



Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. – Fellowships in International Development Policy

Program Description

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. is partnering with the Brookings Institute and the Aspen Institute to establish a fellowship program in international development policy. The program is looking specifically for graduate students and young professionals who have at least an undergraduate degree, outstanding research abilities, a record of academic excellence, and knowledge of international development and relevant fields. Based at Brookings, Aspen and other premier Washington think-tanks, fellows will spend up to one year analyzing key challenges facing the international development community, and evaluating, developing and disseminating solutions. Fellows will benefit from an orientation and professional development sessions with AKF USA.

Fellows at Brookings' Wolfensohn Center for Development could focus on enhancing the effectiveness of development aid, improving early childhood development programs, generating youth employment in the Middle East, or catalyzing regional cooperation in Central Asia. Fellows at Aspen will work in the Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program. AKF USA expects to add other projects at Brookings and Aspen, and to add other think-tanks; therefore, candidates who meet the criteria outlined below but have policy interests not listed above are welcome to apply.

Extern Criteria

Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- A record of academic excellence defined by a minimum 3.5 GPA and rigorous coursework
- Outstanding research abilities, including qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Academic and/or practical knowledge of international development / topics listed above
- Intellectual vigor, diligence, maturity and strong interpersonal skills
- At least an undergraduate degree, preferably a graduate degree

Logistics

Fellowships are full-time and Washington-based. The timing, duration and stipend for fellowships will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but all are expected to begin between July and September 2008, last up to one year (in some cases, four to six months), and offer a stipend that is competitive with other prestigious Washington internships and fellowships.

Submission Procedures and Dates

To apply, submit the following materials to fellowships@akfusa.org no later than Thursday, January 31, 2008: CV, academic transcript, three writing/research samples unedited by others, and a 500-word statement explaining your interest. AKF USA expects to select 3-4 externs in 2008.

AKF USA and the Aga Khan Development Network

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is one of several agencies that together comprise the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), which is devoted to improving living conditions and opportunities for the most poor and marginalized communities in South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and to a limited but growing extent, the Middle East. Other AKDN agencies, for example, include an ethics-driven economic development fund, and a world-class university that address key challenges facing the developing world. AKF is best known for its work building village-level capacity in remote and resource-poor settings, as well as its early support for early childhood development. AKF USA is one of almost twenty AKF units, and serves primarily to mobilize resources and engage in policy dialogue to support the work of the AKDN (www.akdn.org).