Lafayette *fellowship*

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Villa Albertine

france science

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Our Mission

Inspiring the Next Generation of American Leaders to Renew the Transatlantic Relationship

- In 2026, celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the French-American friendship.
- Since then, our two countries have worked together, fought side by side, and upheld shared values.
- The Lafayette Fellows carries this legacy forward.

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A Unique Opportunity

Access Top French Universities

- The Lafayette Fellowship funds one year of master's-level study at France's most prestigious academic institutions for 30 American students.
- The Fellowship is open to both Francophone and non-Francophone candidates across STEM, the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

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A Unique Opportunity

Fellowship Benefits and Funding

- A €1,500 monthly stipend
- One year of tuition for eligible programs at a partner French institution.
- Reimbursement of application fees
- Student visa fee waivers
- A round-trip flight between the U.S. and France
- Coverage of travel costs and activities related to the French-American Leadership Program

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Partner Institutions

- Aix-Marseille Université*
- Centrale Lyon
- Ecole Polytechnique
- emlyon business school
- École Normale Supérieure (Lyon & Paris)
- HEC Paris
- Institut Lyfe
- ISAE-SUPAERO
- Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University
- PSL University*
- Sciences Po - Paris Climate School
- Sciences Po Lille
- Sorbonne University*
- Toulouse School of Economics
- Université Côte d'Azur*
- Université Grenoble Alpes*
- Université Paris Cité*
- Université Paris-Saclay*
- University of Bordeaux*
- University of Montpellier
- University of Strasbourg*

*(*French universities in the 'Initiatives of Excellence' network, recognized for excellence in research, education, and innovation)*

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Partner Institutions

- The Fellowship strives to spread awareness about France’s internationally ranked universities and academic excellence programs taught in English.
- Our partner universities offer one-year and two-year master’s programs as well as visiting opportunities (see the full list of eligible programs on our website).

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Leadership Development Program

The Fellowship will encourage reflection on major global challenges, including:

- **Environmental Issues and Sustainable Transitions**
- **Health and Biotechnology**
- **Peace and Security**
- **Social Equity and Democratic Governance**
- **Digital Technologies**
- **Artificial Intelligence**

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Leadership Development Program

Alongside academic coursework, fellows will benefit from the French-American Leadership Program.

Inspiration	Attend conferences and masterclasses in fields where France is at the forefront.
Research	Meet top researchers and visit leading laboratories and scientific facilities.
Culture	Participate in major cultural events, such as the Avignon Theater Festival.
Europe	Engage with European institutions to gain insight into Europe's role on the global stage.

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A Lifelong Community

- Lafayette Fellows will receive mentorship support and be paired with prominent French public figures.
- Lafayette alumni will gather annually in one of the 10 U.S. cities where Villa Albertine has a presence.
- The Lafayette Fellows will become “ambassadors” of France and Europe and serve as key drivers of the French-American friendship for decades to come.

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Selection Process

- **Core Profile**

Academic excellence (minimum 3.70 GPA), strong leadership potential, a commitment to social impact, and a genuine interest in France.

- **4 Local Selection Committees**

West Coast, Midwest, South, & East Coast to ensure geographical diversity.

- **A Final Jury**

Chaired by Dr. Esther Duflo in 2026 and including prominent academics and scholarship experts (e.g., IIE, Fulbright, Posse).

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Calendar

September 4, 2026 – December 1, 2026	Application period
December 2026 – January 2027	Selection process: pre-selection and online interviews
March 2027	Final jury and announcement of laureates
July 2027	Arrival in France, launch of the French-American Leadership Program
Fall 2027	Start of master's-level programs
June 2028	"Au-revoir" ceremony at the Quai d'Orsay

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Eligibility Criteria

- Be under the age of 27 (as of July 1, 2027)
- Be in possession of a bachelor’s degree from a U.S. institution (completed between January 2024 and June 2027), with a GPA of no lower than 3.70.
- Knowledge of French is not required for acceptance into the Fellowship program.

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Required Application Materials

Application materials include:

- Transcript
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Personal statement in a video format
- Three letters of recommendation (two academic and one extracurricular) and one additional optional letter

The awarding of the scholarship is conditional upon admission to one of the partner institutions.

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Contacts

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