

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Pickering Fellowship

Updated: 11-17-2022

Section	Brief description	More information
1. Award	<p>The Pickering Program awards ~ 45 fellowships of up to \$42,000 in funding annually to support two-year master's degrees. This includes up to \$24,000 per year for tuition and mandatory fees and an academic year stipend of \$18,000. Fellows enroll in graduate school in the fall of their first year and start work toward a master's degree. Two internships with <i>*the Department of State—one in Washington, DC, the other overseas at a US Embassy or Consulate—will be in the summer between the first and second year of the graduate program and the summer after you finish.*</i> There is an additional summer stipend to help with living costs; housing plus overseas travel finance are provided. Throughout the program fellows receive personalized mentoring and professional development opportunities.</p>	<p>https://pickeringfellowship.org/graduate-fellowship/overview-and-eligibility/</p> <p>Awardees are expected to enter into careers as Foreign Services Officers in the U. S. Department of State upon successful completion of the program.</p> <p>Note: <i>*Ways Pickering Fellowship differs from Rangel*</i></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 an academic field relevant to the work of the Foreign Service (public policy, international affairs, public administration, business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages). • 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>Overview and Eligibility</p> <p>Awardees are expected to complete their degrees and fulfill a five year service commitment to the U. S. Department of State 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 open from late June to mid-September	How to Apply
4. Selection Criteria	<p>The Pickering Fellowship Selection Panel seeks to attract and prepare outstanding young people, who represent ethnic, gender, social, and geographic diversity and have an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career in the U.S. Department of State. Candidates should have a strong academic background, a commitment to service, leadership skills, financial need for graduate school, diverse interests in areas such as international affairs and government, cultural sensitivity, writing skills, & an ability to overcome obstacles.</p>	<p>Application Tips</p> <p>FSO Qualifications</p> <p>The Program encourages the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, women, and those with financial need.</p>
5. Smith Role	Smith nomination is not required to apply.	
6. Fun fact(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Moscoso '15 and Marichuy Gomez '14 were awarded Pickering Fellowships in 2019 and 2017 respectively. • The Pickering is one of three prestigious foreign service fellowships funded by the US Department of State and administered by Howard University. Other fellowships are the Payne International Development Fellowship and Rangel International Affairs Program. • Award named for Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering who was US Amb. to the UN during the first Gulf War. 	<p>Howard University Fellowships</p> <p>About Thomas R. Pickering</p>
7. How to get started	Email fellowships@smith.edu for an appointment.	