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World Forest Institute

## World Forest Institute - International Fellowship Program Basics

**What is the World Forest Institute (WFI)?** WFI offers natural resource professionals a variety of continuing education programs such as conferences, an international fellowship, an educator's workshop and speaker series. WFI is part of the World Forestry Center, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and inform people about the importance of the world's forests and their sustainable management.

**What is the Fellowship about?** The WFI Fellowship Program is a six month professional development opportunity for individuals who are ready to take the next step in their careers. It is a non-academic practical learning experience. This is not an internship, but an opportunity to study and network with people working in forestry. Each year we accept eight participants from around the world. The fellowship has three main components: research project, study tours, and presentations.

1. **Research Project:** Fellows focus on learning about a specific subject matter that they propose in their application to the program. The research questions are answered by conducting literature reviews, interviewing leaders in their field, and networking throughout the Pacific Northwest.
2. **Study Tours:** Weekly group field visits are scheduled to learn about best practices in the natural resource sector through first-hand observation.
3. **Presentations:** Fellows give presentations about their countries and area of expertise in natural resources. Fellows also attend presentations to learn about how all sectors of natural resources are managed in the US and other parts of the world.

The World Forest Institute uses its extensive network of natural resource stakeholders to connect people to people, share ideas, and inspire positive change. The Fellowship is an opportunity to learn, engage, and generate ideas for your future.

**Who is the Fellowship for?** Are you looking to broaden your perspective on natural resource management beyond your usual formal training or job? Curious about how other countries deal with similar forest challenges? Eager to meet new people, see new places, and grow your network of professional contacts? The Fellowship program is seeking individuals with initiative who have a lifelong curiosity for learning beyond the classroom. We want participants who will make connections here that will help them to be the leaders and drivers of change in their work back home.

**Requirements:** The Fellowship is for any professional working or studying in the natural resources arena. At minimum, you must have earned a Bachelor's degree. Preferably applicants have some practical work experience in natural resources.

The program is great for:

- early to mid-career professionals looking to take their knowledge to the next level

- seasoned professionals who want to dig deeper into their subject matter
- professionals looking to launch into a new career path

Whether just out of college or nearing retirement, this program is group-oriented yet individualist, so that you walk away with the knowledge you seek.

**What is expected of me in the program?** You are expected to engage and interact with your international peers in the program as well as with the professionals you will meet. You will go out on weekly study tours as a group and talk to leaders in various trades of natural resource management and learn about best practices from them. You are expected to be proactive in seeking the answers to your research questions, finding the professionals that can advance your knowledge and pursuing your program goals. You are also expected to share your knowledge with the people you meet, give presentations in various venues, and be a global ambassador for your country.

**What can I expect to get out of it?** Expect to be engaged in high-level conversations with experts in your field. Expect to gain a broad range of knowledge not only about natural resources, but about global perspectives in policy, economics and sustainability. Fellows often leave the program with improved technical skills, increased global awareness, and more confidence to reach the next stage of their careers. You set your goals and we help you achieve them. Ultimately, you get out of the program what you put into the program – so get ready to engage!

**What is the screening process for applicants?** Once you submit an application, the WFI staff evaluate the feasibility of your project, how likely you are to find the answers to your questions considering the resources in the Pacific Northwest of the US, your aptitude for research, your eagerness to learn and participate in a dynamic group experience, and what qualities you can bring to the group. We are here to learn from you as much as you are here to learn from us and we want to be sure this program is a good fit for you. Once accepted into the program, you will go through a separate application process for the J-1 training visa unless you are a US citizen or green card holder.

**How much does the program cost?** For a 6-month program, the total cost is \$10,000 USD. You pay \$5,000 and then we apply a matching grant of \$5,000 for a combined \$10,000 total. From that \$10,000 we pay you a monthly stipend of approximately \$1,200 USD (it's different for everyone because of taxes, but you receive anywhere between \$1,200 - \$1,400/month). The program costs much more per person than \$10,000 so we raise additional funds to maintain the program. Thus, if you pay \$5,000 for the program, we end up paying you back about \$7,500 plus all added benefit of the program. We give you a public transportation pass for Portland, an office to work in with a computer and all office supplies (printer, fax, phone, email, etc.) and support, as well as programmatic support to help you accomplish your research goals. You are responsible for roundtrip airfare, medical insurance and visa processing costs.