

2027

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

for Young African Leaders

Looking
for 550
Fellows!



Apply to join the next generation of African leaders!

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (the Fellowship) is the exchange program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The Fellowship brings accomplished young African innovators and professionals to the United States for academic coursework, professional site visits, and structured networking. Fellowship activities prepare Fellows to collaborate with U.S. citizens on advancing U.S.-Africa trade and economic prosperity, promoting technological innovation, and enhancing peace and security.

An unparalleled opportunity to:

- Participate in a six-week executive-style institute at a U.S. college or university to share your experiences with and learn from American experts.
- Explore American innovation, industry, history, and culture to expand your expertise.
- Meet with American leaders in the public and private sectors to strengthen your professional network.
- Join an active network of nearly 7,800 alumni.
- Engage with U.S. experts in business and trade, emerging technologies, and governance and security.

Application closes **October 13, 2026**

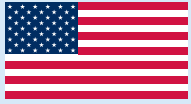
Apply online at **MWFellows.Info/Apply**

*The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State
with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX.*



MANDELA WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS





2027 Fellowship Application Process

Eligibility

- Citizens of and residents in a **sub-Saharan African country**;
- Between the **ages of 25 and 35**;
- **Not U.S. citizens** or permanent U.S. residents;
- Eligible to receive a United States **J-1 visa**;
- Not employees or immediate family members of U.S. Government employees;
- Proficient in **English**; and
- **Not alumni** of the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

Application Timeline

September 22, 2026: Application opens

October 13, 2026: Application closes

November 2026 – January 2027: Semifinalists interviewed by local U.S. embassies and consulates

February/March 2027: Applicants are notified of their status

Spring 2027: Visa processing and pre-departure orientations for Finalists

June 2027: Fellowship begins in the United States

Visit MWFellows.Info/Apply
for more information about the application process.

