

## **The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI ) Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) program**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) program. . During the next three years the CELF program will provide up to 60 academics from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) an opportunity to participate in individually tailored programs at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse University (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu>) in upstate New York.

The CELF is intended to be a 5 month fellowship opportunity for university teachers and scholars.

### **The objectives of the program are to:**

- 1) Promote democracy and international standards in social science education in MENA countries striving to develop their civil society capacity on the university policy level.
- 2) Enhance the quality of education through improved curricula development and delivery, increased institutional capacity, and expanded student and faculty engagement.
- 3) Fully develop the critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators to enhance their ability to disseminate critical civic education material to their students.

The objective of the CELF program is to enhance international standards in social science education through improved curricula development and course delivery, increased institutional capacity, expanded student and faculty engagement; and improved critical thinking and analytic capabilities of educators in institutions of higher education.

CELF is open to individuals working in an accredited institution of higher education for a minimum of five years and not more than ten years with at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications. Though PhDs (completed or in progress) are preferred, the minimum requirement for the candidates is a completed Masters degree in one of these fields.

### **The ideal candidate for the CELF program:**

- Has at least five years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications.
- Has a minimum of three years, but not more than twelve years, experience working in an accredited institution of higher education.
- Has completed or is working through a Ph.D. While this is preferred, the minimum requirement for the candidates is a completed Masters degree in one of these fields: social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications.

- Has demonstrated a commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future, and an equal commitment to improving the quality and capacity of educational institutions in their field of study.
- Has exhibited long-time leadership skills and the capacity to apply opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit education institutions, organizations, sectors, and/or communities.
- Has a level of English language fluency to function successfully in a high-level academic and professional environment; successful applicants will be requested to submit TOEFL scores at a later date;
- Has not already completed a similar academic degree or residency in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions.
- Has letters of support from the institution that will allow the applicant to study in the United States.

MEPI, through its implementer, Syracuse, will cover all international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing, and a moderate living stipend in the United States for all Fellows participating in the program. All Fellows will travel to the United States in unaccompanied status.

Applicants will be expected to submit an updated resume and two essays of no more than 500 words each, written in English, which answers the following questions:

- Essay 1: What has influenced your thinking about civic engagement? What are the prospects for greater civic engagement in solving social problems and fostering participatory democracy in your country and how do you see the connection between your field of study and improving the prospects for civic engagement in your country?
- Essay 2: What hopes and plans do you have about improving the quality and capacity of your educational institution in your field of study. How do you see yourself leading this change?

The program for the first cohort of Fellows will run from approximately August 31, 2009 - December 31, 2009.

**Very important:**

Deadline for acceptance of resumes and essays is February 9th of 2009.  
Please send to [lahmarmm@state.gov](mailto:lahmarmm@state.gov)