



Frequently Asked Questions

InterAction Congressional Fellowship Program

1. What are the requirements for applying for the InterAction Fellowship Program?

InterAction is seeking a bi-partisan group of between 15 to 20 congressional staff members from the House and Senate who are responsible for foreign policy and/or international aid programs in their office. Applicants will upload their resume and a letter from a supervisor authorizing their participation in the program.

2. What is the deadline for applying?

Candidates must complete an application, found [HERE](#), by 12:00 noon on Friday, August 21, 2026.

3. When and where will the Fellowship sessions be held?

The Fellowship sessions will be held on Fridays from September 18 through October 16. The September 18 session is a full-day program, the October 16 session is a half-day program, and the remaining sessions will be 90 minutes each.

4. I'm not able to make every session. Can I still participate in the program?

The full-day session on September 18th and half-day session on October 16th are mandatory to complete the program (noting that there will be breaks in both of those sessions and that it is okay to step away for up to an hour if an urgent matter arises). A fellow may be excused from one of the 90-minute sessions between September 25th and October 9th and still successfully complete the program if advance notice is given. Should an accepted applicant need to withdraw from the program, you will be allowed to enroll in a future session of the program.

5. What are you looking for in successful applicants?

InterAction is seeking Fellows who demonstrate a passion for foreign affairs, promoting global prosperity, alleviating human suffering globally, a strong sense of curiosity, and a dedication to excellence in their work.

6. What are the goals of the Fellowship?

The InterAction Fellowship Program is designed to give Fellows an in-depth understanding of how international assistance programs are funded and implemented, and the impact of U.S. aid around the world. Through their participation, fellows will also expand their network on and off Capitol Hill.

7. Why now?

¹As Congress and the U.S. government continue to invest billions in development and humanitarian assistance, debates over these programs have sharpened and oversight has deepened. Important questions must be asked during these debates: How is foreign assistance part of the broader foreign policy toolbox? How does the U.S. model of foreign

assistance differ from both its allies and its foes? How and why do foreign assistance programs succeed and fail? How can assistance reach more people more effectively? How do we balance immediate, life-saving needs with longer-term impacts?

8. What topics will be discussed?

The Fellowship sessions will begin with an overview of assistance programs. The sessions will then shift to an in-depth review of how Congress funds these programs, including an exploration of specific accounts within the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill; the grant process between the State Department and its partners; how implementers work with USG, multilateral institutions and other institutional donors; and the working relationship between American implementing organizations and those on the ground. The Fellows will gain an understanding of how aid is spent, by whom and gain a greater understanding of the goals and impacts of foreign assistance programs. There will be opportunities to discuss all the topics.

9. Who are the likely speakers?

Session speakers will include former USG officials, experts from among InterAction's members, as well as former senior congressional staff.

10. Are there other items that will be addressed?

Fellows will participate in exercises designed to increase their understanding on how assistance programs are developed. They will also participate in teambuilding exercises.

11. What can you tell me about InterAction?

InterAction is the largest U.S.-based alliance of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and partners. We mobilize our members to think and act collectively to serve the world's poor and vulnerable, with a shared belief that we can make the world a more peaceful, just, and prosperous place – together. Our members are premier international global development, humanitarian, and sector-supporting organizations that work in almost every country and manage more than \$15.4 billion in programs annually.

12. Who can I contact if I have any questions about the Fellowship Program and/or the application?

For any questions about the program or the application process, please feel free to email us at tbuttry@INTERACTION.ORG.