



**U.S. MISSION TO VIETNAM  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2016 YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE  
(YSEALI) ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIP**

The U.S. Mission to Vietnam seeks candidates for the 2016 Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship on Civic Engagement, and Social Entrepreneurship & Economic Development. Vietnamese citizens between the ages 18 and 25, full-time undergraduate students or those who have graduated from college, university, or other institutions of higher learning, who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university, place of work, an interest in community service and volunteerism, and have a good command of English, are invited to apply for the program. The application deadline is **5:00 PM, Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

**Program Overview**

YSEALI is President Obama's initiative to strengthen leadership development and networking in ASEAN, deepen engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and advance people-to-people ties between the United States and young and emerging Southeast Asian leaders.

Engaging and strengthening ties with young people is a critical element of the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. Recognizing that over 65 percent of ASEAN's population is under the age of 35, YSEALI is an important investment in the next generation of Southeast Asian leaders. This initiative expands existing U.S. engagement in the region to better empower, support, and connect youth across Southeast Asia.

YSEALI Academic Fellowship invites Southeast Asian youth to universities in the United States, where they can deepen their knowledge about regional issues and share their experience and perspectives. This YSEALI Academic Fellows program will be offered to 250 young leaders from ASEAN countries in 2015 and 2016.

**The YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Civic Engagement** will provide Fellows with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society both as individuals and groups. The Institute will define civic engagement, examine its development in the U.S., and explore topics such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, political leadership, and volunteerism. Other topics such as civil rights, entrepreneurship, ethics, leadership, and media will be discussed. Fellows will also have the opportunity to leave the classroom to meet with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of non-profit organizations. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational study tour where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

**The YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development** will provide Fellows with an overview of entrepreneurial approaches that are employed to address social issues. The Institute will review the development, history, challenges, and successes of social enterprises and community leaders, in the United States and globally. Topics may include, but are not limited to, trade; investment; financial literacy; banking; microfinance; organizational development and management; grant writing; innovation; emerging markets and risk analysis; strategic business

