

Visiting Fellowships in the U.S. for European Journalists

The aim of the program is to promote excellence in transatlantic media coverage, and mutual understanding between Europeans and Americans, by allowing select European journalists to spend three months visiting widely differing areas of America. Fellows will ideally spend one month in Washington, one month in the American "heartland" and one month on the West Coast, in order to gain first-hand experience of the United States, and of a broad range of American opinion.

Transatlantic Media Fellows will be provided with office facilities in Washington by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), home of the Transatlantic Media Network (TMN), the organizer and administrator of the fellowship program. CSIS is a non-partisan organization that does not take policy positions on domestic or foreign issues. Fellows will be granted similar facilities by schools of journalism in other parts of the United States, such as Colorado, Texas and California.

All expenses will be covered by the TMN, which receives funding from independent private foundations in the United States and Europe. The program provides fellows with per diem allowances to pay for meals and accommodation, and funds for the roundtrip from Europe and travel in the United States.

The aim is not to enable journalists to engage in daily coverage of events, such as the presidential election campaign, but to help them gain insights into the diverse attitudes of Americans, including ordinary Americans and their families, and the way these attitudes influence the formation of U.S. social and political viewpoints, and domestic and foreign policies. Arrangements will be made for fellows to stay with American families at certain points in their visits.

A key aspect of the program is the independence it offers participants to draw their own conclusions about America on the basis of wide-ranging, on-the-spot investigations. The program gives journalists the chance, and the time, to research reports and features on different aspects of the United States, including political, economic, business and social trends that are not normally covered in depth in the European media.

Fellows will be expected to produce articles or broadcast reports while in the United States, and partner organizations will help with advice and local contacts if requested. But there will be no effort to influence the conclusions drawn by the visiting journalists or the manner of their reporting.

Fellows may also be asked to give talks to American journalism students at their host organizations. On their return to Europe, they will be invited to become part of an expanding TMN network of journalists with an interest in U.S., European and transatlantic issues.

Initially, three fellowships will be offered in 2008 and three in 2009. Candidates will be asked to explain what they hope to achieve from their visits to the United States, the main themes they would like to pursue and the general kind of reporting they wish to undertake. Candidates may come from any European country, must speak good English, and will preferably work for an influential media outlet at national or regional level. Fellowships will usually be awarded to journalists with little previous direct experience of the United States.

The TMN is directed by Reginald Dale, a former senior editor, commentator and columnist for the Financial Times and the International Herald Tribune, and a former president of the Organization of European Journalists in Brussels. For more information, please contact Eve Copeland, TMN program coordinator, at: ecopeland@csis.org; or telephone: +1 202 775 3226.