



2012 YOUNG LEADERS SELECTION PROCESS

On January, 18, 2012 the French-American Foundation opened the selection for the Young Leaders program.

BACKGROUND

The Young Leaders program, the flagship program of the French-American Foundation, was created in 1981 to foster a new network of transatlantic leaders. Since its inception, the program has taken small groups of carefully selected up-and-coming leaders in government, business, media, military and cultural sectors and provided them with the opportunity to spend five days discussing issues of common concern and getting to know one another.

The program requires a two-year commitment from each participant, alternating 5-day meetings between cities in France and the United States. The Foundations will cover the travel and lodging expenses of the Young Leaders during the two Young Leaders meetings.

The mission of the program is to build lasting friendships between leaders on both sides of the Atlantic, not just during the program, but also by engaging with the broader Young Leaders alumni community.

OVERVIEW OF SELECTION PROCESS

Young Leaders are selected by committees in France and the United States. The committees are composed of Young Leader alumni and corporate leaders. The selection process is highly competitive, with many more candidacies than can be accommodated in a given year.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be between 30 and 40 years of age when they apply to the program.
- For American candidates with significant experience in France, or for French candidates with significant experience in the United States, please contact the Foundation staff for recommendations on the best process to follow for your application to the program.
- If your background is neither strictly French nor American, please contact the Young Leaders program staff and we will make a recommendation on the best way to proceed.
- Below you will find more detailed descriptions of both selection processes.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection committee evaluates candidates based on their potential to attain the highest level of their chosen profession and to contribute to the enrichment of the French-American relationship. Also considered is a candidate's enthusiasm to participate in the program and his or her interest in becoming an active member of the Young Leaders alumni community.

The French-American Foundation aims to select Young Leaders with diverse experiences—that way, program participants develop relationships with French and American leaders across a range of backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Detailed knowledge of France is not a requirement for U.S. candidates, nor is detailed knowledge of the United States required of French candidates. However, a very good knowledge of English is a requirement for all candidates, as the program is conducted in English.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR AMERICAN CANDIDATES

Candidates applying as an American Young Leader must participate in an interview (either on the phone or in-person) with the Foundation staff in New York. If you are applying to the program and in the metropolitan area of the city, we recommend that you consider interviewing in person.

We request that you contact the Foundation as early as possible to schedule the interview. Interviews must be completed by **March, 16, 2012**. Please note that your application is not required to be complete at the time of the interview.

To schedule an interview, please contact Chrissa LaPorte and Eliza Waterman by sending an interview request e-mail to youngleaders@frenchamerican.org. Please also submit a copy of your CV prior to the interview.

In addition to the interview, candidates are required to submit the following elements of their application via the French-American Foundation—United State's website:

Completed application form

- Letter (s) of recommendation
- CV
- Statement of interest

Application material must be submitted to the Foundation by **Friday, March 16, 2012**.

Further information on the application packet

For American candidates, all of the application materials (including the letters of recommendation) must be in English.

Application form: May be downloaded from the French-American Foundation—United States' website.

1-3 letters of recommendation: The letter of recommendation should serve to highlight the leadership qualities of the candidate, his/her potential in his/her chosen professional field, and his/her ability to contribute to the enrichment of the Young Leaders program as a whole. Please note that the letter of recommendation cannot be written by a family member of the candidate.

A short statement of interest is also strongly recommended, but not required: In 500-750 words, the statement of interest should identify the candidate's objectives for participating in the Young Leaders program, both on a professional and a personal level, and the type of contribution s/he can make to the year's class and to the alumni group as a whole.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR FRENCH CANDIDATES

A complete application consists of:

- A curriculum vitae – please include a photo and your date of birth
- One reference:
Please provide the name, title and contact information of one reference. Your reference may be contacted by members of the selection committee. Please DO NOT submit a letter of recommendation.

- Optional: a statement of interest (500-750 words)
- A complete application form, which you may download from [this link](#)

Requirements: The application must be submitted in English and in a single email. Attachments should be in either PDF or Word formats.

Submit your application by **Friday, March, 16, 2012** to: young-leaders@french-american.org . We encourage you to submit your application as early as possible, and not wait until the closing date. You will be contacted for an interview if your profile meets the requirements of the Young Leaders program.

For any information, please contact Zenab Choug, Program Officer in charge of the Young Leaders program at the French-American Foundation - France, at zenab.choug@french-american.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Referrals and nominations

May I be referred by my company and/or its human resources division?

You may. However, please note that when you apply to the Young Leaders program, you are considered to be applying as an individual and not as a “delegate” or representative of an organization.

Do I need to be “referred” to the program in order to apply?

No, a candidate does not need to be “referred” to the program in order to apply.

For American candidates: Should one of the letters of recommendation be from the individual who first referred me to the program?

You may include a letter from the individual who referred you to the program, but you are not required to do so. This letter would count as one of the three letters of recommendation that a candidate may include with an application.

Questions on where to apply

I have dual French-American citizenship—where should I apply?

We recommend that you contact the Foundation staff before you apply.

Where should I apply—I am an American living in France (or I am French but I live in the United States)?

For American candidates with significant experience in France, or for French candidates with significant experience in the United States, please contact the Foundation staff for recommendations on the best process to follow for your application to the program

What if I am not French or American—may I still apply to the program?

If your background is neither strictly French nor American, please contact the Young Leaders program staff and we will make a recommendation on the best way to proceed.

Selectiveness of the program and reapplying to the program

How selective is the program?

We regularly receive many more candidacies than we can accommodate in a given year.

Can I apply more than once to the program?

There is no limit to the number of times a candidate can apply. However, if your application has been turned down several times, we advise you to carefully consider before reapplying to the program.

*How do I reapply to the program?**American candidates:*

An American candidate reapplying to the program should speak with the Foundation staff before beginning work on the application.

Important dates in the 2012 selection process

January 18	Official opening of the 2012 selection process.
January 18-March 16	Candidates must contact the Foundation as early as possible about applying: <u>American applicants:</u> as a first step, contact the Foundation to schedule an interview. <u>French candidates:</u> You are encouraged to submit your application as early as possible and not wait until the closing date.
March 16	All candidate applications are due.
March-April	Candidate applications are considered by the selection committees in France and the United States.
May	Selection results.
Autumn	Meeting of the 2012 Young Leaders is held in France