

YSEALI Academic Fellows Program Spring and Fall 2025 Application

Introduction

This application is for both the Spring and Fall cohorts of the 2025 YSEALI Academic Fellows Program. **Please note that there will *not* be a later application for the Fall 2025 cohort.** Spring dates are expected to be April 17 to May 22, 2025. Fall dates are expected to be September 25 to October 30, 2025.

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 45-60 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 3, 2024. 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 January 2025.

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, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam;
- A resident of one of the following countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam;
- A full-time or part-time undergraduate student from college, university, or other institutions 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 (including a U.S. embassy or consulate, USAID, or other U.S. Government entity);
- Not alumni of the YSEALI Academic Fellowship; 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.*)

The YSEALI Academic Fellowship is open to all applicants regardless of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Fellowship is committed to fairness, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

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

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 and results 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:

Exactly 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>. You can type in a date MM/DD/YYYY or navigate forward to interact with the calendar and select a date. Press the question mark key to get the keyboard shortcuts for changing dates.*

1.2 Country of Birth

1.3 Country of Citizenship

1.4 Do you have a second country of citizenship? (Y/N)

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

1.5 Country of Residence

1.6 Will you be permanently residing in your Country of Residence as of January 31, 2025? (Y/N)

If No, 1.6a Where will you be permanently residing as of January 31, 2025?

Section 2. General Information

2.1 Full Name:

Exactly 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 Biological Sex as it appears on your passport or official government-issued identification:

- Male
- Female
- Other (please specify)

2.5 Biological Sex as it appears on your passport or official government-issued identification:(required)

- Male
- Female
- Other (please specify)

2.6 What best describes your gender identity?(required)

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- I prefer to self-describe

2.7 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 2026 from one of the eleven YSEALI countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and Timor-Leste) by January 31, 2025.

2.8-2.12: Permanent Address

2.13 Phone Number Type:

2.14 Phone Number:

2.15 Email Address:

**Please list the email address at which you wish to receive all communications regarding the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program.*

2.16 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, or any other dietary or personal considerations. This information will not impact your selection but will enable reasonable accommodations to be made.

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

Section 3. Applicant Background

3.1 Please select your educational enrollment status:

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

If already graduated

3.1a What month did you graduate with your undergraduate degree?

3.1b What year did you graduate with your undergraduate degree?

3.2 Educational Background. Please list all secondary, degree-seeking education experiences below. Begin with the current or most recent.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		Institution Name (No abbreviations)	Institution Location (City, Country)	Dates Attended (MM/YY-MM/YY)	Major Field of Study	Degree Received (Secondary/High School, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Ph.D., etc.) and Date Received* (Month/Year)
2	School 1					
3	School 2					
4	School 3					
5	School 4					
6	School 5					

If you have not yet received your degree, please indicate the date (month and year) you expect to receive it.

3.3 Work Experience

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Position Title (please specify full or part-time)	Company/Institution/Organization	Location (City, Country)	Starting and Ending Dates (MM/YY – MM/YY)
2	1				
3	2				
4	3				
5	4				
6	5				

If you are presently employed, please list that experience first and provide the date you began the position, and “present” as the end date. Then begin listing your previous experience in reverse chronological order.

3.4 Volunteer, Community Service, and Extracurricular Activities

	A	B	C	D
1		Location (Institution)	Type of Activity and Your Role	Dates of Participation (MM/YY – MM/YY)
2	1			
3	2			
4	3			
5	4			
6	5			

Please list any volunteer, community service, leadership, memberships, or relevant extracurricular activities. Relevant activities might include leadership positions in student clubs, service projects in your community, or participation in workshops. Begin with the most recent; only include activities you have participated in the last 3 years.

Section 4. English Language

All selected Fellows **must be** proficient in English. To accommodate participants from different backgrounds and cultures, including native languages, 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 4 questions will have the above options for answers.

4.1 Assess your proficiency in reading and writing in English:

4.2 Assess your proficiency in listening in English:

- 4.3 Assess your conversational speaking skills in English:
- 4.4 Assess your academic discussion and presentational speaking skills in English:
- 4.5 Have you taken TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, or other standard English language tests?
- 4.5a If yes, please upload scores or other appropriate evidence here.

Section 5. International Experience

- 5.1 Have you ever participated in a U.S. government-funded trip to the United States?(required)
- 5.1a If yes, please list program title, dates of participation, and cities of travel:
- 5.2 Have you ever traveled to the United States for any reason other than participation in a U.S. government-funded program?
- 5.2a If yes, please list purpose of travel, dates of travel, and cities of travel:
- 5.3 Are you currently applying for any other U.S. government-funded programs besides the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program?(required)
- 5.3a If yes, please list program title and application deadline:
- 5.4 Have you ever participated in an exchange program to a country other than the United States?(required)
- 5.4a If yes, please list the program(s) and dates of participation:
- 5.5 Please list any other academic or professional international experience:
- Please include Program/Institution Title, Location (City, Country) and Dates of Participation (MM/YY – MM/YY)*
- 5.6 Do you currently have any family residing in the United States?(required)
- 5.6a If yes, please list all family members who are currently residing in the United States, including city and state

Section 6. YSEALI Themes & Cohorts

Cohorts

Please tell us which 2025 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 (Please note Spring dates are expected to be April 17 to May 22, 2025).
 - I am available to participate in the Fall cohort (Please note Fall dates are expected to be September 25 to October 30, 2025).
 - 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.

6.2-6.5: Program Themes

Information on program themes can be found on the [YSEALI AFP website](#). Please carefully review each theme before completing the ranking the themes; First choice to Fourth Choice.

- Civic Engagement
- Sustainability and Environment
- Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Empowerment
- Society and Governance

6.6 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? (350 word limit)

Section 7. Essay Questions

Read the questions below carefully before answering. Your answers should be 200-250 words each, answers under 150 words will not receive full marks.

7.1 What is a challenge in your community, country, or the ASEAN region that you are passionate about addressing? How will participating in the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program help you to address it? (250 word limit)

7.2 The YSEALI Academic Fellows Program requires collaborating with other Fellows for a final project. How would you approach collaborating on a group project with Fellows from other backgrounds? (250 word limit)

Section 8. YSEALI Network

8.1 How did you learn about the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program? (Please check all that apply.)

- 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)

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

8.2a If yes, have you been selected as an alternate candidate? (Y/N)

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

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. (required)

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.