

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Payne Fellowship

Updated: 11-17-2022

| Section | Brief description | More information |
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| 1. Award | The Payne Fellowship Program awards 15 fellowships each year, valued at up to \$48,000 annually, for a two-year program. The award includes up to \$22,000 per year toward tuition and mandatory fees for completion of a two-year master's degree at an approved U.S. institution; a \$16,000 stipend for each academic year for room, board, books and other education-related expenses; and up to \$10,000 per year in summer stipend, housing, transportation, and related expenses for summer internships. Two internships—*one in Washington, DC working on international issues, the other at a USAID overseas mission—will be in the first and second summers after selection.* | <p>https://www.paynefellows.org/graduate-fellowship-program/payne-program-overview/</p> <p>Awardees are expected to enter into careers as Foreign Services Officers in the US Agency for International Development (USAID) upon successful completion of the program.</p> <p>Note: *Ways the Payne Fellowship differs from the Pickering and Rangel Fellowships*</p> |
| 2. Eligibility | <p>To be eligible, an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a U.S. citizen. • Be seeking admission to a two-year, full-time, on-campus, master's degree program at a U.S.-based graduate institution to begin in the fall in international development or related subject relevant to work of the USAID Foreign Service. • Demonstrate financial need. • Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale. • Applicants can be in their senior year or they can be college graduates. | <p>Eligibility Requirements</p> <p>Awardees are expected to complete their degrees and fulfill a five year service commitment to USAID Foreign Service upon successful completion of the program. Therefore, it is very important that applicants research what the work and location assignments of Foreign Service Officers involve and their personal suitability for the role and commitment.</p> |
| 3. Timing | Applications are due mid-late December | How to Apply |
| 4. Selection Criteria | The Payne Fellowship Selection Panel judges each applicant based on a variety of different criteria. It seeks individuals who show clear interest in a Foreign Service career at USAID, along with a strong academic background, a commitment to service, leadership skills, financial need for graduate school, diverse interests in areas such as international affairs and development, cultural sensitivity, writing skills, and an ability to overcome obstacles. A good application introduces the individual to the panel and shows their unique motivations, experiences, accomplishments, and career goals. | Application Tips |
| 5. Smith Role | Smith nomination is not required to apply. | |
| 6. Fun fact(s) | <p>One of three prestigious foreign service fellowships offered by Howard University. Other fellowships are the Pickering Foreign Affairs Program and Rangel International Affairs Program.</p> <p>The program honors Donald M. Payne, NJ's first African American Congressman who was a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.</p> | <p>Howard University Fellowships About Donald M. Payne</p> |
| 7. How to get started | Email fellowships@smith.edu for an appointment. | |