

# HOST A

# YSEALI Professional Fellow



We are seeking U.S. organizations interested in hosting a young professional from Southeast Asia as part of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellows Program (YSEALI PFP). YSEALI PFP is a program of the U.S. Department of State and is supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education. ICMA partners with American Councils to implement the institutes for the Sustainability and the Environment Fellows.

## ABOUT THE FELLOWS

- Mid-level professionals, aged 25-35 years old
- Chosen through a highly competitive merit-based selection process
- Citizens of: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, or Vietnam
- From a variety of professional backgrounds including government, NGOs, private businesses, social innovation and entrepreneurship, and universities
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral English



## ABOUT U.S. PLACEMENT HOSTS

- Each finalist of the program will be placed in a U.S. office relevant to their professional experience and interest.
- Fellowship placements are individually tailored and take place over the course of four business weeks.
- The fellowship placement is intended to be a mutually beneficial substantive professional experience for both the U.S. fellowship host and the YSEALI Fellow.
- The fellowship placement should provide the YSEALI Fellows direct experience with the day-to-day workings of a U.S. organization and the opportunity to network and form professional relationships with American colleagues.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

YSEALI PFP is a two-way exchange program designed to promote mutual understanding, enhance leadership and professional skills, and build lasting and sustainable partnerships between emerging leaders in Southeast Asia and the United States.

YSEALI PFP will bring professional Fellows from Southeast Asia to the United States to participate in leadership and professional development activities under four themes:

- Civic Engagement
- Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Empowerment
- Society and Governance
- Sustainability and the Environment

## PROGRAM DATES

The 2024 Fellowship portion of the U.S. based program will take place on:

Cycle 1: April 28 – June 4, 2025

Cycle 2: September 22 – October 29, 2025



For more information,  
visit [www.ysealipfp.org](http://www.ysealipfp.org)

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# Frequently Asked Questions

**What is expected from a host organization?** There is no cost to host a YSEALI PFP Fellow. Host organizations will be asked to appoint a dedicated “U.S. placement host” from among their team who is a) willing to supervise their Fellow and liaise with program implementers, and b) interested in working with their Fellow to develop their professional goals both in the United States and their home country. American Councils and ICMA will work with host organizations to develop meaningful and mutually beneficial fellowship experiences.

**What organizations have hosted fellows in the past?** Past Fellows have been placed with large multi-national companies, fast-paced start-ups, grassroots NGOs, government offices, and other dynamic organizations within their sector or a complementary sector. Placement organizations have included MassChallenge, UC San Diego Rady School of Management, Heifer International, Deloitte, Chicago Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities, Boston Youth Service Network, PeaceTech Lab, Starbucks, and many more.

**How are Fellows selected?** Fellows are selected through a competitive nationwide search that involves an extensive written application and in-person interviews with American Councils, ICMA, and U.S. Embassy staff.

**Will Fellows speak English well enough to perform tasks such as writing memos or answering phone calls?** Yes. While a Fellow’s English may not be perfect, it will meet strict standards that ensure success in a professional English speaking environment.

**How much will Fellows know about U.S. systems and our office?** American Councils prepares pre-departure orientations and reading materials on various topics related to U.S. offices and expectations for the fellowship. In addition, we require Fellows and hosts to be in contact prior to their arrival to the United States, so that hosts can disseminate additional information and assign readings or tasks to make the most of their time on the program.

**What kinds of tasks can a Fellow perform?** Fellows can perform a wide variety of tasks, ranging from administrative support to project development to independent research. Program implementers will work with hosts to design a meaningful and mutually beneficial program based on the Fellow’s background and the host’s needs.

**How will Fellows be monitored?** American Councils and ICMA use online surveys, email, and phone calls to monitor each Fellow’s progress on the program and resolve any issues, if needed. We are always available to support both U.S. placement hosts and Fellows during the program.

**What are the obligations of a host? We’d love to have a Fellow, but cannot commit to doing a lot of extra work in order to do so.** Hosting should not be seen as an obligation but rather a unique opportunity. Past hosts have enjoyed the international perspective Fellows brought to their workplace and commented that Fellows were able to successfully perform “real” work. American Councils will prepare Fellows so that they can “hit the ground running” and will help guide hosts in their preparation for the Fellow’s arrival.

**What types of Reciprocal Exchanges will Fellows and Americans create?** This is entirely up to the Fellow and U.S. placement host and based on their professional areas of focus and interest. Potential ideas can range from an entrepreneurship bootcamp, a civic participation workshop, meetings with government officials, a financial literacy education program, a workshop on women's business participation, or a capacity building workshop for young business leaders, among others.