About the Humphrey Fellowship Program

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 English Language Program

The Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute has hosted the Humphrey Fellowship Long-term English Language Program for the past seven 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.
2015 Fellows

Buddhi Ram Chaudhary Tharu
Nepal

Mr. Chaudhary has worked as a local economic development expert in a United Nations Development Program-assisted program for the government of Nepal. He oversees a program that improves the livelihoods of disadvantaged groups. He will attend the University of California, Davis to study agriculture and rural development. His goals are to learn more about agriculture and food security and build regional and global networking capacity.

Tannia Margarita Mayorga Torres
Ecuador

Ms. Mayorga Torres is a professor in the School of Geology, Mining, Oil, and Environment at the Universidad Central del Ecuador. She directs a program improving access to data related to disaster management. She works with students in geographic information systems and software related to modeling and mining. She plans to study at the University of California, Davis in the areas of natural resources, environmental policy, and climate change.

Maria Beatriz Pugliese
Argentina

Ms. Pugliese is a researcher in viticulture at the Agricultural Experimental Station in San Juan and is responsible for research projects involving table grapes. She is a lecturer in the School of Engineering at the National University of San Juan and at the National University of Cuyo. She will study rural agricultural development in viticulture in the area of agriculture and rural development at the University of California, Davis.

Tito Francisco Chile Ama
El Salvador

Mr. Chile Ama is an architect working for El Salvador’s secretary of culture. He is involved in the restoration of buildings with historic value and in historic centers, aimed at conservation and urban control. He will study urban and regional planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Azar Nazarov
Azerbaijan

Mr. Nazarov developed and is the chief editor for the award-winning Voice of Youth Internet radio program. He trains youth and student interns and oversees all functions and programs of Voice of Youth. He will study communications/journalism at the University of Maryland to expand his knowledge of media skills and media relations in order to assist young people entering the field of journalism.

Khaing Thandar Nyunt
Myanmar

Mrs. Thandar is an assistant director for the Central Bank of Myanmar. She works in the foreign exchange market division. She monitors and reports data related to exchange rates and markets. She will study finance and banking at Boston University.

Juan Camilo Molina Bolivar
Ecuador

Mr. Molina Bolivar is a professor of ethics, social science, and communication at the Equinoccial Technical University in Quito. He is also the coordinator of the Development Cooperation Observatory, a civil society organization network. He will study public policy and civil society and the roles played by government and nonprofit organizations at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute's program in public policy analysis and public administration.

Sylvanie Patricia Nelly Talani Nanitelamio
Republic of Congo

Ms. Talani has nine years’ experience in radio and TV. She is a freelance editor for TerrAfrica Magazine in Brazzaville. She has taught law and journalism and has worked in all aspects of community radio, including scheduling, entertainment, news, and interviews. She will study the rights and duties of journalists and characteristics of print, radio, television and Web media at the University of Maryland.

Khim Ghale
Nepal

Mr. Ghale is an online and district bureau chief for the largest Nepali language newspaper in Nepal, where he supervises five regional news bureaus and 93 reporters. His goal is to develop his leadership skills in the media sector and acquire skills to incorporate modern technology into journalism. He will attend the University of Maryland.

Mr. Ke is an agricultural value chain and rural business advisor for SNV Netherlands Development Organization in Cambodia. He develops and reviews materials used in outreach to farmers and supports training efforts in new materials and technologies. He will study agriculture and rural development at the University of California, Davis and return to Cambodia with increased knowledge in agribusiness and post-harvest technology in order to address agricultural challenges in the country.

Sam Oeurn Ke
Cambodia

Tania Margarita Mayorga Torres
Ecuador

Mr. Nazarov is an exchange rate and marketing expert. He monitors and reports data related to exchange rates and markets. He will study finance and business administration at the University of Maryland.

The Humphrey Program is a Fulbright exchange activity. Its primary funding is provided by the U.S. Congress through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Co-sponsors include other governmental agencies, multinational organizations, and private donors. The Institute of International Education assists the State Department in administering the Humphrey Fellowship Program.