AILA International Fellowship

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Accelerate your growth as an emerging global leader with a transformative week-long program that will equip you to be a more effective and ethical changemaker. The Abshire-Inamori Leadership Academy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) designs the AILA International Fellowship to give participants the tools and agile mindset to enact innovative solutions to critical challenges. Through five days of intensive seminars, simulations, and experiential learning, AILA International Fellows gain a new set of skills to help them navigate complex global dynamics and the moral judgments they must make as leaders.

AILA INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

The AIF program brings together an impressive cohort of mid-career professionals in the corporate, nonprofit, military, and government arenas from across the U.S. and around the globe. Each year, a select group of approximately 24 Fellows leverage their different perspectives and professinal experiences to address the intellectual, ethical, cultural, and policy questions that are central to effective leadership in today's world. Each Fellow amplifies their professional skills and leadership potential in a collaborative, cross-sector, and multicultural atmosphere.

Since 2003, CSIS has welcomed over 400 AILA International Fellows from 86 countries, creating a vibrant and supportive network of alumni who continue to engage with one another on contemporary issues and leadership strategies.

UPCOMING SESSION

May 11 - 15, 2026
Washington, D.C.

TUITION

$5,000 USD

Tuition does not include lodging or transportation. A very limited amount of financial aid for candidates in the not-for-profit sector may be available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the Fall 2025 cohort, please complete our online application located at **cs.is/aif**. The deadline for applications is January 5, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (midnight) ET. Please note that applications cannot be considered if they are incomplete.

"One of the best programs I have been to—a new level of excellence when it comes to training."

Betsie Chacko
Manager and Program Analyst,
Office of Health Affairs,
Department of Homeland Security

"I am going back with fresh ideas, new possibilities, and hope that the ethical leadership gap CAN be filled. After attending this program, I know that I am on the right track to closing that gap. I will definitely pay this forward to other emerging leaders in my industry."

Adaora Ndukwe-Ugwu
Chief Officer Finance & Accounts, Petroleum Equalisation Fund Management Board, Nigeria

A DYNAMIC CURRICULUM

CSIS has crafted an approach to global leadership that is both creative and pragmatic, based on expertise but always open to new ideas. We believe that the most effective real-world solutions must be grounded in a deep understanding of the challenges and changes in global geopolitics and economics as well as in a principled approach to addressing complex issues. During the five-day program, you and your fellow participants will be immersed in a series of progressive challenges that weave together four essential components:

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Engage in probing, off-the-record discussions with CSIS's world-class experts and practitioners to expand your knowledge about pressing issues; deepen your ability to analyze the significance of social, economic, and political forces; and recognize connections across issue areas.

ETHICS

Expand your perspective on ethics and leadership through seminar discussions with colleagues from around the world and use guided reflections to calibrate your own moral compass for ethical decision-making and vision. You'll bring these new insights into play in simulation exercises to construct viable and ethical solutions to current global challenges.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Become a more powerful changemaker by strengthening the links between your most deeply-held values and your leadership vision through deliberate reflection and coaching support. Deepen your insights into your leadership strengths and potential and learn to facilitate more productive workplace culture and relationships through experiential team exercises. Build strategic negotiation skills by finding opportunities to exercise lateral leadership.

COMMUNICATION

Have a greater impact by communicating your ideas efficiently, effectively, and memorably. You'll work with an executive communication coach to design a compelling message and deliver it with poise. You will also develop new skills in cross-cultural and nonverbal communication.

"I enjoyed every minute at AILA and CSIS. The quality, knowledge and candor of its people, the substance of the discussions held, and the outstanding group of fellows were unmatchable."

Manuel Gonzalez
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Costa Rica

"Honored to learn from leading experts and be among a group of very smart, talented, and personable achievers. This was no doubt the most transformative week of the year. A landmark in my personal and professional life."

Catherine Kihara
Africa Researcher,
U.S. Marine Corps

"This was outstanding. The entire dynamic was different from the usual trainings. Very interactive, incredible pace."

Catarina Caldeira
EPPGroup,
European Parliament