



International Visitor Leadership Program

The **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)** is a professional exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The mission of IVLP is to offer current and emerging international leaders the opportunity to experience the richness and diversity of American political, economic, social and cultural life through carefully designed exchanges that reflect participants' professional interests and the public diplomacy objectives of the United States government.

The exchange brings up to 5,000 professional emerging leaders from around the world to the United States each year for programs of up to three weeks. The program is nomination only by staff at U.S. Embassies.^[1]

History

In 1940, Nelson Rockefeller was named the Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Affairs for the American Republics. He initiated the exchange of persons program with Latin America, inviting 130 Latin American journalists to the United States and recognized as the first exchange under what would become the IVLP. In 1948 representative Karl E. Mundt and Senator H. Alexander Smith marshaled the Informational and Educational Exchange Act, also known as the Smith-Mundt Act which was passed by the 80th United States Congress and approved by President Harry S. Truman. During a time when Americans grew increasingly concerned about Soviet propaganda, the purpose of the Smith-Mundt was "to promote a better understanding of the United States in other countries, and to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries" though educational and cultural exchanges. From this legislation birthed the Foreign Leaders Program, which was eventually consolidated into the **International Visitor Program (IVP)** in 1952. In 2004, the IVP was renamed the **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**.^{[2][3]}

Goals




The purpose of the IVLP is to:

1. cultivate lasting relationships between current and emerging professionals around the world and their American counterparts
2. provides opportunities for foreign opinion makers to gain firsthand knowledge about U.S. society, culture and politics^[4]

Notable alumni

The following tables list the 338 current and former chiefs of state and heads of government who have participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program.

East Asia and Pacific

 Kosovo	<u>Fatmir Sejdiu</u>	President	2003
	<u>Bajram Kosumi</u>	Prime Minister	2001
	<u>Bajram Rexhepi</u>	Prime Minister	2000
 Lithuania	<u>Dalia Grybauskaitė</u>	President	1994
	<u>Gediminas Kirkilas</u>	President	2002, 1993
	<u>Arturas Paulauskas</u>	President	1992
 Luxembourg	<u>Jacques Santer</u>	Prime Minister	1973
 Macedonia	<u>Nikola Gruevski</u>	Prime Minister	2000
	<u>Boris Trajkovski</u>	President	1996
	<u>Ljubco Georgievski</u>	Prime Minister	1996
 Malta	<u>Joseph Muscat</u>	Prime Minister	1984
	<u>Edward Fenech Adami</u>	President	1974, 1975
	<u>Guido De Marco</u>	President	1973
	<u>Lawrence Gonzi</u>	Prime Minister	1990
	<u>Ugo Mifsud Bonnici</u>	President	1971
	<u>Dominic Mintoff</u>	Prime Minister	1965
 Moldova	<u>Nicolae Timofti</u>	President	2005
	<u>Petru Lucinschi</u>	President	1995
 Montenegro	<u>Igor Lukšić</u>	Prime Minister	1999
 The Netherlands	<u>Jan Peter Balkenende</u>	Prime Minister	1985
	<u>Willem Kok</u>	Prime Minister	1978
	<u>Joop den Uyl</u>	Prime Minister	1953, 1979
 Norway	<u>Erna Solberg</u>	Prime Minister	1996
	<u>Jens Stoltenberg</u>	Prime Minister	1988
	<u>Thorbjorn Jagland</u>	Prime Minister	1982
	<u>Kjell Magne Bondevik</u>	Prime Minister	1971
	<u>Jan P. Syse</u>	Prime Minister	1978
	<u>Kare Willoch</u>	Prime Minister	1979
 Poland	<u>Beata Szydło</u>	Prime Minister	2004
	<u>Bronisław Komorowski</u>	President	2006
	<u>Donald Tusk</u>	Prime Minister	1995
	<u>Hanna Suchocka</u>	Prime Minister	1988
	<u>Mieczysław Rakowski</u>	Prime Minister	1978
	<u>Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz</u>	Prime Minister	2000
	<u>Aleksander Kwasniewski</u>	President	1994
 Portugal	<u>Aníbal Cavaco Silva</u>	President	1978
	<u>Jorge Sampaio</u>	President	1965
	<u>Mario Alberto Soares</u>	President	1976
	<u>António Guterres</u>	Prime Minister	1978