THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

“Vietnam and USA mid-level professionals exchange program: Mutual learning for economic empowerment in the context of business and government partnerships”

Center for Public Service

Mark. O. Hatfield School of Government

Portland State University

Portland, OREGON
Program Guidelines

*Professional Fellows Program*

The Professional Fellows Program is one of many professional exchange programs funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Professional Fellows Program brings emerging leaders from around the world to the United States for intensive short-term fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. Participants are placed in non-profit organizations, private sector businesses, and government offices across the country to learn first-hand how issues in their field are addressed in the United States. While deepening their understanding of American society, the visiting participants also build a broad network made up of both their new American colleagues and the other visiting Fellows. The second phase of the Professional Fellows Program sends American participants overseas for follow-on programs conducted with the foreign Fellows.

The Center for Public Service in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University in collaboration with Vietnamese partner Organizational Capacity Development, Mission Vietnam, and partner organizations in Vietnam and Oregon is implementing the Professional Fellows Program in Vietnam with a focus on Economic Empowerment, including modernizing the economy and adopting international best practices.

The program aims at equipping participants with knowledge and skills on conditions that promote increased participation and success in the global economy. Successful candidates will play an active role in modernizing Vietnam’s economy and adopting international best practices. Priority topics will focus on empowerment in a market economy: increased integration in global markets; transparency and accountability in business and government; linkages between conditions facilitating entrepreneurship and free markets; good governance standards; public-private partnerships; sustainable and inclusive economic development; and corporate social responsibility.

*Program Goals*

- Promote mutual understanding and lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships between key professionals and organizations in the United States and their counterparts in Vietnam;

- Provide Vietnamese mid-level professionals an opportunity to gain knowledge of U.S. practices and techniques in their field of expertise, explore governance principles and practices in both public and civil society institutions in the United States, and gain a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and people;

- Provide U.S. participants the opportunity to exchange professional expertise with their Vietnamese counterparts and gain a deeper understanding of professional practice, society, and culture in Vietnam.
Program Activities

Two groups of Vietnamese participants will spend approximately four weeks in the United States. The first cohort will travel in Spring 2013, followed by the second in Fall 2013. The program will begin in Oregon for placements with partner organizations and related programming, followed by the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, DC. Subsequent to each visit, two groups of U.S. participants will travel to Vietnam to spend up to two weeks working with their Vietnamese counterparts in their workplaces and communities.

Program Timelines

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<td>Application Deadline</td>
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<td>Applications reviewed by selection committee</td>
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<td>January, 2013</td>
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<td>April 2013</td>
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<td>April-May, 2013</td>
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<td>August-September, 2013</td>
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Eligibility

Participants will be selected based on their professional qualifications, experience, leadership potential and commitment to, enhancing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Vietnam. Sixteen Vietnamese participants will be selected through an open, merit-based, competitive process. Persons from all provinces, underrepresented and underserved communities, and ethnic minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. Recruitment and selection will be a joint effort between the United States, PSU, and local partners.
Competitive Vietnamese candidates will meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Have knowledge and interest in economic empowerment toward the betterment of Vietnam;
- Focus on increased integration in global markets; transparency and accountability in business and government; linkages between conditions facilitating entrepreneurship and free markets; good governance standards; public-private partnerships; sustainable and inclusive economic development; and corporate social responsibility;
- Have leadership experience and/or potential;
- Have a Bachelor’s Degree (or Vietnamese equivalent);
- Are able to clearly articulate professional and program goals, and articulate how the exchange experience will be applied to the betterment of Vietnam;
- Have 5 years of work experience with increasing levels of responsibility;
- Have intercultural skills and experience and/or potential in cross-cultural communication;
- Are able to attend the program in the United States in Spring 2013 (April-May 2013) (or Fall 2013);
- Are able to receive J-1 visa;
- Committed to returning to Vietnam after completion of the program;
- Are highly proficient in written and oral English; and
- Have, or are able to obtain, a passport valid through 2014 or beyond

Qualified candidates who are not able to attend the Spring 2013 segment will have first priority for the Fall 2013 segment.

**General Instructions**

- Submit completed application on line by the stated deadline of **December 15, 2012**.
- Answer all the questions in English.
- Include your full name as spelled on your passport.
- Include complete contact information.
- If a required question (marked with red asterisk) does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Save the answers to the questions in a word document for your records.

**Additional Required Documents**

- A copy of your resume
- One letter of recommendation (in English) from your employer or professional peer in your field
Application Submission Guidelines

The deadline for submitting applications is December 15, 2012

Applications may be submitted on line only at http://www.pdx.edu/cps/us-state-department-professional-fellows-program.