
The Central Asia-Caucasus Fellowship Program

The Rumsfeld Fellowship Program was established in 2008 through a partnership of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Rumsfeld Foundation. The program brings talented professionals from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Mongolia together in Washington, D.C. to encourage an intraregional exchange of ideas, as well as to foster better understanding and stronger relations between the United States and the countries of the region. Over a period of six weeks, each group of Fellows meets with policy makers, business executives, journalists, academics, non-profit leaders and regional experts to better understand how opinion making, decision making, policy making and implementation processes work in the United States.

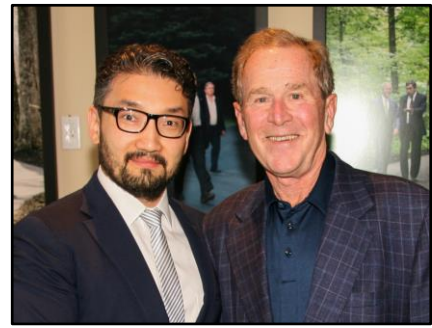


As of November 2018, after 21 successful fellowship sessions, there have been a total of 207 program participants from 10 countries. Over the years groups have met with notable world leaders including former President of the United States *George W. Bush*, former Vice President of the United States *Richard B. Cheney*, President of Georgia *Giorgi Margvelashvili*, U.S. Secretary of Defense *James Mattis*, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury *Steven Mnuchin*, National Security Advisor *John Bolton*, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives *Newt Gingrich*, former Prime Minister of Spain *Jose Maria Aznar*, representatives of the U.S. Administration, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, Supreme Court Justices, top U.S. military leadership, current and former Secretaries of Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation and Treasury; former Presidents of the World Bank, American business executives, renowned political scientists and economists, world-class experts and scholars from think tanks and universities, seasoned diplomats and more.



"It does not matter how many times you have been to the U.S., the Rumsfeld Fellowship is your manual and guide to understand America, the pillars of its statehood and the spirit of the American people. The six weeks are overflowing with opportunities, knowledge, experience and impressions. At the same time, it is your chance to discover the CAMCA region and meet remarkable leaders from neighboring countries."

- Tengiz Pkhaladze, Spring 2017 Fellow from Georgia and current Advisor - Foreign Relations Secretary to the President of Georgia



Fellows have also traveled to major metropolitan areas including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle for high-level meetings, offering them a view of the United States beyond the nation's capital. Additionally, the Fellowship has partnered with the Open World Program to organize local programs with host communities outside of Washington, D.C. for the Fellows to learn how democratic governing systems and free market economies work at the local level across the nation. Through this partnership, groups of Fellows have visited 26 communities in 22 different states to date.

Also integral to the program are unique opportunities for professional development, research and networking to include attendance at a variety of high-level policy conferences as well as individual meetings with experts and counterparts in Fellows' respective fields. Each group also collaborates on a group presentation delivered at a Central Asia-Caucasus Institute public forum, a platform for the Fellows to present their thoughts and engage with representatives from local embassies, businesses, universities, the media and more.

