

Are you interested in a career as a diplomat? Are you looking for a way to pay for graduate school? The U.S. Department of State fellowship season is here! Please see this note from our Diplomat in Residence for the Southwest.

Three out of our [four fellowships](#) (flyers attached) are **open now for application!** Students and college graduates interested in earning a master's degree and pursuing a career in the Foreign Service can apply now through late September for the [Pickering, Rangel, and Clarke Graduate Fellowships](#). These fellowships provide tuition assistance for a two-year master's degree, a stipend for living expenses, two paid summer internships (the first one is domestic in Washington, DC and the second one is overseas at a U.S. embassy or consulate), and a guaranteed job in the Foreign Service upon graduation! Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2. These programs **encourage the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, women, and those with demonstrated financial need for graduate school.**

Pickering and Rangel Fellows become Foreign Service Officers at the conclusion of their master's program. If you are interested in either the Pickering or the Rangel, my strong recommendation is to apply to both to increase your chances, as the fellowships are almost identical and the application materials are the same. The only difference between the two fellowships is where you perform your domestic internship.

Clarke Fellows become Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Special Agents at the conclusion of their master's program, so this is for those who want to become law enforcement officers with our law enforcement arm, the Diplomatic Security Service. Candidates must pass a [Physical Readiness Test](#) as part of the selection process and must be no older than 32 at the time of application (unless you are eligible for veterans preference). Interested candidates can register [here](#) for an August 10 webinar to learn more.

Our fourth fellowship, the [Foreign Affairs Information Technology Fellowship \(FAIT\)](#), will open for application in September. This program pays for either the junior and senior years of study for an IT-related bachelor's degree, or two years of study for an IT-related master's degree. FAIT Fellows become Foreign Service Information Management Specialists upon graduation. Register [here](#) for an August 29 webinar to learn more.

Last fellowship cycle, we had Southwest candidates winning all four fellowships - let's keep the trend going! I would love to hear from you if you decide to apply and you can feel free to send me any questions you have as you go through the application process. I strongly encourage you to ask your college/alma mater career services or scholarship advisors to review your application materials before you submit them. Each fellowship website also has "tips for a competitive application" and I would strongly recommend you read through those resources as well.

Finally, the [Virtual Student Federal Service](#) internship is still **open for application through July 31** for undergrad and grad students to intern for the 2023-2024 academic year. This is our most flexible internship option - you can work virtually, do not need a minimum GPA, can be any year in college, and do not need a security clearance. The internship is also part-time so you only work 10 hours a week. You can see the full list of projects available to apply for here <https://openopps.usajobs.gov/communities/17>. If you want to help me recruit the next generation of diplomats in the Southwest, you can apply to my project <https://openopps.usajobs.gov/internships/5454>.

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