

Vaclav Havel Journalism Fellowship

The Vaclav Havel Journalism Fellowship is an initiative of RFE/RL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Launched in 2011, it is inspired by the late Czech President Vaclav Havel's belief in the transformational power of free speech, and builds on RFE/RL's legacy of promoting more open societies through journalism.

The program is generously supported by the Dagmar and Vaclav Havel Foundation VIZE97.

Goal

The goal of the program is to strengthen the capacity of aspiring journalists to pursue their profession in support of democracy and human rights. Selected Fellows are placed with a language service in the company's Prague headquarters. The program helps position them to be both standard-bearers of their profession and leaders in their communities, on-line, on air, and in the world. Fellows are selected from the Russian Federation, and countries participating in the European Union's Eastern Partnership program, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Program Description

Fellowships are for a term of eight months, with six months spent at RFE/RL's Prague headquarters and the first and last month spent with a local RFE/RL bureau.

The program is made up of five main components:

1. Mentoring alongside RFE/RL's seasoned professionals.
2. On-the-job training, to include daily multi-media programming and reporting.
3. New skills development.
4. Participation in the daily editorial debates and discussions that inform a professional and independent press.
5. Public outreach.

The Fellowship also features workshops with experts on digital media, roundtables with journalists and policymakers, visits to local media agencies and NGOs in Prague, and professional development opportunities in the Czech Republic and elsewhere. Fellows will be expected to represent themselves and the Fellowship in public events and discussions relating to political and media conditions in their country.

Fellows will be expected to propose, plan, and complete an original journalistic project during the term of their Fellowship.

A monthly stipend, housing, insurance, and travel arrangements to and from Prague are provided.

Selection

Fellows are selected in a competitive process based on their ability to demonstrate a commitment to journalism and support for RFE/RL's mission to promote media freedom, democracy, and human rights. English-language proficiency is required.