



The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the U.S. Embassy in Oslo are pleased to announce a four-week Summer Institute – the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship (BFTF), for up to 45 young Europeans and Americans. The institute intends to foster relationships among the younger generations of Europeans and Americans to promote awareness of shared values in light of the global challenges of the 21st Century.

The BFTF Institute, which will be organized at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana will be designed for 35 European students and 10 Americans, ages 16 to 18 as of June 22, 2019. It will take place in late June and July 2019. The exact dates will be determined at a later stage.

The BFTF Summer Institute will enable teenagers to participate in an intensive, four-week exchange program in the United States that focuses on global issues facing both European and American youth. The Institute will focus primarily on an exploration of issues through interactive activities, practical experiences, and other hands-on opportunities. Participants will learn more about democratic practices, volunteer service, conflict resolution, problem solving, communication skills, critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity, youth leadership, team building, and the media. The Institute also explores how freedom of expression both provides rights to and imposes responsibilities on citizens. Fellows will participate in a variety of activities such as training sessions, workshops, community-based programs, study tours, and cultural events. In addition, community service activities, social and cultural activities, and homestays with American families will deepen the Fellows' experience of U.S. society during their exchange.

The initiative is named after the legendary American statesman and diplomat Benjamin Franklin in honor of the inspiration his own life and career provides to those who are working to strengthen transatlantic cooperation. In today's terms, Franklin could be called a transatlantic man, someone whose career, interests, studies and life took him back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, bringing Americans and Europeans closer in understanding.

The goals of the Institutes are:

- to develop a commitment to transatlantic cooperation
- to foster relationships between American and European youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups
- to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Europe/Eurasia
- to develop a network of youth leaders who will share their knowledge and skills with their peers through positive action

Participants are expected to develop a project plan while in the U.S., which will aim to amplify the goals and values of the program. Upon returning to Norway, the Fellow will present what they have learned as well as seek to implement the project plan to the best of their ability. Very good knowledge of English is required as the seminars are conducted in English. Any applicant who is selected will be expected to fully and seriously participate in all program components during the four weeks. Participants should be ready to inform and educate Americans about the Norwegian culture and society in non-structured gatherings and in public presentations.

All costs will be covered by the U.S. Embassy Oslo and Department of State.

Application Requirements and Procedure

The U.S. Embassy in Oslo invites students from all over Norway to apply.

Young people from all over Europe/Eurasia will compete for the 35 BFTF 2019 spots. The U.S. Embassy in Oslo will select one primary candidate and one alternative candidate to be the Norwegian nominees for participation in the Institute. From past years we know with 95% certainty that the primary candidate will be selected.

The candidate should

- Be born between June 22, 2000, and June 22, 2003
- Be highly proficient in English
- Be committed to enrolling in high school or university in Norway in the fall of 2019
- Demonstrate strong leadership potential and interest in transatlantic relations and the United States
- Have sustained high level of academic achievement (attach preliminary high school grades)
- Demonstrate a commitment to community and extracurricular activities (attach CV)
- Have had little or no prior U.S. study or travel experience
- Be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive
- Be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive summer program, community service and active educational travel program
- Be comfortable with campus life, shared living accommodations, travel and interaction with a multinational group of participants from Europe and the United states
- Be comfortable with independent international air travel

How to apply:

Send an e-mail to osloirc@state.gov, where you attach:

- the application form
- a copy of your preliminary high school grades
- a CV
- a document with three short texts where you answer these questions:
 1. Why would *you* be the perfect BFTF 2019 participants? (max 200 words)
 2. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? (max 200 words)
 3. Which three Americans, from history or fiction, would you invite for dinner and a conversation, and why? Be creative! (max 200 words)

We may have follow-up questions as part of stage two of the application process.

Deadline for applications: January 13th, 2019.

For more information:

- Read about and see photos of [Nariman's BFTF experience](#) from 2017
- For questions, e-mail us at osloirc@state.gov