



THE JEFFERSON FELLOWSHIPS

Applications now open for the 2017 Program

Deadline: Thursday, January 26, 2017

The Jefferson Fellowships offer print and broadcast journalists from the United States, Asia and the Pacific Islands the unique opportunity to gain on-the-ground perspectives, deepen knowledge of regional issues and build a professional network through a three week intensive education and travel program. Journalists spend one week at the East-West Center in Honolulu followed by two weeks of study tour travel in the Asia Pacific region.

The 2017 Jefferson Fellowships program:

Trade, Security and Strategic Relationships in Asia Pacific and the Future of the US Role

Honolulu, Hawaii; Tokyo, Japan; Beijing & Shenzhen, China; Manila, Philippines

May 6-May 28, 2017

The U.S. has elected one of the most unconventional Presidents in its history. Donald Trump's statements on the campaign trail and actions as President-elect have challenged the status quo of core U.S. policies in the Asia Pacific and suggested significant changes in approach. The realities of a new Trump Administration are beginning to take shape as key positions are filled. Policies will become increasingly clear as the Administration embarks upon its first 100 days. America has long played a role as a stabilizing force in the Asia Pacific region, a key trading partner, a promoter of democracy and in recent years a counterbalance to a rising China. Changes could have significant implications for stability and growth in this dynamic region as both U.S. allies and other Asia Pacific countries take into account the possible shifts in U.S. policies.

The 2017 Jefferson Fellowships will explore the stakes in the Asia Pacific region in terms of trade, security, and partnerships in the face of new U.S. policies, approaches and actions. In sessions at the East-West Center in Honolulu, journalists will have an opportunity to hear from U.S.-based analysts about the new administration's domestic agenda and foreign-policy priorities. Journalists will share with each other through topic papers and presentations how their countries are viewing the Trump Administration and what its policies may mean for their economies, regional partnerships, internal politics and security. A visit to Tokyo will explore the U.S.-Japan treaty alliance and forward-deployed American military; U.S.-Japan economic ties, including the almost certain collapse of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP); Japan's perception of regional security challenges, especially North Korea; and whether it may reconsider its stance toward self-defense and nuclear weapons. In Beijing and Shenzhen, the Jefferson Fellows will explore the political, security and economic relationships with China. They will hear firsthand China's reactions to the Trump Administration in the country's center of government as well as one of its most entrepreneurial cities, China's export and manufacturing hub. There are many areas of actual and potential tension with increased expressions of protectionism in the U.S., an economic slowdown and restructuring in China, and greater Chinese assertions of power. The Philippines, a US treaty ally, has been a reliable strategic American partner and a key challenger to China's claims in the South China Sea. But the 2016 election of Rodrigo Duterte, also an unorthodox political leader, has taken the Philippines in a new direction with

outreach to China and statements dismissing the United States. In Manila, journalists will explore how the Duterte Administration envisions the Philippine economy, its security, and its relationship with the United States and the rest of the region, especially China, ASEAN and Japan. They also will examine how a new Trump Administration that may be less open to trade, immigration and outsourcing, and less predictable in its approach to regional relationships will impact Asia's developing nations in a time of economic uncertainty and significant power shifts.

Who May Apply

The Fellowships are open to working print, broadcast, and online journalists in the United States, the Pacific Islands, and Asia. A minimum five years of professional experience is preferred. Applicants must have the ability to communicate in English in a professional, multi-cultural environment. Preference will be given to journalists who clearly articulate the relevance of the theme to their areas of coverage and how they intend to use the knowledge gained to enhance the perspectives of viewers, readers, and listeners. Ideally every journalist or editor or producer will generate media content during and after the program in the form of formal print and broadcast stories, blogs, tweets, Instagram and other social media communications.

Program Purpose and Content

The Jefferson Fellowships program was launched in 1967 to enhance public understanding through the news media of cultures, issues and trends in the Asia Pacific region, broadly defined as Asia, the Pacific Islands and the United States. The long-range goal is to help news organizations build staff expertise about the region, so that their readers, viewers and listeners may be better informed.

The Fellowships provide the participating journalists with new knowledge and a wide range of perspectives through dialogue with professional colleagues and meetings with business and government decision-makers, scholars and students, social activists, cultural analysts and others. These contacts, and a network of more than 600 former Jefferson Fellows and many more East-West Center alumni from a wide range of fields, provide participants with resources on whom to call when they plan, assign, edit and produce news coverage involving or affecting the region.

The first week of the program consists of dialogue among the Fellows, including a short seminar led by each Fellow; lecture discussions with East-West Center researchers and other experts; and field visits in Honolulu. This will be followed by a study tour to cities in Asia and/or the United States.

Professional Exchange

One essential element of this professional experience is the journalist-to-journalist exchange. Central to this is a presentation that each Fellow will give to his or her fellow participants. **Each Fellow is required to prepare and submit two weeks before arriving at the Center a short paper (1,000–1,500 words).** The paper should address a significant issue in the participant's country that is relevant to the theme of the program and discuss how the country – at the government, private sector and/or socio-cultural level – is responding to the issue. The Jefferson Fellowships coordinator will work with invited Fellows to develop a series of presentations relevant to the theme. **Each Fellow also will make an oral presentation (approximately 15 minutes) based on the previously submitted paper and participate in discussion of his or her topic.**

The purpose of the presentations is to tap the education and experience of participating journalists in ways that will be professionally useful to fellow participants as they study, assess, and report in their media on the themes of the program and the Asia Pacific region.

Study Tour Travel

After 5 days in Honolulu, all of the Fellows will travel together to Tokyo, Beijing, Shenzhen and Manila for an intensive 16-day program of meetings and visits. The East-West Center will coordinate the travel segment of the program, working with on-the-ground partners in each city as well as its network of alumni, including former Jefferson Fellows, who often volunteer to host, guide and advise traveling Fellows, and to arrange appointments and interviews. The study tour program will close on May 27 in Manila. Participants return to their home countries on May 28.

Funding

The Jefferson Fellowships are supported by a grant from **The Freeman Foundation and by the East-West Center.**

These funds provide for 10-12 full or partial scholarships, including approximately 4-5 for qualified American journalists and 7-8 for Asia Pacific journalists.

All participants, regardless of amount of scholarship, must pay an \$800 program fee to cover costs not provided by the scholarship funds. Participants are also responsible for all applicable visa fees, any additional visa-related expenses, health insurance, and baggage fees.

A full scholarship for the Jefferson Fellowships is valued at approximately* \$9000 and includes:

- Roundtrip airfare to and from participant's home country and throughout the study tour
- Lodging in each of the cities
- Provided program meals and a modest per diem to cover meals not provided
- Ground transportation and airport transfers
- Cultural activities and networking opportunities
- Interpretation as needed
- Pro-rated program costs such as speaker honorariums, cooperating organization costs and meeting rooms
- Participant Resource Binder and pre-arrival background readings
- Thumb drive of fellowship documents, speaker PowerPoint presentations and photos
- Experienced escorts and professionally organized program of meetings and visits, often with unique access to speakers and communities.

Given that there are very few full scholarships available, we strongly encourage media organizations to cost share program expenses and/or airfare. Cost sharing is seen as an indication of the commitment of media organizations to the value of the program and their willingness to invest in the participating journalist. It is an important consideration of the Selection Committee. **The "Employer's Statement of Support" indicating cost sharing is required for all applicants.**

Journalists also are welcome to offer cost sharing on their own or identify other sponsors to cost share participation, such as local foundations. Please complete a second copy of the Employer Statement of Support form and indicate who is providing the cost sharing.

*airfares may be higher or lower from different countries

How to Apply

All applicants must fill out the Jefferson Fellowships application form, which can be downloaded from the website.

In addition to the application form, applicants must also provide all of the following:

- **A letter outlining the following** (maximum three pages, double-spaced, please):
 - what you expect to accomplish and what issues you want to explore/write about during the program. Please share specific story ideas or details of how this will enhance your work as reporter/editor/producer, etc.
 - a brief description of your news organization and your role;
 - topics you propose to address in your paper and presentation at the East-West Center (please see program announcement for more information about this requirement of the program). This should be a perspective from your own country on an issue or issues related to the theme of the program.The strongest applicants will make a case for why this theme is relevant to their beat and/or their country, how their reporting will stand to benefit from this opportunity, and will offer specific, relevant story ideas (in their role as an editor, producer, reporter, columnist, etc).
- **A letter of recommendation on official letterhead from your supervisor** describing your suitability for the Fellowship and the benefit the organization hopes to derive from your participation in the program. **If your media organization is not paying your program fee or providing financial support, supervisors should indicate why not.** Freelance journalists are welcome to apply; please send a letter on official letterhead from a media organization that regularly accepts and publishes or airs your work.
- **The “Employer’s Statement of Support” form** completed by your employer (also can be downloaded from the website). Freelancers must also submit the Employer Statement of Support form. Please write “Freelancer” for employer name.
- **Names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and e-mail of three people** who may be contacted by the Center as references.

Complete applications must be submitted by Thursday, January 26 by:

E-mail: jefferson@eastwestcenter.org

OR

Fax: 808-944-7600

For inquiries about the application process, please call Sara Lam at: 808-944-7727.

Questions about the Fellowships program should be directed to: Ann Hartman, Coordinator, hartmana@eastwestcenter.org; 808-944-7619.

NOTE: Please indicate “Jefferson Fellowships Application” in the subject heading of your e-mail or fax. We will confirm receipt of the application within 5 working days. If you do not hear back from us, please follow up.