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Now!

# Become a Payne Fellow

The Payne Fellowship provides a pathway to a career as a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Service Officer (FSO). USAID FSO's work on the front lines of some of the most pressing global challenges of our times, including injustice, climate change, economics, financial integrity, health, conflict, and poverty.

## The Payne Fellowship is seeking outstanding Fellows for the 2025 Cohort!

The Payne Fellowship Program selects individuals through a rigorous nationwide competition, preparing them for positions as Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program specifically aims to attract historically underrepresented groups in international development careers and those with a financial need. For the 2025 cohort, up to 30 Fellowships will be granted.

### Program Benefits:

- Selected fellows receive support for their graduate studies, totaling up to \$104,000 over two years. This includes \$24,000 annually for academic studies, \$18,000 per year for academic-related expenses, and a \$10,000 stipend annually for a summer placement in Washington, D.C., as well as at a USAID overseas mission.
- Upon successful program completion and meeting Foreign Service entry requirements, participants are offered employment in the USAID Foreign Service, in accordance with relevant laws and USAID policies. Fellows commit to a minimum of five years of service.
- Mentorship is provided by a USAID Foreign Service Officer

### Eligibility Requirements:

- U.S. citizenship.
- Seeking admission to a two-year graduate school program at a U.S. university in the Fall of 2025
- Applicants may be college graduates with years of professional experience.
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher.



Donald M. Payne, Sr., was the first African American from New Jersey to serve in the U.S. Congress. He left us a legacy as a peacemaker and an advocate for human rights and the youth. The Payne Fellowship Program is named in his honor because of his long history of service to the nation and the world in promoting international development.



Payne Fellows pursue graduate degrees to support their careers in administrative and technical areas (backstops) in USAID's Foreign Service. These include:

- Program Officers
- Executive Officers
- Financial Management
- Contracting Officers Officers
- Agriculture Officers
- Economists
- Private Enterprise Development Officers
- Engineering Officers
- Environment Officers
- Health, Population, and Nutrition Officers
- Education Officers
- Humanitarian Assistance Officers
- Crisis, Stabilization & Governance Officers

**Application deadline:**  
**October 24, 2024**



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