The world is experiencing one of the most significant arms build-ups since World War II, led by China and the United States. China, described as a potential U.S. partner less than a decade ago, is now the U.S.’ primary military competitor. Incentives to greater integration and technology cooperation are now giving way to the possibility of economic or technological decoupling.

The underpinnings of global security and prosperity are the subject of a high stakes contest for who sets the rules of the future. In this environment, CSIS is continuing its effort to examine strategy and statecraft, with the 2023-2024 course considering U.S.-China relations in a fractured world. In a year-long program, Strategy and Statecraft Seminar 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 the situation.

Over the course, participants will be pushed to consider a range of important questions that will shape the coming decades. Will the 21st century become, as the 2022 National Security Strategy describes, “a competition between democracies and autocracies”? How will today’s leading economies—largely democratic and free-market—deal with rising competition from socialist or state-directed economies? On what issues will technology collaboration be possible, and what issues will require clear separation? What are the implications for U.S. prosperity if there is increasing decoupling with China? With the Global South set to grow rapidly in population and economic power over the coming decades, how will existing North-South divides, and potential future convergence, influence the trajectory of the world?

This exclusive, world-class program will convene a diverse cohort of approximately 15 emerging leaders from the private and non-profit sectors, universities, media, and other organizations to build a cohort capable of forging new strategic insights that connect across traditional fields of expertise.

The Fellowship will comprise monthly dinners on the topics enumerated above, featuring additional participation from current and former senior government officials and experts representing diverse perspectives and backgrounds. Participation in the program will be at no cost to Fellows. Applicants do not need to have specific expertise in U.S.-China relations or East Asian politics, but should have an interest in international security, economics, strategy, and statecraft.

2023 Dinner Series
The CSIS Strategy and Statecraft Fellowship program will convene 8 off-the-record dinners, each focusing on topics related to strategy, statecraft, and competition with China. 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 2024
The Strategy and Statecraft Fellowship will conclude with the Strategy and Statecraft Summit in January 2024 at a venue outside of Washington, D.C. The summit will be an intensive multi-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 both of the practice of statecraft and of one of the most important international challenges facing the United States.

▪ They will work with scholar practitioners who have served at the highest ranks of the U.S. government, and who are well-published intellectual leaders in the policy field.

▪ In this and following years, the Fellowship will create a network of diverse rising national security leaders, drawing on a wide range of career backgrounds and expertise.

Fellowship Qualifications and Expectations

▪ Applications are due on January 22, 2023 at 6:00pm, 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 specific prompt on the application website
  ▪ 3 professional references, including name, title, phone, and email information for each reference.

▪ Each applicant should have ten or more years of experience in their chosen career field.

▪ Ideal applicants to the program should have 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. They will commit to attending the monthly sessions located in Washington, D.C., and the Strategy and Statecraft Summit.

▪ 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 personal expense.

▪ CSIS will place a high priority on recruiting a diverse and inclusive cohort.

▪ Applicants selected as Fellows are expected to attend all dinners and the summit.

For further information, please contact John Schaus (jschaus@csis.org) or Elizabeth Pipes (epipes@csis.org).

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