

Harold W. Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations

FAQs

The Rosenthal Fellowship is a prestigious program for our country's most outstanding international affairs students interested in public service. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about the program.

Who is eligible for the Rosenthal Fellowship?

Prospective fellows must be international affairs graduate students who have exhibited outstanding scholarly achievements, commitment to the study of international affairs, and interest in public service. Fellows must have at least one year remaining in their studies following their fellowship.

Which offices will have positions available this summer?

Summer positions change each year depending on the needs and space constraints of participating executive branch and congressional offices. In recent years the program has sent finalists to interview with the Office of the Secretary of Defense; various offices at the Department of State, the Department of Treasury, and the Department of Labor; the United States Trade Representative; and numerous congressional offices. Each year an increasing number of fellows identify their own positions ahead of the interview process, particularly at the Department of State and in the Intelligence Community.

How does the selection process work?

Students must apply for the fellowship through their career or placement office at their graduate institution, which will in turn nominate students for the fellowship. The program will review the applications, and a selection committee, made up of public and private sector leaders and program alumni, will interview top candidates to determine finalists. All interviews will be conducted virtually. From there, selected candidates who have not already secured a summer position will interview with congressional and executive branch offices who will make final selections.

If I don't already have a job and I'm selected as a finalist, will I have a choice as to which office I interview with?

The interview panel will inform finalists which offices have made positions available and will ask each finalist to identify the offices of greatest interest. While we make every effort to match finalists with the offices of greatest interest, we cannot guarantee that all finalists will be able to interview with their first choice. The hiring offices have ultimate discretion as to whether to extend a summer position to a given finalist.

Do I need a security clearance to apply for the fellowship?

Some positions at executive branch departments and agencies may require that fellows hold a security clearance before they begin work. While fellows are usually able to secure an interim clearance by the beginning of the summer, any factors that delay clearance processing could in turn delay a fellow's ability to begin work. Fellowship positions in congressional offices do not require security clearances.

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to apply?

Executive branch positions are available only to U.S. citizens. Dual citizens and non-U.S. citizens may apply for a limited number of congressional positions. Please note that the Fellowship will not provide any assistance in securing visas for non-U.S. citizens.

What summer events are available for Rosenthal Fellows?

In addition to a program orientation, each year the Rosenthal Fellowship hosts roundtables with recognized experts on a range of foreign policy issues as well as sessions on career planning and leadership development. Fellows are also encouraged to organize informal lunches, post-work gatherings, and other social occasions.

Will funding be available to students for the summer 2022 cohort?

Yes, a limited number of students will be able to receive stipends for the summer 2022 cohort at a minimum of \$2,000. Students are strongly encouraged to seek out funding from their university or an outside source, as funding from the Rosenthal Fellowship is limited.

What happens if a student receives funding from another source or receives another internship offer after accepting a Rosenthal Fellowship?

After accepting a Rosenthal Fellowship, fellows are expected to treat the program as their first choice for the summer of 2022. Please note that students who successfully attain funding from other sources, including from their host office or their graduate program, are not eligible for funding from the Rosenthal Fellowship.

How should university nominating officials submit application materials?

Once institutions have finalized their nominees, all application materials should be submitted online at rpublicservice.force.com/rosenthal/s, by December 3, 2021. Students should not send application materials to the program directly.

How should schools submit fall semester transcripts?

Each school must submit fall graduate transcripts (unofficial accepted) for nominees to RosenthalFellowship@ourpublicservice.org as soon as they become available. We understand that this date will vary from school to school, but we ask that transcripts are submitted no later than January 24, 2022. Schools with later grade release dates should notify the Fellowship when nomination documents are submitted.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or would like further information, please visit RosenthalFellowship.org or email RosenthalFellowship@ourpublicservice.org.