

2026 CSIS

STRATEGY & STATECRAFT FELLOWSHIP



The international landscape is undergoing significant geopolitical changes, including in the global balance of power. Several world-changing events have impacted society in recent years, including COVID-19, the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas war, and a growing Sino-American rivalry. These events have far-reaching consequences across the public and private sectors and international politics. CSIS is continuing its effort to cultivate a new generation of leaders able to understand the tools of strategy and statecraft to address these issues. In 2026, we will convene a new group of executives to consider possibilities for crafting order from disorder. During the year-long program, Strategy and Statecraft Fellows will engage with world-leading experts and policy practitioners to better understand the changes taking place in today's world and the way policymakers in Washington and other foreign capitals perceive these situations.

Throughout the course, participants will be pushed to consider a range of important questions that will shape the coming decades, including: What is strategy? What is statecraft? How can we understand the current international landscape from a historical perspective? What are Chinese interests, and how is Beijing pursuing these interests in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe? What are the primary characteristics of the global race for technology? What are the global implications of the war in Ukraine? What are the most important economic trends, and how are they likely to impact geopolitics? What are the major trends in climate change?

This exclusive, world-class program will convene a diverse cohort of approximately 20 rising senior executive leaders from the private and non-profit sectors, universities, media, and other organizations to create a cohort capable of forging new strategic insights that connect across traditional fields of expertise.

The Fellowship will consist of monthly dinners on topics enumerated above and will culminate in a 3-day intensive summit. **Participation in the program will be at no cost to Fellows.** Applicants do not need to have specific expertise in multipolar competition but should have an interest in international security, economics, strategy, and statecraft.

2026 Dinner Series

The CSIS Strategy and Statecraft Fellowship will convene seven off-the-record dinners, each focusing on topics related to strategy, statecraft, and crafting order from disorder. These dinners will be discussion-based and feature regular participation from senior U.S. and allied government officials, former officials, and subject matter experts.

Fellowship Summit: January 2027

The Strategy and Statecraft Fellowship will conclude with the Strategy and Statecraft Summit in January 2027 at a venue outside of Washington, D.C. The

CSIS | CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Sergei Bobyl'ov (Pool/AFP), Ulises Martinez (ObturadoMX), Dimitris Kapantais, and Stephanie Keith via Getty Images



summit is an intensive 3-day experience, combining an extended war game or simulation, scenario-based discussions, and lectures to tie together the program's themes and provide Fellows an opportunity to apply the program's lessons in a professionally relevant manner.

Fellowship Participant Benefits

- Fellows will acquire knowledge on the practice of statecraft on an array of challenges facing the United States.
- Fellows will speak directly with national security practitioners who have served at the highest ranks of the U.S. government and scholars who are well-published intellectual leaders in the policy field.
- Following their Fellowship year, Fellows will join the alumni network of more than 80 former participants and will be regularly invited back to CSIS to join a range of events.

Fellowship Qualifications and Expectations

- **Applications are due on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**
- Applicants are required to submit an application consisting of the following to be considered for the Fellowship:
 - Brief professional resume or CV;
 - Personal statement (2 pages or less) responding to a prompt on the application website;
 - Professional references including name and contact information.
- Each applicant should have ten or more years of experience in their chosen career field.
- Ideal applicants to the program should have some experience with strategic, corporate, or policy planning.
- Applicants should be interested in national and international policy but need not have deep backgrounds in national security or foreign policy.
- Fellows will be expected to keep up with 3-5 hours of reading or other materials per month and to contribute personal experiences and views to group discussions.
- Fellows must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must either be based in the Washington, D.C. area or able to travel to Washington, D.C. for monthly dinners at their own expense.
- CSIS will place a high priority on recruiting a diverse and inclusive cohort.
- Fellows are expected to attend all dinners and the summit.

For further information, please contact **Christine Brazeau** (cbrazeau@csis.org).

Annabelle Chih, Kayla Bartkowski, Vladimir Smirnov (Pool/AFP), Spencer Platt, and Emmanuel Dunand (AFP) via Getty Images