



# Tech Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Education Fellowship Program

A Program for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, and the United States

APPLICATION DEADLINE  
December 1, 2015



## **Program Introduction and Application Instructions**

Dear Applicant:

The [U.S. Department of State's Professional Fellows Program](#) brings emerging leaders from around the world to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. Participants will complete individually-tailored fellowships in appropriate businesses, government offices, non-profit organizations, or business associations. The program establishes structured interaction among Americans and foreign participants designed to develop enduring professional ties and lasting partnerships.

[WorldChicago](#), an international nonprofit organization based in Chicago, Illinois, has been awarded an FY2016 grant from the US Department of State for 2016 to implement a *Tech Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Education Fellowship Program* for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, and the United States. The program will bring a total of 10 emerging leaders from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia to Chicago for a program from April 28, 2016 to June 3, 2016 that includes 4-week fellowships with Chicago-based businesses, government offices, non-profit organizations, or business associations. Selected fellows will complete individually-tailored fellowships with leading tech-related companies in a variety of fields, government agencies and NGOs that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, and university and non-university technology incubators.

Recruitment and selection of candidates will focus on targeting English fluent emerging leaders (age 25 – 40) from tech-innovation and entrepreneurship communities working in the private, public, and NGO sectors. Criteria for each sector is detailed below:

- **Private sector** – Recruitment will focus on entrepreneurial leaders from small or startup business ventures in tech fields that have a demonstrated track record of civic engagement and/or social entrepreneurship.

- **Public sector** - Recruitment in the public sector will focus on public officials whose work is focused on creation of incubation hubs, promoting job growth in tech fields, and/or the promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic development.
- **NGO sector** – Recruitment from the NGO community will focus on emerging NGO leaders working on creation of jobs in tech fields and on community-based and educational training programs in tech fields for students, women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized populations.

WorldChicago and partner organizations will work to ensure that diversity is taken into consideration during the selection process and that an appropriate balance of men and women are selected for the program. Additionally, WorldChicago will target participants who have a demonstrated track record of leadership, civic engagement, and desire to build lasting connections with U.S. based organizations.

While in Chicago, all participants will stay with volunteer homestay hosts in the Chicago metropolitan area. In addition to the completion of a four-week fellowship, program participants will participate in group training sessions, workshops on corporate social responsibility, and sessions focused on how to create an effective entrepreneurship/investment climate in an urban environment. Selected fellows will also participate in the U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. at the conclusion of the program. The Congress brings together over 200 Professional Fellows from multiple regions and different thematic areas (legislative, economic empowerment, and the rule of law) for three days of networking and meetings to complement the fellowship.

In addition to the Chicago-based program, five tech entrepreneurial leaders from Chicago will also be selected for reciprocal exchanges to travel to Central Europe in the Summer of 2016. The primary feature of this reciprocal exchange would be a two-day tech innovation summit in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to the tech innovation summits, the participants will learn about the entrepreneurship culture in each participant's country, conduct workshops in their areas of expertise, and establish mentoring partnerships between the entrepreneurship civic community in Chicago and each country. WorldChicago will work closely with established in-country partners and selected fellows to coordinate the in-country programs.

### **Additional Eligibility Requirements**

Competition for the Professional Fellows Program is merit-based and open to young professionals and emerging leaders, ages 25-40, who meet the following criteria:

- Is a citizen, national or permanent resident of their home country;
- Is living and working in his/her home country at the time of application;
- Has at least two (2) years of professional experience at the time of application;
- Submits a complete application, with all required documents, by the application deadline;
- Is able to begin the Professional Fellows Program in the United States in 2016;
- Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa;
- Is committed to returning to his/her home country after completion of the program; and
- Is proficient in spoken and written English at the time of application.

\*Please note, selected program participants are not able to bring spouses or family members to the United States for the program and priority will be given to applicants who do not have significant educational and/or work experience in the United States.

Individuals in the following circumstances are NOT eligible for the Professional Fellows Program:

- U.S. citizens and/or permanent residents of the United States;
- Spouses of U.S. citizens and/or permanent residents of the United States;
- Individuals participating in academic, training or research programs in the United States at the time of application;
- Individuals residing or working outside their home countries at the time of application;
- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. Government (e.g., U.S. Department of State, Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies or other U.S. Government agencies) who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of application;
- Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency in the past three years;
- Employees and their families of non-profit organizations who administer the Professional Fellows

Program on behalf of the U. S. Department of State. This provision does not disqualify self- supporting members of families who live apart from their parents;

- Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Agency for International Development are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment;
- Immediate families (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development employees for a period of one year following the termination of such employment. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

### **Program Timeline**

**December 1, 2015 – Application deadline for spring 2016 program**

**January 15, 2016 – Finalists and alternates selected and notified**

**April 28, 2016 – June 3, 2016 – Dates of spring 2016 program**

### **Application Check List**

**A complete application consists of the following:**

- ✓ **Completed application form (your answers to Items 1-24)**
- ✓ **Your Statement of Purpose in English and in your native language (answers to item 25) (Please save as a separate Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document no more than 3 pages)**
- ✓ **Curriculum Vitae: In English only (Please save as a separate Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document)**
- ✓ **Scanned copy of your passport or RECENT portrait photograph of yourself (Adobe PDF copy preferred)**

### **Application Submission Instructions**

Applications submitted by email should be sent to John Baum (jbaum@worldchicago.org) at WorldChicago. Finalists will be invited to interview on a rolling basis.

Application questions should be directed to John Baum at WorldChicago:

John Baum  
Vice President  
WorldChicago  
(312)254-1800 ext. 100  
[jbaum@worldchicago.org](mailto:jbaum@worldchicago.org)

In-country program partner contacts

Bosnia – Herzegovina - Zana Karkin, DoIT, [zana.karkin@gmail.com](mailto:zana.karkin@gmail.com)

Croatia – Tanja Ivanović, HAMAG BICRO, [tanja.ivanovic@hamagbicro.hr](mailto:tanja.ivanovic@hamagbicro.hr)

Slovenia – Jernej Pintar, CEED Slovenia, [jernejpintar@ceed-slovenia.org](mailto:jernejpintar@ceed-slovenia.org)



All application materials are free of charge and may be copied.

I.D. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Employment.** Indicate your primary place of employment. Translate into English the name of your Institution, School/Faculty, and Department (e.g., Eastern State University, School of Jurisprudence, Department of International Law). Write the complete street address in Latin letters (e.g., Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 67, kabinet 121). Please do not translate your address. Indicate a phone number where you can be reached at work. Then, write the information in the native language.

**10. Place of Employment** (in English)

**11. Place of Employment** (in native language)

_____			_____		
Institution Name			Institution Name		
_____			_____		
School Name			School Name		
_____			_____		
Department Name			Department Name		
_____			_____		
Street Address			Street Address		
_____			_____		
Building Number, Office			Building Number, Office		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
City	Region	Postal Code	City	Region	Postal Code
_____		_____	_____		_____
Work Telephone (include city code)		Work Fax	Work E-mail		

**12. Your Work Position** (in Latin letters) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., docent, prepodovatel, redoven profesor, mughalem).

**13. Highest Degree Earned** (in Latin letters) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. bakalavr, doktor i shkencave, magistar, diplom, etc.)

**14. In what field is the above degree?** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Translate to English)

**15. Educational History.** List all colleges, universities and professional schools that you have attended, beginning with the most recent. Include the years attended (e.g., 1998-2002), the field of study, and the degrees that you have received, including the highest degree. Write out the names of these degrees using Latin letters, (e.g., diplomiran, magistar, aspirantura, magistris khariskhi). Use additional pages if necessary.

<b>Institution and City</b>	<b>Dates (yyyy-yyyy)</b>	<b>Field of Study</b>	<b>Degree</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**16. Work History.** List all academic and/or professional positions held, beginning with the present. Please do not translate position titles into English, but use Latin letters (e.g., docent, oliy o'quv yurtlary o'qituvchisi, prepodovatel', vishi lector, redoven profesor, predavach, mughalem, etc.)

<b>Institution/Employer</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates of Employment</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

All application materials are free of charge and may be copied.

I.D. Number: _____
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**17. Professional, Educational and Personal Travel Abroad.** List all professional and educational travel abroad. Use additional pages if necessary.

Country	Date	Purpose of visit (include names of organizations, if any)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Below, list all additional personal travels to the U.S.

State	Date	Purpose of visit (include names of organization, if any)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Professional References** Please list two professional references below that WorldChicago could contact regarding your professional qualifications for this program.

Name	Title	Relationship to you (e.g. colleague, supervisor, etc.)
_____	_____	_____

PHONE	EMAIL	YEARS KNOWN
_____	_____	_____

Name	Title	Relationship to you (e.g. colleague, supervisor, etc.)
_____	_____	_____

PHONE	EMAIL	YEARS KNOWN
_____	_____	_____

**18. Program Notification.** How did you learn about the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program? Check **all** responses that apply. If you learned about the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program through a website, newspaper, journal, radio, or television advertisement, write the name of it. If the way in which you learned about the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program is not listed below, explain how you heard about it in the line marked "other."

Lecture by Program Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Alumnus/Alumna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website	<input type="checkbox"/>
If lecture, where was it? _____		Your Workplace	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
How did you learn about the lecture?				Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____		Newspaper/Journal	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
U. S. Educational Advising Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colleague	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
U.S. Embassy/Consulate/PAS Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Television	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

**19. U.S. Immigrant Visa/Lottery.** Have you or your spouse applied for a U.S. green card or immigrant visa lottery within the last three (3) years? Yes  No

**20. Foreign Passport.** Do you currently hold an international passport from your home country, which is valid through September 2016? Indicating that you do not have an international passport does not affect the selection process, but if you become a finalist and do not have an international passport you are encouraged to apply for one at that time.    
Yes No

**21. Pledge of Authenticity**

I certify that the information given in this application and all attached materials is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. In signing this application I certify that I am not an employee, spouse or a dependent of an employee of WorldChicago or the U.S.

Department of State. I understand that in addition to the selection process outlined in this application, the final decision of my application and my status as a US Department of State Professional Fellow is contingent upon program funding, on the ability of WorldChicago to place me at an appropriate U.S. company, organization, or government agency, and on my ability to receive and maintain a J-1 visa to the United States. If selected as a US Department of State Professional Fellowship Finalist, I agree to abide by the stipulations of the J-1 visa requirements, and by all program regulations, and to return to my home country for a minimum of two years upon completion of the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program.

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*Signature*

*Day/Month/Year*

**Applications must be received by WorldChicago via email  
([jbaum@worldchicago.org](mailto:jbaum@worldchicago.org)) by 23:59 CST on December 1, 2015**

**\*Countries included in the competition are:  
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia**

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE QUESTIONS

23. In a separate Word document (max of 3 pages in 11- or 12-point font), please address each of the below questions thoroughly regarding your intent to participate in the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program. **Your answers will be read by the selection committee members and, if you are selected, by your selected fellowship host.** *Please provide two versions of the Statement of Purpose, one in English and a translation in your native language.* Both versions of your Statement of Purpose (English and native language) should be typed, single-spaced, and using an 11- or 12-point font. Each version should not exceed three pages in length. Please submit this form separately along with the rest of your application packet (please see page 3 for application checklist.) Please submit Statement of Purpose in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format only. Please consider the goals of the US Department of State's Professional Fellowship Program as you write your Statement of Purpose.

For your reference those goals are:

- Promote mutual understanding and lasting partnerships between mid-level emerging leaders from foreign countries and the United States;
  - Provide opportunities for foreign and American emerging leaders to collaborate and share ideas, approaches, and strategies regarding pressing challenges;
  - Promote enhanced leadership and professional skills for both foreign and American fellows so that they will be more able to effect positive change in their workplaces and communities; and
  - Build a global network of like-minded professionals.
1. Please describe your short- and long-term professional goals (in order of priority). In what ways do you anticipate that your participation in the US Department of State's Professional Fellows Program will help you achieve these goals?
  2. What are the biggest challenges facing tech innovation and entrepreneurship in your home country? What are the biggest opportunities for tech innovation and entrepreneurship in your home country?
  3. If selected for the program what would be your ideal fellowship placement? (e.g., University based technology incubator, a startup company working on app development, Government agency promoting innovation/entrepreneurship, nonprofit organization promoting tech education for students, etc.) Please include at least three fellowship placements that you think would be a good fit.
  4. What would be your goals for a four week fellowship? What are the topics you would be most eager to learn about at a U.S. organization, government agency, nonprofit organization, or startup company?
  5. Would you be willing to assist in organizing a program for a representative from your United States host organization in your home community in the Summer of 2016? What type of collaborative project would you want to work on with your U.S. host organization?