



THE JEFFERSON FELLOWSHIPS

Applications now open for the 2016 Program

Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2016

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 an intensive one-week education and dialogue seminar at the East-West Center in Honolulu followed by two weeks of study tour travel in the Asia Pacific-U.S. region.

The 2016 Jefferson Fellowships program:

The Future of Growth in Asia Pacific

Honolulu, Hawaii; Beijing & Guiyang, China; Tokyo & Fukuoka-Kitakyushu, Japan
April 30-May 22, 2016

Over the past half century, the Asia-Pacific region has been in the forefront of global growth. But now the longer-term economic future of the region appears increasingly uncertain. Each country faces a somewhat different set of challenges, but many share concerns about aging societies, increased labor costs and a loss of competitive advantage, reduced overseas demand, a need for broader prosperity, and serious resource and environmental problems. With these challenges and the imperative of climate change, new models will be needed for growth in the 21st century.

The 2016 Jefferson Fellowships will focus on Asia's search for new, more sustainable growth models through sessions with experts and one another in Honolulu and by exploring economic challenges and restructuring in Japan and China. As the world's 2nd and 3rd largest economies, the success of China and Japan in finding new models will have wide reaching impacts. After decades of rapid growth, China's overall growth is falling, internal debt is rising and China fears falling into the middle income trap, getting old before it gets rich. In Beijing, journalists will explore China's efforts to maintain its growth as it shifts to a new model based more on domestic demand versus government investment, higher value-added manufacturing and innovation, and a dynamic service sector, while also addressing dire environmental degradation and the need for a broader distribution of wealth. A visit to Guiyang, the capital of one of China's poorest inland provinces but the second fastest growing province in 2015, will illustrate both the challenges as well as opportunities for new growth in China. A new high speed rail line just arrived as part of the "One Belt, One Road" strategy and it is becoming a hub for cloud computing, alternative financing and big data.

In Japan, the economy has been in near stagnation for 20 years. It also is in the vanguard of population aging with the world's oldest society. Meetings with officials, analysts and business leaders in Tokyo will explore Prime Minister Abe's monetary, fiscal, and structural reform measures intended to boost the economy out of persistent deflation. Visits in Tokyo and travel to Fukuoka-Kitakyushu will highlight some areas of focus for these reforms--promoting efficiency, greater female

and elder labor market participation, investments in innovative robotics, advancements in elder care, and rural and regional revitalization. A formerly polluted steel-producing region that transformed itself, Fukuoka-Kitakyushu was designated an “eco-model city” as part of the federal government’s initiatives to commercialize and share technology and know-how for environmentally sustainable growth across Asia. Discussions throughout the program will include the region’s international relations and tensions; the TransPacific Partnership (TPP); and regional integration and investment measures such as China’s “One Belt, One Road” and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

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, provide participants with resources on whom to call when they plan, assign, edit and produce news coverage involving or affecting the region, especially, but not exclusively, related to the program theme.

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. 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 Beijing, Guiyang, Fukuoka-Kitakyushu and Tokyo 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 21 in Japan. Participants return to their home countries on May 22.

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 programming 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.

The direct costs for participation in this intensive educational, dialogue, and reporting program are valued at approximately* \$9000 and include:

- Roundtrip airfare to and from your home country and throughout the study tour
- Lodging in each of the fellowship 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 in China and Japan
- 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

We strongly encourage media organizations to cost share program costs 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 if an award is granted 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 (third page of application form). 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. Two of these references should be people outside your news organization.

Complete applications must be submitted by Friday, January 29 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.