Launched in 1967, the International Affairs Fellowship (IAF) is a distinguished program offered by the Council on Foreign Relations to assist mid-career scholars and professionals in advancing their analytic capabilities and broadening their foreign policy experience. The program aims to strengthen career development by helping outstanding individuals acquire and apply foreign policy skills beyond the scope of their professional and scholarly achievements. The distinctive character of the IAF Program lies in the contrasting professional experiences fellows obtain through their twelve-month appointments. Selected fellows from academia and the private sector spend fellowship tenures in public service and policy-oriented settings, and government officials spend theirs in a scholarly atmosphere free from operational pressure. CFR awards approximately ten fellowships annually to highly accomplished individuals who show a capacity for independent work and are eager to undertake serious foreign policy analysis. Approximately half of the selected IAFs each year spend their tenures working full time in government; the remaining half are placed at academic institutions, think tanks, or nonprofit organizations. The IAF Program is open only to U.S. citizens and permanent residents between the ages of twenty-seven and thirty-five who are eligible to work in the United States.

CFR also offers a country-specific fellowship to U.S. citizens between the ages of twenty-seven and forty-five. The IAF in Japan, sponsored by Hitachi, Ltd., seeks to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the rising generations of leaders in the United States and Japan. Founded in 1997, the program provides a selected group of mid-career U.S. citizens the opportunity to expand their professional horizons by spending a period of research or other professional activity in Japan.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOWS 2011–2012 PLACEMENTS

Laura Winthrop Abbot,* U.S. Senate. Placed at the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo.
Samuel G. Charap, Center for American Progress. Placed at the U.S. Department of State.

Sean P. Connell,* U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Placed at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Tokyo.
Alexandra E. Harney,* University of Hong Kong. Placed at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Tokyo.
Claire C. Russo, Orbis Operations LLC. Placed at the Institute for Inclusive Security.
Vance F. Serchuk,* U.S. Senate. Placed at the Canon Institute for Global Studies, Tokyo.
M. Hanscom Smith,* U.S. Department of State. Placed at the Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tokyo.

* International Affairs Fellow in Japan, sponsored by Hitachi, Ltd.