



## 2022 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWS SUMMER INSTITUTE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What are the plans for BFTF if health and travel disruptions continue through the summer due to the global health pandemic?** Should ECA determine that conditions do not allow for an in-person U.S.-based exchange, ECA would work with the implementing partner, Purdue University, to transition the 2022 program to a virtual platform.
- **Will COVID19 vaccinations be required to participate in the program?** Yes, COVID vaccinations will be required due to vaccination requirements in multiple cities that will host BFTF programming, including Washington DC, Chicago, and Philadelphia. More information will follow regarding this requirement.
- **Is post allowed to send two fellows?** No. The cohort size will remain the same as past years. Each eligible EUR post may send one fellow.
- **What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have?** All participants must be highly proficient in English; throughout the program they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.
- **Can we nominate an individual who is not a citizen of the nominating post country?** Yes. However, the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship is a program designed to further mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and Europeans. If you wish to nominate someone who is not a citizen of the nominating country, please explain clearly on the application the reasons for the nomination.
- **My nominee has been to the United States before; would they be disqualified?** No. Nominees with minimal experience in the United States may be considered for the program. However, priority should be given to nominees with no previous experience in the United States. If you find it necessary to nominate a candidate with previous U.S. experience, please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's visit to the U.S., the year it occurred, and the length of stay, as requested on the nomination form.
- **How much free time will a participant have during the program?** There will be some limited free time during the program. However, nominees **MUST** understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to fully participate in all lectures, activities, site visits, and scheduled events.
- **If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would they have time to see them?** Participants will **NOT** be allowed to leave the program to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a pre-approved visit on a specific day designated by the host institution, if the

schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the host institution.

- **How important is it to nominate a gender-balanced group?** Very important! We strive to have the best possible diversity and gender balance.
- **Can a participant arrive early/late or stay after the program?** No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship are required to abide by the J-1 visa rules. Participants may **NOT** arrive in the United States before the program start date or remain in the country after the close of the program.
- **Can a participant miss one part or component of the program?** No. All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.
- **How much money will participants need to bring for the program?** ECA will cover all basic costs of an individual's participation in the U.S.-based exchange. Generally, the host institution will provide meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan and a pre-loaded debit card for use at local restaurants. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution prior to the start of the program. Participants should not expect to receive any spending money from the program. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.
- **One of our BFTF alumni has a sibling who would like to apply for the BFTF program. Can they apply?** Priority will be given to nominees who are unrelated to past BFTF participants. Posts should make every effort to recruit and nominate candidates from widely diverse areas and backgrounds.
- **Will applicants with disabilities be considered?** Yes, the Youth Programs Division welcomes nominations for individuals with disabilities. We are committed to working with Purdue University to arrange reasonable accommodations for all participants. Notification of a disability will not negatively impact selection. We ask that you identify disabilities during the nomination process so that we can begin working with Purdue University to ensure appropriate accommodations.