

YSEALI Academic Fellows Program Spring and Fall 2027 Application

Introduction:

This application is for both the Spring and Fall cohorts of the 2027 YSEALI Academic Fellows Program. **Please note that there will *not* be a later application for the Fall 2027 cohort.** Spring dates are expected to be April 1 to May 5, 2027. Fall dates are expected to be September 16 to October 20, 2027.

The application must be completed in English. Applications and responses in any language other than English will not be considered.

It is estimated this application will take you 60 minutes to complete. You are strongly encouraged to create an account so you can save and return to your application.

If you are selected to participate in the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program, you will be required to provide documentation verifying your age, citizenship, and residency. Giving false or misleading information in the application will result in exclusion or immediate dismissal from this program.

The application cycle will close on October 13, 2026. Semi-finalists will be required to attend a virtual or in-person interview with their U.S. embassy or consulate. The interview will be conducted entirely in English.

Notifications to applicants who are invited to interview will begin in early November. Notifications will be staggered and all applicants will be notified of their status by February 2027. Due to the large number of applicants, we are unable to respond to emails inquiring about application status.

Eligibility requirements for applicants:

- Between the ages of 18 and 25 **by the application deadline**, although exceptional applicants over 25 may be considered if they meet all other eligibility requirements;
- A **citizen** of one of the following countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam; *(Due to current visa restrictions, citizens of Burma and Laos will not be eligible to apply for the 2027 U.S.-based YSEALI Academic Fellows Program. This restriction is based on citizenship, **not** country of residence.)*
- A resident of one of the following countries: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam; *(To be considered a resident, the applicant must be physically residing in an ASEAN member state as of October 12, 2026, through the start of their selected Fellowship.)*
- A full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning; or have graduated with their undergraduate degree in the past four years;
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English;
- Not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
- Not employees or immediate family members of employees of the U.S. Government ;
- Not alumni of the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program; and
- [Eligible to receive a U.S. J-1 visa](#). *(Visa fees are paid by the program; there is no cost to those selected as Fellows.)*

If you have any questions about reasonable accommodations, please email ysealiafp@umontana.edu.

Travel Restrictions Information:

Selection of finalists from all eligible countries may be subject to review in response to local, national, or global events that impact the ability to conduct program activities.

Plagiarism and Original Work Agreement

I certify that all answers in the application are my original work, based on my own creativity and effort, without any aid or assistance from others or from any technological tools (including, but not limited to, translation services and editing software tools). I also understand that using language copied from other applicants or from other sources (including websites or blogs) is considered plagiarism and will result in the application being disqualified.

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is strongly discouraged, as content generated using these tools is often vague and duplicative, resulting in poor application scores. I understand that I must be able to discuss the answers I provided in this application without reading from notes if I am invited to an interview.

Applicants with Disabilities: Applicants with physical disabilities may use assistive technology to complete the application. However, the content of the application must reflect your own original ideas.

Enter your full name:

In the format [First/Given Name] [Middle] [Last/Family] and otherwise as it appears on your passport.

Section 1. Eligibility

1.1 Date of Birth

Applicants should be between the ages of 18 and 25 by the application deadline, although exceptional applicants over 25 may be considered if they meet all other eligibility requirements. If you do not meet this requirement, other exchange opportunities can be found here: <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us>.

Note: Due to the lack of a 'year' selection option in the calendar, it is recommended to type in your birth date.

1.2 Country of Birth

1.3 Country of Citizenship

1.4 Do you have a second country of citizenship?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 1.4a What is your second country of citizenship?

1.5 Country of Residence

To be considered for this program, the applicant must be physically residing in a YSEALI country as of October 12, 2026, until the start of their selected YSEALI Fellowship.

1.6 Will you still be permanently residing in your Country of Residence as of January 31, 2027?

- Yes
- No

If No, 1.6a Where will you be permanently residing as of January 31, 2027?

Section 2. General Information

2.1 Full Name (First/Given, Middle, Last/Family):

As it appears on your passport.

2.2 Family/Last Name(s):

2.3 Given/First Name(s):

2.4 Middle Name(s):

2.5 Sex:

- Male
- Female

As it appears on your passport or official government-issued identification.

2.6 Do you currently have a valid passport issued by an eligible YSEALI country? (required)

- Yes
- No

If No, Selected Fellows are required to have and submit a copy of a passport valid through April 2028 from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, or Vietnam by January 31, 2027.

2.6a What is the country of issuance?

2.6b What is the expiration date?

Selected Fellows must have a passport valid through April 2028 from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, or Vietnam by January 31, 2027.

2.7 Permanent Address:

2.8 Do you currently reside at the permanent address listed above?

If no, 2.8a Current Address (temporary/non-permanent)

2.9 Phone Number Type:

2.10 Phone Number:

2.11 Email Address:

Please provide the email address where you wish to receive all communications regarding the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program. This should be an email address you will have continued access to and check regularly. It will be used to provide you with information, updates, and other news about the program, such as the status of your application.

***Important*:** *If you are asked to provide an email address later in the application process, please provide the same email address you are providing here.*

2.14 Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations:

- None
- Blind or Visual Impairments
- Deaf or Hearing Impairments
- Learning Disability
- Physical or Mobility Disability
- Psychiatric Disability
- Systemic Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- Other

Describe any pre-existing medical conditions, and any other dietary or personal considerations. This information will not impact your selection but will enable reasonable accommodations to be made. Please include any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant, etc.) in the "Other" section.

Please send further concerns or considerations to ysealiafp@umontana.edu.

Section 3. Background

3.1 Please select your undergraduate educational enrollment status:

- Already graduated
- Full-time student
- Part-time student
- Not currently enrolled

Please note that, "not currently enrolled" means you are not currently in an undergraduate degree program AND you have not graduated with your undergraduate degree within the last four years.

If already graduated:

3.1a When did you first begin classes for this degree?

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month you began attending in its place.

3.1b When did you graduate with your undergraduate degree?

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month you graduated in its place.

3.1c Please provide the following information in the format requested: 1. Institution Name, 2. Institution Location (City, Country), 3. Field of Study, and 4. Exact Degree Received

Example: 1. University of Michigan, 2. Ann Arbor, USA, 3. Mechanical Engineering, 4. Bachelor of Science

Do not provide any additional information as it will only make it more difficult to quickly determine the information being requested. Please provide the information requested and nothing more.

If full time/part time student:

3.1a When did you first begin full-time classes for this degree?

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month you began attending in its place.

3.1b When do you expect to graduate with your undergraduate degree?

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month you graduated in its place.

3.1c Please provide the following information in the format requested: 1. Institution Name, 2. Institution Location (City, Country), 3. Field of Study, and 4. Exact Degree Received

Example: 1. University of Michigan, 2. Ann Arbor, USA, 3. Mechanical Engineering, 4. Bachelor of Science

Do not provide any additional information as it will only make it more difficult to quickly determine the information being requested. Please provide the information requested and nothing more.

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month you expect to graduate in, instead.

3.2 Have you participated in any additional secondary, degree-seeking educational experiences?

- Yes, I am currently enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate program
- Yes, I have already graduated with a masters/post-secondary degree
- No

If Yes, I am currently enrolled in a degree-seeking graduate program or Yes, I have already graduated with a masters/post-secondary degree

3.2a Please provide the following information: 1. Institution Name, 2. Institution Location (City, Country), 3. Field of Study, and 4. Exact Degree Received/Expected to Receive

Example: 1. Yale 2. Hartford, USA 3. Economics major, History minor 4. Bachelor of Art

Do not provide any additional information as it will only make it more difficult to quickly determine the information being requested. Please provide the information requested and nothing more.

3.3 Do you have any work experience that you wish to report?

- Yes
- No

Please provide your previous experience in reverse chronological order, beginning with the most recent. If you are currently employed, with no known end date, please enter today's date as the end date.

3.3a Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, you are currently employed.

3.3b Please provide the date you started working in the position held during your most recent work experience.

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month in its place.

3.3c Please provide the last date you worked in the position held during your most recent work experience.

If you are unsure of the exact date, you may enter the first day of the month in its place. If you are currently employed, with no known end date, please enter today's date as the end date.

3.3d Please provide the following information in the format requested: 1. Position Title, 2. Company/Institution/Organization, and 3. Location (City, Country)

Example: 1. Computer Programmer 2. Microsoft Corporation 3. Seattle, USA

Do not provide any additional information, please provide the information requested and nothing more.

3.3e Do you have additional work experience(s) that you wish to report?

- Yes [If Yes, questions 3.3a-3.3d will repeat.]
- No

Section 4. English Language

All selected Fellows **must be** proficient in English. The YSEALI Academic Fellows Program is conducted entirely in English. This includes all academic sessions, cultural excursions, and living arrangements. All Fellows selected for interview will participate in an interview conducted fully in English. Applicants who are deaf should indicate their proficiency in reading and writing standard English and their proficiency in interpersonal communication, academic discussion and presentational speaking, and listening in American Sign Language (ASL).

Beginner: I can use basic phrases to describe concrete things and to share basic personal information. I need significant help from a conversation partner to support my understanding.

Novice: I can understand and use frequently used phrases to discuss familiar topics, such as daily life, food, family, and shopping. I often rely on memorized phrases and can carry out simple conversations about concrete information, but I need support from the conversation partner.

Intermediate: I can understand and express myself on topics that I frequently deal with in familiar settings, such as work, school, or travel. I can express opinions, describe events, and provide some reasoning, but I might need a sympathetic conversation partner at times to clarify meanings.

Advanced: I can understand and express myself on topics that might be new or unfamiliar and recognize implied meanings and connections. I can produce language spontaneously without the need to search for words or phrases. I can interact using language without support from the conversation partner.

Very Advanced: English is one of my primary languages OR I can seamlessly express myself on all topics and with the confidence and flexibility of a native speaker.

Each of the following four questions will have the above options for answers.

4.1 Assess your proficiency in reading and writing in English:

- Beginner
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Very Advanced

4.2 Assess your proficiency in listening in English:

- Beginner
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Very Advanced

4.3 Assess your conversational speaking skills in English:

- Beginner
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Very Advanced

4.4 Assess your academic discussion and presentational speaking skills in English:

- Beginner
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Very Advanced

4.5 Have you taken TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, or other standard English language tests?

Taking an English-language test is not required to apply.

4.5a If yes, please upload scores or other appropriate evidence here.

4.6 In which environments do you typically use English (in your job, in school, with family and friends, etc.)? Please briefly describe your experience in English-speaking environments.

Section 5. International Experience

5.1 Have you ever participated in a U.S. government-funded trip/program to the United States?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 5.1a For the U.S. Government Funded trips to the United States that you have participated in, please provide 1. Program Title(s) 2. Dates of Program(s) 3. U.S. cities visited during the program(s)

Example: 1. YSEALI Professional Fellows Program 2. 19 April 2025 - 22 May 2025 3. Missoula, Butte, Helena, Kalispell, New Orleans, Charleston, Yellowstone NP, and Washington, D.C.

5.2 Have you ever traveled to the United States for any reason other than participation in a U.S. government-funded program?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 5.2a For the NON-U.S. Government Funded trips to the United States that you have taken, please provide 1. Reason for Travel 2. Dates of Travel 3. U.S. cities visited

Example: 1. Vacation 2. 1 April 2023 - 14 May 2023 3. Missoula, New Orleans, Charleston, and Washington, D.C.

5.3 Are you currently applying for any other U.S. government-funded programs besides the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 5.3a Please Provide 1. Name of Program 2. Application Deadline

Example: 1. SUSI Scholars 2. 30 September 2025

5.4 Have you ever participated in an exchange program to a country other than the United States?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 5.4a Please Provide 1. Name of Program(s) 2. Dates of Participation

Example: 1. Brazilian Cultural Family Stay 2. 30 September 2023 - 31 October 2023

5.5 Please list any other international academic or professional experience:

If you have no additional experience, please respond "Not Applicable."

5.6 Do you currently have any family residing in the United States?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 5.6a Please provide the 1. Relationship to and Name(s) of Family Member(s) Residing in the United States 2. City and State of Residence

Example: 1. Aunt & Uncle: Steve and Karen Robinson 2. Livermore, California

Section 6. YSEALI Themes & Cohorts

Cohorts

Please tell us which 2027 cohort (Spring or Fall) you are applying for. You may indicate your flexibility for participation in both Spring and Fall, but please note accepted applicants will only be selected for participation in one cohort. If your availability changes after submitting this application, please notify ysealiafp@umontana.edu as soon as possible.

6.1 Select from the options below:

- I am available to participate in the Spring cohort (Spring dates are expected to be April 1 to May 5, 2027).
- I am available to participate in the Fall cohort (Fall dates are expected to be September 16 to October 20, 2027).

- I am available to participate in either the Spring or Fall cohorts, and I understand I will only be assigned to one of those cohorts if my application is successful.

Program Themes

Information on program themes can be found on the [YSEALI AFP website](#). Please carefully review each theme before completing the ranking below.

Please select each theme only once.

6.2 Please select your first-choice program theme:

- Liberty and Freedom
- Natural Resources
- Economic Prosperity
- Peace and Security

6.3 Please select your second-choice program theme:

- Liberty and Freedom
- Natural Resources
- Economic Prosperity
- Peace and Security

6.4 Please select your third-choice program theme:

- Liberty and Freedom
- Natural Resources
- Economic Prosperity
- Peace and Security

6.5 Please select your fourth-choice program theme:

- Liberty and Freedom
- Natural Resources
- Economic Prosperity
- Peace and Security

Section 7. Essay Questions

Read the questions below carefully before answering. Your answers should be 350-400 words each.

7.1: Tell us about your interest and experience in your top two ranked themes. For each theme, what do you hope to learn about and experience during the Fellowship? What about your background and interests makes you competitive for these themes? (400-word limit)

7.2: United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has stated: "The shared interests between the United States and the nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are deeper today than at any point in our nations' histories." Describe your plan for applying the YSEALI AFP experience after you return home. How will

participating in the Fellowship contribute to your future leadership and the United States' and ASEAN's shared prosperity? (400-word limit)

Section 8. YSEALI Network

8.1 How did you learn about the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program?

- Alumni
- U.S. Embassy or Consulate website or social media
- U.S. Mission to ASEAN website or social media
- Local Organization
- U.S. University website or social media
- Other (please specify)

Please check all that apply.

If Other,

8.1a Please Specify:

8.2 Have you applied to the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program previously?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 8.2a In what year(s) did you submit your YSEALI Academic Fellows Program application(s)?

Example: 2023, 2024

8.2b Were you ever selected as an alternate candidate?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 8.2c For which year(s) that you applied were you selected as an alternate candidate?

Example: 2024

8.3 Have you previously participated in other YSEALI initiatives, excluding the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, 8.3a If yes, which YSEALI programs or initiatives have you participated in and when? Include the location (if virtual, note "virtual"), and the date.

Section 9. Certification of Accuracy and Authenticity

9.1 I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is true and accurate. Enter your full name below:

Thank you for submitting your application to the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program! You will receive an automated message to the email address you provided noting the success of your application submission upon clicking "Submit" below.