



FES Afghanistan, Kabul Office

Call for Applications

Young Leaders Forum 2017

“Driving Change Across Sectors”

Kabul, April 25, 2017

FES Afghanistan is excited to announce the launch of a new “Young Leaders Forum” (YLF) generation. Established in 2004, the FES YLF program is among Afghanistan’s most distinguished young leaders networks. We bring together a unique group of graduate students as well as up-and-coming young professionals from diverse backgrounds: political activists, civil servants, scholars, journalists, young entrepreneurs. What unites all of them is a strong desire to help address the socio-political and economic challenges Afghanistan and the wider region are facing. Throughout our rigorous 6-month curriculum, you will be receiving practical training in leadership, negotiation, organization and communication skills. You will have the opportunity to learn from and exchange views with established leaders and guest speakers. And you will become part of the unique FES YLF network, an ever-growing group of truly inspiring young men and women working to contribute to positive change in Afghanistan and around the globe.

Who can apply?

Eligible candidates must be:

- Between 22 and 32 years old;
- In the final year of their university education, have recently graduated or gathered first professional work experience;
- Able to debate and work in English;
- Based in Kabul or ensure that they can attend bi-weekly lectures and training sessions;
- Highly interested and well-informed about international politics and Afghanistan;
- Identify with the overall goals of the program, which are to help sustain a wide reaching network for social justice, fairness and responsibility for the underprivileged;
- Respectful, open and tolerant toward people of various backgrounds.

Applications from **female candidates** are explicitly encouraged and welcomed. The FES YLF program is strongly committed to promoting gender equality and women’s participation in public and political life. That is why we aim to have an equal share of men and women in our incoming cohort.

What is the FES YLF program?

The “Young Leaders Forum” (YLF) program was initiated in 2004. Since then, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) has trained more than 280 outstanding Afghan men and women from all walks of life. Many of our alumni are highly successful young professionals. They work in government, in diplomacy and for non-profit organizations impacting change across a variety of sectors. The program offers:

- Bi-weekly lectures and seminars on current political and social topics in national and international development;
- Three two-day workshops on leadership, negotiation, organization and communication skills;
- Guest talks and discussions with senior decision makers and international experts;
- Social events and networking opportunities with the FES YLF alumni;
- A mentoring program that pairs current and former YLFies;
- The opportunity for each and every participant to shape the program him-/herself, as individual initiative and proposals are explicitly encouraged.

What is FES?

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is the oldest political foundation in Germany, with a rich tradition in social democracy dating back to its foundation in 1925. FES owes its formation and its mission to the political legacy of the first democratically elected German President, Friedrich Ebert. The work of FES focuses on the core ideas and values of social democracy – freedom, justice and solidarity. With worldwide more than 100 offices, FES is dedicated to the promotion of international dialogue and cooperation. FES has been working in Afghanistan since 2002 helping partners from government and civil society strengthen democratic institutions and encouraging civic engagement.

How do I apply?

Interested applicants must fill out and submit the below application form, along with the essay question, no later than **Thursday, May 18, 2017**. Before you apply, we ask you to read the YLF eligibility criteria carefully. Only applications from candidates meeting these minimum requirements will be considered. **Please send your complete application to: ylf@fes-afghanistan.org.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit a written test and to attend an oral interview in late June. The program will kick-start in mid-July.

Questions and contact

Should you have any questions about the YLF program, your application or FES, please do not hesitate to contact us: +93 700 280 441 or info@fes-afghanistan.org.

Thank you for your interest and good luck with your application!

The FES Afghanistan Team