

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MORE THAN **75 YEARS** OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE



Each year, almost **5,000 International Visitors** come to the United States. Since 1940, more than **200,000 International Visitors** have engaged with Americans through the IVLP. **35 current and 314 former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government** are IVLP alumni.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)

is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. The goal of the IVLP is to provide firsthand knowledge about U.S. society, culture, and politics, while cultivating lasting relationships. By connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts, IVLP fosters lasting relationships and helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world.

Who administers the IVLP?

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds and administers the IVLP in cooperation with a group of private, not-for-profit organizations based in Washington, D.C. In addition, IVLP relies on the commitment and skills of more than 90 volunteer-based community organizations in 44 states that are members of the Global Ties U.S. network.

What do International Visitors do in the U.S.?

Participants typically visit four diverse communities in the United States over three weeks. They travel alone, with others from their home country, or they may be in a group with people from all different nationalities, depending on the project's theme. Participants are accompanied by either a foreign language interpreter or a liaison officer, and as they travel, they:

- Meet with professional counterparts in both the public and private sector.
- Explore American society, history, and culture.
- Engage in home hospitality with American families to better understand the diversity that exists in the United States.

There is no application process for the IVLP. Participants are nominated by the staff at U.S. Embassies, and thematic topics are based on key foreign policy objectives.

PROJECTS COVER A BROAD ARRAY OF THEMES, SOME OF WHICH INCLUDE:

- Civic education
- Combating trafficking in persons
- Democracy
- Diversity
- Education
- Energy security
- English language instruction
- Entrepreneurism
- Environmental protection
- Food security and safety
- Human rights
- International health
- Journalism
- National security and counter-terrorism
- U.S. foreign policy
- Volunteerism
- Women's leadership
- Youth leadership

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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