throughout the Fellowship participants will develop innovative and practical plans to become engaged citizens in their own communities. The University of Nebraska - Omaha and Kennesaw State University will conduct and host the Fellowship.
- 2) **The YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Environmental Issues** will explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United States. The Fellowship will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including climate change, sustainable development/sustainable

agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, renewable energy generation, and water management and treatment. Fellows will explore the issues from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, impacts on marginalized communities, private sector approaches, global multilateral efforts, and federal government policies and regulation. Finally, the Fellowships will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries. Fellows will also have the opportunity to meet with community leaders, and representatives of non-profit organizations. The University of Montana and the East-West Center will conduct and host the Fellowship.

- 3) **The YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development** will provide Fellows with an overview of entrepreneurial approaches that are employed to address social and economic issues. The Fellowship will review the development, history, challenges, and successes of enterprises and community leaders, in the United States and globally. Topics include, but are not limited to, trade; investment; financial literacy; banking; microfinance; organizational development and management; grant writing; innovation; emerging markets and risk analysis; strategic business planning; corporate social responsibility; and, women and minorities in entrepreneurship. Students will also have the opportunity to meet with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of nonprofit organizations. The University of Connecticut and the University of Texas-Austin will conduct and host the Fellowship.

All participant costs, including program administration, international and domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances, housing and subsistence expenses will be paid for by the U.S. Department of State.

ELIGIBILITY ENTITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

- Be a YSEALI member. Join YSEALI at <https://asean.usmission.gov/yseali/>
- Be between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of application;
- Be a Vietnamese citizen;
- Be a resident of one of the following countries: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, or Vietnam;
- Be a full-time undergraduate student or have graduated in the past four years from college, university, or other institutions of higher learning;
- Be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English;
- Demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university, place of work, and/or community;
- Demonstrate interest, knowledge, or professional experience in civic engagement, environmental issues, or social entrepreneurship and economic development;
- Demonstrate a commitment or interest in community service, volunteerism, or mentorship;
- Have a serious interest in learning about the United States and ASEAN as a region;
- Be willing to actively participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and study tour;
- Have a commitment to return to their home country to apply leadership skills and training to benefit their community, country, or the ASEAN region; and
- Have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission Requirements

Step 1: Complete application package includes:

1. Complete application form <https://go.usa.gov/xHvjje>;
2. Official transcripts for years of university study, and university degree if you already graduated
3. A letter of recommendation from teacher/professor (for undergraduate students); or from current supervisor (for working people)

Step 2: Combine these three documents into one PDF file

Step 3: Submit it online through:

Eligible candidates from Quang Tri province to northern Vietnam are requested to submit their complete application package online <https://bit.ly/33kavFG>, and send any questions to:

Public Affairs Section
United States Embassy
YSEALI Academic Fellowship
7 Lang Ha Street
Ba Dinh District, Hanoi
Tel: 84-24-3850 5000, ext. 6034
Email: DuongHD@state.gov

Eligible candidates from Thua Thien-Hue province to southern Vietnam are requested to submit their complete application package online at <https://bit.ly/3vEpV3s>, and send any questions to:

Public Affairs Section
United States Consulate General
YSEALI Academic Fellowship
4 Le Duan Street, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City
Tel: 84-28-3520-4657
Email: LeMuonTK@state.gov

Application Deadline

The application deadline is **11:59p.m., Sunday, June 13, 2021**. No exceptions will be made regarding the deadline.

FAQs about the program can be found at: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/yseali/yseali-fellows-faqs/>