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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.

up to three weeks. The program is nomination only by staff at U.S. Embassies.[1]

The exchange brings up to 5000 professional emerging leaders from around the world to the United States each year for programs of 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" through 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 339 current and former chiefs of state and heads of government who have participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program.

East Asia and Pacific

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