



YOUNG
PACIFIC
LEADERS

**A Special Professional Fellows Program Opportunity for Young Economic Empowerment Leaders
Honolulu, Hawai'i & Washington, DC
February 5 - March 8, 2024**

THEME: Post-Pandemic Equitable and Sustainable Economic Recovery

The East-West Center's Professional Development Program, in cooperation with the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) and [Young Pacific Leaders](#), is conducting a Special Professional Fellows Program Opportunity for Young Economic Empowerment Leaders from the Pacific Islands. Starting in early 2023, this program will bring three cohorts of young professionals from the Pacific Islands to the United States for intensive five-week programs that build significant new capacity and facilitate enduring professional bonds between industry leaders in the United States and the Pacific Islands. The East-West Center is pleased to partner with organizations in the Pacific Islands region including the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO) to implement this program.

Professional Fellows (aged 25-40) are chosen through an open competition which highlights their demonstrated commitment to improving their communities through innovative economic development approaches. A particular emphasis is placed on selecting individuals with social entrepreneurial talents geared towards helping their communities emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience to future economic shocks.

Selected Fellows are assigned to customized work-placements in the U.S. that will offer them fresh insights, new analytical perspectives, and practical approaches to address the challenges their communities are facing and identify opportunities for economic empowerment. Supplemental educational and cultural enrichment activities will ensure Fellows acquire substantive leadership skills as well as a deeper appreciation of American society.

Who Can Apply? (Eligibility requirements)

- 25-40 years old
- Currently employed (including self-employment) in a position relevant to economic empowerment within Pacific and indigenous communities, with at least two years of demonstrated work experience.
- BOTH a citizen of, and currently residing in, one of the eligible countries (see below)
- An English language speaker with proficiency in spoken and written English to effectively function in an American workplace
- Eligible to obtain a J-1 Visa and spend five weeks in the United States for the Fellowship
- Committed to returning to their home country after the program

Eligible Countries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Australia | • Niue |
| • Cook Islands | • Palau |
| • Federated States of Micronesia | • Papua New Guinea |
| • Fiji | • Samoa |
| • French Polynesia | • Solomon Islands |
| • Kiribati | • Tonga |
| • Marshall Islands | • Tuvalu |
| • Nauru | • Vanuatu |
| • New Caledonia | • Wallis & Futuna |
| • New Zealand | |

Note: People living with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

DEADLINE: Your application must be received by midnight September 15, 2023 (Hawaii Time).

YOU SHOULD FIRST TRY TO APPLY ONLINE HERE:

<https://www.eastwestcenter.org/apply>

if you cannot access the online application, fill out the information below:

APPLICATION FORM

Fill out all the following information and return the form and other required documents to:

pfp@eastwestcenter.org

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name (As it appears on your passport):	<input type="text"/>	
	Given name(s)	Surname(s)
Date of Birth: <input type="text"/>	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary	
	Month/Day/Year	
Birthplace: <input type="text"/>	Country of Citizenship: <input type="text"/>	

CONTACT DETAILS (To be eligible you must be currently residing in one of the eligible countries)

Provide at least one phone number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(+Country code-phone number)	Mobile Phone	Home Phone	Office Phone
Provide at least one email address:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
	Primary email	Secondary email	
Current Mailing Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Street #, apartment. #, PO Box	<input type="text"/>		
City/Village, State/Province	<input type="text"/>		
Country, Postal Code	<input type="text"/>		

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (Please attach a copy of your CV or resume. If you DO NOT have a current CV or resume then please complete the following.)

Professional Work Experience

	Start Date	End Date	Position/Title	Employer	City/Country
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Education

	Institution	City/Country	Major/Concentration	Degree/Diploma	Dates Enrolled
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Cover Letter

Please state why you are applying to the Professional Fellows Program, what makes you a good candidate, and how your participation in the program will fit within your career development goals.

Short Essay

Write a short essay (500 words or less) concisely and clearly discussing economic development challenges and/or opportunities your country, business, or organization is currently facing--particularly focusing on how to successfully emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Please include how you are already, or hope to, address these issues and how the solutions you are implementing/proposing benefit your community.

Your answer here, and to the cover letter above, will help determine an appropriate placement during your fellowship.

Follow-On Project Description

Part of the Fellowship involves planning for a specific follow-on project that you hope to work on after the Fellowship. In 100 words or less please describe a practical project you would like to work on when you return home if selected for the program--it can be a continuation of a project you are already engaged in. Answers that directly address the challenges or seek to take advantage of the opportunities in your short essay are encouraged.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Two (2) letters of reference are required to complete your application. Letters of reference cannot be submitted by the applicant. We will contact your referees you list below:

Referee 1		Referee 2	
Full name, Title, Organization		Full name, Title, Organization	
Email		Email	

OTHER INFORMATION

Please list any other fellowships, scholarships or exchange programs you are applying for.

If none please enter N/A.

Have you previously participated in an EWC or U.S. State Department program Yes No

How did you learn about the Professional Fellows Program? (Check all that apply.)

- EWC web site
- EWC social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Department of State/U.S. Embassy/YPL website
- Department of State/US Embassy/YPL social media (Facebook, Twitter) Email
- Announcement
- U.S. Embassy/Consulate Staff
- EWC Staff
- EWC alumni
- Internet search
- Other _____

The in-person, U.S.-based program is contingent upon favorable travel conditions. In the event of travel restrictions, or others factors which could adversely impact the health, safety and welfare of program participants and hosts, the program will pivot the in-person, U.S.-based exchange to virtual programming.

I hereby certify that the information I have given on this application and supporting documents is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that if I am selected to be on the short-list of candidates, I will be asked for more detailed personal information to complete my application and could be asked to participate in a phone or video conference interview.

I have read, understood, and accepted the Applicant's Certification. Typing my name is an electronic signature representing agreement to the terms and conditions and shall be deemed as original.

Signature: _____

CONTACT

Scott Kroeker, Senior Program Officer
Professional Fellows Program
East-West Center
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601 USA
pfp@EastWestCenter.org
Phone: +1.808.944.7721

About the East-West Center

The [East-West Center](#) promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the US government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments in the region.

About the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) (ECA) builds relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, professional and private exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us. Visit eca.state.gov.

About Young Pacific Leaders

The Young Pacific Leaders (YPL) Program is a youth leadership development program organized by the U.S. Department of State. YPL strengthens linkages between emerging leaders across the Pacific and the United States. These relationships between the younger generation of government, civic and business leaders help to harness the extraordinary potential of youth in the region to address critical challenges and expand opportunities. [[Facebook page](#)]

Would you like to join the Young Pacific Leaders Network? Yes No