The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor Hubert H. Humphrey, the late senator and vice president, and his lifelong commitment to international cooperation and public service.

The program brings accomplished young and midcareer professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development and related academic study and cultural exchange. The people-to-people approach to international understanding provides a basis for lasting ties between U.S. citizens and their professional counterparts in other countries. It also strengthens the global exchange of knowledge and experience essential to a sustainable world.

Humphrey Fellows have demonstrated leadership skills and a record of public service and have had little or no previous travel experience in the United States. Their selection to the program is based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service.

More than 4,000 men and women have been honored as Humphrey Fellows since the program began. About 200 Fellowships are awarded annually.

The Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute has hosted the Humphrey Fellowship Long-term English Language Program for the past five years.

The intensive 20-week program assists in increasing Fellows' English language proficiency and understanding of American culture. It also emphasizes leadership skills and intercultural development. The program features extensive, meaningful exposure to both the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities.

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute
840 University City Blvd., Suite 2
Blacksburg, VA 24061-2708
USA
PHONE: 540-231-9814
FAX: 540-231-9490
EMAIL: lci-info@vt.edu
WEB: www.lci.vt.edu
João Pedru Abreu Martins  
Cape Verde

Mr. Abreu Martins teaches architecture and urban planning at Jean Piaget University of Cape Verde and is also coordinating two urban plans on Sal Island. He will be studying sustainable urban planning and architecture, renewable energy, sanitation, and drainage at the University of Minnesota.

Ivana Moraes Braga  
Brazil

Ms. Braga works as a communications coordinator with Grupo de Apoio às Comunidades Carentes do Maranhão (Support Group for the Poor Communities of Maranhão), a nongovernmental agency that promotes community development within socially vulnerable populations. Since 2004, she’s also worked with Rede Amiga da Criança (Child Friendly Network), which aims to protect the rights of at-risk children in São Luís. She will be studying communication for social mobilization at Arizona State University.

Leandro Ivan Chulak  
Argentina

Mr. Chulak is the general deputy director of international relations for the Argentine Senate. He advises the vice president and Senate on issues of public policy and public administration. At the University of Minnesota, he will study public policy with a focus on public safety and crime prevention.

Luz Graciela Cruz  
Panama

Ms. Cruz is a project manager for the National Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation, which funds research in Panama. She will study the latest responses to climate change as well as wastewater and sludge management processes at the University of California, Davis.

Isabel Francisca Kinlim  
Mozambique

Ms. Kinlim is the head of the Department of Planning and Monitoring at Maputo’s municipal solid waste authority. She says she wants to learn how to help Mozambique recycle more of its solid waste. She will study urban development at Cornell University.

Hamid Meziane  
Morocco

Mr. Meziane works with the regional director of agriculture office in Oujda. He will study pathogens in citrus crops and environmental protection through biological control at Cornell University.

Aziza Msaaf  
Morocco

Ms. Msaaf is a supervisor in the Court of Audit in Rabat, responsible for a team that conducts financial and legislative audits of public institutions. At the University of Washington, she will study the effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of public institutions and public service.

Boldkhuu Nanzad  
Mongolia

Mr. Nanzad is the deputy director of fuel policy in the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. He says he wants to study natural resources and environmental policy at Cornell University in order to learn new mining methods and ways to better encourage sustainability.

Mr. Nganzi Kopialo is a program director with the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) project. The joint USAID-State Department initiative works with governments and local mining communities to increase the number of alluvial diamonds entering the formal chain of custody while improving the benefits accruing to communities. He will study the exploitation of mineral and natural resources and the integrated management of energy, mining, and natural resources at the University of California, Davis.

Lu Sam  
Myanmar

Ms. Sam is an education program coordinator for Save the Children, an independent aid organization working to improve the lives of children around the world. She is particularly interested in early childhood development and parenting education. At Vanderbilt University, she will examine ways to partner with education programs to impact the lives of children in rural Myanmar.

Fabián Sánchez Matus  
Mexico

Mr. Sánchez Matus is executive director of I(d)eha, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses strategic litigation as a tool for social change. A big part of his job, he says, is to identify problematic human rights issues in Mexico and develop and implement legal and institutional reforms to address them. At American University, he will look at how to create alliances with international human rights organizations to develop democratic law and state policy based on human rights.

Najibullah Yamin  
Afghanistan

Mr. Yamin is a management framework specialist in the country’s Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. At Michigan State University, he will examine ways to rebuild institutions and services in Afghanistan through the development of human resources.