



THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

<https://pickeringfellowship.org/>

WCU Representative: Dr. Ingrid Bego (ibego@wcu.edu)

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Provides Financial Assistance to Graduate Students Interested in Working for the U.S. State Department

The Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship Program provides graduate students with financial support, mentoring, and professional development for a career with the U.S. Department of State. It is now administered by Howard University and provides two summer internships, one in Washington, D.C. and one overseas at a U.S. embassy or consulate. After successful completion of the program and being eligible for Foreign Service entry, students are offered employment in the Department of State Foreign Service.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals must be United States citizens.
- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale at time of application and must maintain this GPA throughout participation in the program.
- Applicants must enroll in a two-year, full-time master's degree program, at U.S.-based graduate institutions only, in an academic field relevant to the work of the Foreign Service (public policy, international affairs, public administration, business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages) and be

prepared to enter the Foreign Service. A degree in law will not satisfy this requirement.

- Applicants must be able to attend a June 2022 orientation in Washington, D.C. if selected.
- Applicants must be available to fulfill both 10-week summer internship obligations.
- Each Fellow who obtains a master's degree is committed to a minimum of five years of service in the Foreign Service.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications will include the following materials.

- Personal background information (e.g., name, contact information, language skills).
- A personal statement (600 words or less) that discusses the applicants' reasons for applying, interest in international affairs, commitment to pursue a career in the Foreign Service of the Department of State, and any relevant experience or information.
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can explain why you are uniquely qualified for the fellowship. One letter must be from a professor, faculty member, or instructor. The other letter may be from someone else familiar with your college, volunteer, work, or community activities. Note: Applicants will include contact information for recommenders in the online application. Recommenders will be sent an email with instructions to submit letters electronically.
- Cumulative GPA limit is strict (a 3.19 will not pass requirements).
- Undergraduate seniors or those recently graduated may apply.
- This program is meant for students who are committed to pursuing a two-year master's degree program in a field related to the Department of State's Foreign Service and becoming a U.S Department of State Foreign Service Officer.

- This program awards 30 fellowships with up to \$37,500 annually for tuition, room, books, and mandatory fees. This includes an academic year stipend of \$16,000.

FOR RECOMMENDERS

Recommendation Form

A statement of financial need (400 words or less) that discusses the applicant's need for financial assistance to attend graduate school, including an explanation of financial assistance received during undergraduate studies; overall education-related debt; and, ability/plans to pay for graduate school independently.

- Official financial aid award letter from the applicant's last year of undergraduate studies if she/he received financial aid. Applicants must submit a Financial Aid Letter listing grants or loans unless they did not receive aid.
- FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) for the 2021-2022 academic year. If an applicant received financial aid during the most recent academic year, she/he is required to submit the SAR form. If an applicant did not receive financial aid during the most recent academic year, she/he must complete the FAFSA to generate a SAR for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship, which may include a copy of (choose one) a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or certificate of naturalization.
**Applicants are required to bring originals to the interview if selected as a finalist.
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities the applicant has attended for credit. Please upload university-generated transcripts. An official transcript would be best; a student copy is acceptable if it is in the format of an official transcript (must list your name, institution name, and most recent/final GPA).
**If you are selected for an interview, you will have to bring an official transcript in a signed, sealed envelope, to the interview.
- A copy of GRE/GMAT scores report sent to the student (optional).

