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 during 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 IAFs selected 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.

In 2012, the program expanded to include the IAF in Nuclear Security, sponsored by the Stanton Foundation. The program offers university-based scholars valuable hands-on experience in the nuclear security policymaking field and places selected fellows in U.S. government positions or international organizations for twelve months to work with practitioners. The IAF in Nuclear Security is open only to faculty members with tenure or on tenure-track lines at accredited universities and who propose to spend a year working in government or at an international organization. Qualified candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are eligible to work in the United States and be between the ages of twenty-nine and fifty.

CFR also offers two country-specific fellowships. 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 between the ages of twenty-seven and forty-five the opportunity to expand their professional horizons by spending a period of research or other professional activity in Japan. The IAF in South Korea, sponsored by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, seeks to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the rising generations of leaders in the United States and South Korea by expanding cultural exchange and enhancing communication between both countries on global issues. The program, which is open only to U.S. citizens, assists mid-career scholars and professionals from the public and private sectors to advance their analytic capabilities and broaden their foreign policy experience in South Korea.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOWS 2013–2014 PLACEMENTS

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