



MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

2025 Fellowship Recruitment Toolkit: Alumni

Application Period: August 13 – September 10, 2024



OVERVIEW

As [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#) Alumni, you are in a unique position to help us recruit applicants for the 2025 Mandela Washington Fellowship. With your perspective and experience, we ask you to reach out to young leaders in your communities and networks who you think would be a good fit for the Fellowship. With your help, we hope to ensure that our 2025 Fellows represent the diversity of Africa – coming from both rural and urban areas, including individuals with disabilities, and representing people of all genders.

This toolkit features:

- 2025 Eligibility and Application Instructions (page 3)
- Frequently Asked Questions about Disability and Pregnancy Accommodations (page 3-4)
- Email Templates
- Sample Social Media Posts

You may also go to mwfellows.info/AlumniToolkit to download additional recruitment resources from our website, including:

- Instructions for the 2025 Fellowship application
- Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Recruitment graphics to share on social media and by email
- A general recruitment PowerPoint to facilitate group recruitment presentations
- Information for prospective Fellows with disabilities, including a disability accommodations-focused recruitment PowerPoint for targeted presentations
- Information for prospective Fellows who are or may become pregnant

Please also check the Mandela Washington Fellowship [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) accounts for daily posts you can reshare. Additionally, you can find application advice and tips at mwfellows.info/apply.

ELIGIBILITY

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is open to young African leaders who are:

- Between the ages of 25 and 35 on or before the application submission, although exceptional applicants ages 21-24 will be considered
- Not U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States
- Eligible to receive a United States J-1 visa
- Not employees or immediate family members of employees of the U.S. Government
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English
- Citizens and residents of an eligible country
- Not Alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship

A strong applicant for the Fellowship should have a proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business, or civic engagement; a demonstrated commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship; the ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and respect the opinions of others; strong social and communication skills; an energetic, positive attitude; demonstrated knowledge of, interest in, and professional experience in the preferred sector/track; and a commitment to return to Africa and apply leadership skills and training to benefit the applicant's country and/or community after returning home.

Applicants for the Mandela Washington Fellowship will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. As you support recruitment for our 2025 cohort, please help us recruit a balanced cohort that reflects your country's demographics: representation from urban and rural areas, gender diversity, and balanced representation across all three tracks.

FELLOWSHIP ACCOMMODATIONS

Disability Support

Individuals with disabilities are leaders across the globe. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is committed to ensuring that Africa's young leaders with disabilities are able to fully participate in the Fellowship through reasonable accommodation and support. The Fellowship's disability support complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities to fully participate in American life. For more information about accommodations provided to Fellows with disabilities, please visit the [Resources page](#) on the Fellowship website.

	What Will Be Provided	What Will Not Be Provided
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wheelchair or scooter ✓ ADA-accessible room and transportation ✓ Assistance with housework/laundry/cooking (only if necessary) ✓ Personal aide (only if necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Medical supplies ✗ Medications ✗ Transportation during free time
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ O&M (Orientation and Mobility) training and campus orientation with a sighted guide during the first few days of the Institute ✓ Braille (when possible), large print (when possible), or electronic materials ✓ A loaner laptop for use during the Institute with JAWS software ✓ Voice/braille recorder ✓ Basic smartphone with large screen and preloaded assistive apps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Sighted guides for the entire Institute ✗ Transportation during free time
Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pre-Institute at Gallaudet University ✓ ASL interpreter for programmatic activities and a predetermined number of hours for social activities ✓ Loaner tablet for use during the Institute (only if necessary) ✓ Basic smartphone pre-loaded with assistive apps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Transportation during free time

Pregnancy Support

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is committed to supporting positive learning and networking environments for all Fellows, including those who are pregnant. Applicants who are pregnant or who may become pregnant are encouraged to apply. Selected semi-finalists who are pregnant may be required to provide additional information from their doctor. The Fellowship is an intensive program that includes long days and extended periods of time sitting in a classroom or walking on excursions and site visits. Airlines also have different policies for flying while pregnant and may restrict travel for individuals who are pregnant after a certain period in their pregnancy. Selected applicants who are pregnant will receive more information about the support and resources available to pregnant Fellows following their selection.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Dear **[INSERT NAME]**,

As you may know, the application for the 2025 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders opened today! This is an opportunity for outstanding young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa to hone their skills through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking.

Fellows have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a six-week academic and leadership program at a U.S. educational institution;
- Meet with U.S. Government, civic, and business leaders; and
- Be a part of a dynamic network with opportunities for continued leadership and career enhancement.

As a Mandela Washington Fellowship **Alumnus/Alumna/Alumni**, I encourage you to apply for the 2025 Fellowship and wanted to make sure you have access to any resources you may need to complete the application. You may go to mwfellows.info/apply to view eligibility requirements, frequently asked questions, application instructions, and more.

Please note that **applications are due September 10, 2024.**

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Use this timeline to guide your social media posts.

1. On August 13 – Announce the Application Launch

Sample Text: The #YALI2025 application is now live! This is your chance for access to a six-week training course at a top U.S. educational institution in 1 of 3 different leadership tracks: Business, Civic Engagement, or Public Management. Learn more at: mwfellows.info/apply. Applications due September 10!

2. From August 13 to September 10 – Share Tips and Reminders

Option 1

Have a question about your 2025 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders application? Find an answer in the Frequently Asked Questions section on this page: mwfellows.info/apply. Applications are due Tuesday, September 10! #YALI2025

Option 2

Thinking about the 2025 Mandela Washington Fellowship? Time to start your application! #YALI2025 applications are due in **[INSERT DAYS/WEEKS]** on Sep. 10! Visit mwfellows.info/apply to read frequently asked questions and tips for your application!

Option 3

Are you ready to apply for the 2025 Mandela Washington Fellowship?

The Fellowship is an opportunity for you to:

- Participate in a six-week academic and leadership program at a U.S. educational institution;
- Meet with U.S. Government, civic, and business leaders; and
- Be a part of a dynamic network with opportunities for continued leadership and career enhancement.

Applications due Sep. 10! mwfellows.info/apply #YALI2025

3. Continue Spreading the Word

- **Share your favorite Fellowship memory** as a Throwback Thursday (#TBT) or Flashback Friday (#FBF) along with a link to the 2025 application.
- **Share your advice** for applicants hoping to be selected for the Fellowship.
- **Share your favorite blog posts** with [information and advice for the application](#).
- **Reach out on WhatsApp.** Take one of the sample posts above and copy and paste it as a WhatsApp message or post on your WhatsApp story. This is a great way to reach people who may not have access to your email or social media messages.

RESOURCES

X	X.com/washfellowship
Facebook	facebook.com/MandelaWashingtonFellowship/
Instagram	instagram.com/mandelawashfellowship/
LinkedIn	linkedin.com/company/mandela-washington-fellowship
Fellowship Application and Eligibility Information	mwfellows.info/apply
Application Resources	mwfellows.info/resources