

# INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Connecting People, Creating Understanding



In 2011, **5,291 International Visitors** participated in 811 projects. Since 1940, nearly **200,000 International Visitors** have engaged with Americans through the IVLP. At any given point during the year, approximately **250 International Visitors** are in the United States. **53 current** and more than **275 former** Chiefs of State or Heads of Government are IVLP alumni.

**The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)** is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Launched in 1940, IVLP seeks to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations through short-term visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. These visits reflect the International Visitors' professional interests and support the foreign policy goals of the United States.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds and administers the IVLP in cooperation with National Program Agencies (NPAs), a group of private, not-for-profit organizations based in Washington, D.C. In addition, IVLP also relies on the commitment and skills of volunteer-based community organizations across the U.S., known as Councils for International Visitors (CIVs). Under the professional association of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV), local CIV members and "citizen diplomats" develop professional programs, arrange cultural activities, and provide home hospitality. There are currently more than 90 CIVs in 44 states.

## What happens on an IVLP project?

- International Visitors meet with professional counterparts and visit U.S. public and private sector organizations related to the project theme.
- The majority of IVLP projects include visits to four U.S. communities over three weeks, although projects vary based on themes and Embassy requests.
- Depending on the project and theme, International Visitors may be traveling alone, with others from their home country, or they may be in a group of all different nationalities.
- Most International Visitors are accompanied by either English language officers or foreign language interpreters, who explain American society, history, and culture, in addition to language interpretation.
- International Visitors are usually hosted for dinner or other social/cultural activity by American families at some point.

## Who comes on an IVLP project?

International Visitors are selected by U.S. Foreign Service Officers at U.S. Embassies around the world. There is no application process.

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Projects cover a broad array of themes, some of which include:

- Civil/human rights
- Combating trafficking in persons
- Democracy
- Diversity
- Economic Issues
- Education
- Energy security
- English language instruction
- Entrepreneurism
- Environmental protection
- Food security and safety
- International health
- Journalism
- National security and counter-terrorism
- U.S. foreign policy
- Volunteerism
- Women
- Youth leadership

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