



**U.S. MISSION IN VIETNAM  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2015 YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN INITIATIVE (YSEALI)  
ACADEMIC FELLOWS**

The U.S. Mission in Vietnam seeks candidates for the 2015 Young Southeast Asian Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellows on Environmental Issues. Vietnamese citizens between the ages 18 and 25, full-time undergraduate students or those who have graduated from college, university, or other institutions of higher learning, who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university, place of work, and an interest in community service and volunteerism, and have a good command of English, are invited to apply for the program. The application deadline is **5:00 PM, Monday, December 29, 2014**.

**Program Overview**

YSEALI is President Obama's initiative to strengthen leadership development and networking in ASEAN, deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and advance people-to-people ties between the United States and young and emerging Southeast Asian leaders.

Engaging and strengthening ties with young people is a critical element of the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. Recognizing that over 65 percent of ASEAN's population is under the age of 35, YSEALI is an important investment in the next generation of Southeast Asian leaders. This initiative expands existing U.S. engagement in the region to better empower, support, and connect youth across Southeast Asia.

YSEALI Academic Fellows invites Southeast Asian youth to universities in the United States, where they can deepen their knowledge about regional issues and share their experience and perspectives. This YSEALI Academic Fellows program will be offered to 250 young leaders from ASEAN countries in 2015 and 2016.

The first cohort of 20 YSEALI Academic Fellows from Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam will be selected for the Institute on Environmental Issues that will take place over the course of five weeks, beginning in June 2015. This is an intensive short-term academic program whose purpose is to provide groups of Fellows with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills and knowledge of the subject matter. The five-week Institute will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. The Institute will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

Hosted by the University of Montana in Missoula, the four-week academic residency will explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United

States. The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulation. Finally, the Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries. Fellows will also have the opportunity to leave the classroom to meet with community leaders, and representatives of non-profit organizations. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to Louisiana, where they will meet with local, state, private, and nonprofit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a 3 day program in Washington, D.C. Information on the program can be found at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/institute/>.

The two other cohorts – YSEALI Academic Fellow on Civic Engagement and YSEALI Academic Fellows on Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development will be announced at later dates.

All participant costs, including program administration, international and domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances, housing and subsistence expenses will be paid for by the U.S. Department of State.

## **Candidate Qualifications**

Candidates nominated for this program should:

- be a YSEALI member. Join YSEALI at <https://youngsoutheastasianleaders.state.gov/>
- be between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of application;
- be a Vietnamese citizen;
- be a resident of one of the following countries: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, or Vietnam;
- be a full-time undergraduate student or have graduated in the past four years from college, university, or other institutions of higher learning;
- be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university, place of work, and/or community;
- demonstrate interest, knowledge, or professional experience in environmental issues;
- demonstrate a commitment or interest in community service, volunteerism, or mentorship;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States and ASEAN as a region;
- be willing to actively participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and study tour;
- have a commitment to return to their home country to apply leadership skills and training to benefit their community, country, or the ASEAN region; and
- preferably have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States.

## Program time-line

- Submission deadline: Monday, December 29, 2014
- Application screening and shortlisted candidates interview by selection committee: January 2015
- Final selection result available: Late February 2015.

## How to apply

Complete application dossier includes:

1. Complete application form (submit online);
2. Official transcripts for years of university study, and university degree if you already graduated (submit online)
3. A confidential letter of recommendation from teacher/professor (for undergraduate students); or from current supervisor (for working people) (submit in hard copy, in sealed envelope).

Eligible candidates from Quang Tri province and to the north are requested to submit their complete application form and official transcripts for years of university study at <https://sites.google.com/site/2015ysealiacademicfellows/>, and send confidential letter of recommendation to:

Public Affairs Section  
United States Embassy  
YSEALI Academic Fellows Program  
7 Lang Ha,  
Ba Dinh, Hanoi  
Tel: 84-4-3850 5000, ext. 6034 or 6044  
Email: [pas.culture@gmail.com](mailto:pas.culture@gmail.com)

Eligible candidates from Thua Thien-Hue province and to the south are requested to submit their complete application form and official transcripts for years of university study at <https://sites.google.com/site/2015ysealiacademicfellows/>, and send confidential letter of recommendation to:

Public Affairs Section  
United States Consulate General  
YSEALI Academic Fellows Program  
4 Le Duan, District 1  
Ho Chi Minh City  
Tel: (84) (8) 3520-4610  
Email: [PASHCMC@state.gov](mailto:PASHCMC@state.gov)

FAQs about the program can be found at: [http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/yseali\\_faqs.html](http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/yseali_faqs.html)

The application deadline is **5:00PM, Monday, December 29, 2014**. No exceptions will be made regarding the deadline.