



ALFRED FRIENDLY PRESS PARTNERS

Lifting up journalism around the world

OCCRP INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

PRESS PARTNERS MUST RECEIVE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY MARCH 31, 2021.

EMAIL TO: DAVID [@PRESSPARTNERS.ORG](mailto:DAVID@PRESSPARTNERS.ORG), AND JAMES [@OCCRP.ORG](mailto:JAMES@OCCRP.ORG) | SUBJECT: OCCRP FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION AFPP

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:

In the conviction that a strong, free press is essential to the healthy functioning of a democracy, the late Alfred Friendly, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and former managing editor of The Washington Post, conceived a fellowship program that would both impart American journalistic traditions and respond to worldwide interest in the dissemination of fair and accurate news. It was Alfred Friendly's belief that working side by side with reporters and editors is the best way to absorb the practical realities of journalism in this country and the instrumental role it plays in our society. He created the program that bears his name to immerse journalists in American newsrooms. Since 1984 the [Alfred Friendly Press Partners](#) has trained more than 330 journalists from 80+ countries and placed them in nearly 70 newsrooms for three to six months.

The overall goal of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project in this partnership with Alfred Friendly is to strengthen investigative reporting in South Asia by ensuring journalists have the capacity to expose corruption, inform citizens, and empower the public to push for greater government accountability and transparency. This involves creating a network of journalists doing cross-border investigations both in the region and beyond, as well as creating a platform consisting of technology, research and security support necessary for investigative work.

Participants must be accomplished investigative reporters from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, or Sri Lanka aged 25-35.

After the online training conducted by OCCRP, the OCCRP fellowship program begins with a one-week orientation and training seminar at the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, Missouri. The training is designed to prepare the fellows – both personally and professionally – for the challenges of living and working in the United States. Fellows join the staffs of one or more major U.S. media outlets for three months. A final seminar allows them to compare and evaluate their experiences and discuss their impressions of the American media, and to learn and practice presentations to make in their home countries, sharing lessons learned with colleagues.

The fellowship arranges participants to get J1 visas, and covers all costs of program-related international and domestic U.S. travel, health insurance and provides a monthly stipend to cover basic living expenses. It is highly recommended that fellows bring additional money with them. Family members may visit for up to two weeks.

PROGRAM GOALS:

- ◆ To provide the fellow with experience in reporting, writing, editing, producing and editorial decision-making that will enhance future professional performance;
- ◆ To expose the fellow to the technological changes that are occurring in the industry;
- ◆ To enable the fellow to gain a practical understanding of the function and significance of the free press in American society;
- ◆ To transfer knowledge gained on the program to colleagues at home;
- ◆ To foster continuing ties between free press institutions and journalists in the United States and their counterparts in other countries.

ABOUT OCCRP:

OCCRP The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project is dedicated to developing and equipping a global network of investigative journalists who hold power to account. OCCRP provides a range of critical resources and tools, including digital and physical security, and teams journalists worldwide with trusted editors. In less than two decades OCCRP has grown into a true global network with hundreds of affiliated reporters and editors and dozens of member centers in Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Central Asia. It began operations in South Asia in 2021. More information:

<https://www.occrp.org/en>



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A complete application includes **ALL** items **A** through **J**. Please check the boxes next to the items as you complete them. Applications are only accepted by email. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

- A APPLICATION FORM.** The application form must be completed in full. Please attach one additional page to the application form if more space is needed to answer questions.
- B cv/RÉSUMÉ.** A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé that outlines your professional and educational history. Briefly describe your responsibilities and achievements in each job. The CV/résumé should be one to two pages, typed and in English.
- C ESSAYS.** Each of the essays should be one to two pages, 400 to 800 words, typed and in English.
 1. **Professional Statement.** Please describe your journalistic experience, career plans and goals, and how you will work in and outside your home newsroom to share what you learn during the Press Partners/OCCRP program with others.
 2. **Individual Fellowship Goals.** Outline the specific goals you'd like to achieve if awarded a OCCRP Investigative Reporting Fellowship administered by Alfred Friendly.
- D LETTERS OF REFERENCE.** Two confidential reference letters are required. A third reference from someone familiar with your personality, character, background, etc., is optional. References must be written on the forms provided (pages 4 and 5) and sent directly to Press Partners. English translations must accompany letters not written in English originally. Effective letters of reference are those offering significant insights into the candidate's ability and experiences that best indicate his/her suitability to be a fellow.
 1. **Required Reference #1** must be written by the publisher, editor, manager or director of your news organization. (Freelancers' references can be from an editor at an outlet where they are published.)
 2. **Required Reference #2** must be written by your immediate supervisor – or another person for whom you have worked who can attest to your journalistic abilities and professional character.
- E EMPLOYER'S ENDORSEMENT.** Please have your employer complete and sign the form on page 6 endorsing your participation and granting a six-month leave of absence should you be chosen. (Freelancers exempt)
- F ARTICLES.** Links to four published/broadcast stories that best show your interests and abilities. Full English translations, completed by the applicant, must accompany articles not written in English originally. Note: Editors who do not have recent clips may include copies of published work along with a description of your editing role in these samples. Internet journalists must submit samples that are journalistic in nature and demonstrate that your job involves news gathering, writing, editing or producing. Broadcast journalists should submit links of video samples with translations or summaries in English if necessary.
- G PHOTOGRAPH.** One passport-size head-shot photo, taken in the last six months.
- H PRESS CREDENTIALS.** A clear photocopy/scan of your working press credentials, press pass or equivalent.
- I COPY OF PASSPORT.** A clear photocopy/scan of your valid passport. Please include picture, information pages and any U.S. visas you've had. (If you hold more than one passport please send copies of each.)
- J COPY OF DRIVER'S LICENSE.** (if applicable) A clear photocopy/scan of your valid automobile driver's license.

** **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT.** Top candidates *may* be required to demonstrate their English language proficiency prior to receiving a fellowship. Evaluations would be administered in the candidate's country of residence.



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I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

FIRST/GIVEN NAME MIDDLE NAME(S) FAMILY/LAST NAME

MALE FEMALE

HOME ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS)

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:

HOME WORK

HOME ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, COUNTRY, POSTAL CODE)

HOME TELEPHONE

HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS (95% OF CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE THROUGH E-MAIL)

CELLULAR OR OTHER TELEPHONE

(MONTH) ____ (DAY) ____ (YEAR) ____
DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY AND COUNTRY)

HOME FAX

COUNTRY/COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP (LIST ALL)

MARITAL STATUS (SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED)

PASSPORT NUMBER COUNTRY OF ISSUE DATE OF ISSUE EXPIRATION DATE

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (ONLY FILL THIS PART IN IF YOU HAVE SPENT TIME IN THE U.S. AND HAVE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.)

DO YOU HAVE A VALID AUTOMOBILE DRIVER'S LICENSE? YES NO

HOW OFTEN DO YOU DRIVE A CAR? DAILY WEEKLY ONCE IN A WHILE NEVER

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE? ____ (YEARS)

CAN YOU GET AN INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE? YES NO

II. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

EMPLOYER (NEWS OUTLET)

YOUR CURRENT TITLE/POSITION

LENGTH OF TIME WITH THIS TITLE/POSITION

WORK ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS)

WORK TELEPHONE

WORK ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, COUNTRY, POSTAL CODE)

TOTAL YEARS WITH THIS EMPLOYER

WORK E-MAIL ADDRESS (95% OF CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE THROUGH E-MAIL)

DO YOU SUPERVISE STAFF? HOW MANY?
 YES NO

YOUR NEWS ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE

TOTAL NUMBER OF NEWSROOM STAFF: ____

YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR'S NAME

TITLE

How many TOTAL YEARS HAVE YOU WORKED FULL-TIME AS A JOURNALIST? ____

LANGUAGE YOU WRITE COPY/BROADCAST IN

ORGANIZATION'S OWNERSHIP (PRIVATE, GOVERNMENT OR MIXED)

CIRCULATION (#COPIES)/ VIEWERSHIP PER DAY/WEEK/MONTH

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM:

START DATE (M/Y) END DATE (M/Y) PUBLICATION/ORGANIZATION TITLE

III. EDUCATION, TRAVEL AND INTERESTS

SECONDARY EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

START-END DATES	DEGREE OR SUBJECT	INSTITUTION	LOCATION
-----------------	-------------------	-------------	----------

_____	_____	_____	_____
-			
_____		_____	
-		_____	

-			

WHERE AND FOR HOW LONG HAVE YOU STUDIED ENGLISH? _____

WHAT OTHER LANGUAGES DO YOU KNOW WELL? INCLUDE NATIVE LANGUAGE(S). _____

PLEASE LIST VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AND RECENT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:

DATES	COUNTRY/COUNTRIES	PURPOSE OF VISIT	TYPE OF VISA (U.S. TRAVEL ONLY)
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_____	_____	_____	_____
-			
_____	_____	_____	_____
-			
_____	_____	_____	_____
-			
_____	_____	_____	_____
-			

PUBLISHED WORK (BOOKS, SPECIAL ARTICLES OR OTHER WORK):

PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND/OR ACHIEVEMENTS:

LEADERSHIP AND/OR MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATIONS:

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (200 CHARACTERS MAX.):

HOBBIES AND/OR OUTSIDE INTERESTS (200 CHARACTERS MAX.):

DO YOU KNOW ANY PRESS PARTNERS ALUMNI? YES NO WHOM? _____

HOW HAVE THEY HAD AN IMPACT ON YOU/YOUR NEWS ORGANIZATION/JOURNALISM IN YOUR COUNTRY?

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PRESS PARTNERS?

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I UNDERSTAND THAT, IF AWARDED A FELLOWSHIP, I WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEVOTE MYSELF FULL-TIME TO MY ASSIGNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. ON COMPLETION OF THE FELLOWSHIP I WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO MY COUNTRY AND CONTINUE PRACTICING JOURNALISM THERE.

SIGNATURE: _____ (PLEASE PRINT AND SIGN IN PEN) **DATE:** _____



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PLEASE SEND COMPLETED RECOMMENDATION DIRECTLY TO PRESS PARTNERS (BY EMAIL). THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS FORM IS MARCH 31.
SEND TO: DAVID@PRESSPARTNERS.ORG

CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF REFERENCE #1 (TO BE COMPLETED BY PUBLISHER, EDITOR, MANAGER OR DIRECTOR)

NAME OF APPLICANT

COUNTRY

REFERENCE: PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION BELOW. YOU MAY BE CONTACTED TO DISCUSS THIS REFERENCE LETTER FURTHER.

NAME

PROFESSIONAL TITLE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

NEWS OUTLET

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE APPLICANT?

WORK TELEPHONE

SIGNATURE

DATE

CAPACITY IN WHICH YOU HAVE WORKED WITH THE APPLICANT: _____

The person listed above is applying for a six-month working journalism fellowship in the United States. He/she will work as a reporter at a major metropolitan news outlet and will attend conferences and workshops related to his/her interests and skills. If chosen for this fellowship, he/she will return to your newsroom with new skills and ideas useful to your organization and will be expected to share them with you and other colleagues.

Please outline specific journalism skills that the applicant can focus on that will benefit your news organization. Please describe the ways in which the applicant will be encouraged to share knowledge and skills acquired on this program. Please also comment on the applicant's ability to share knowledge as well as his/her adaptability, maturity, leadership ability, assertiveness/self-confidence, English ability and commitment to journalism. Your comments will remain confidential and will not be shared with the applicant. *An English translation must accompany any reference letter not written in English originally.*

COMMENTS: (4600 CHARACTERS MAX.)



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CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF REFERENCE #2 (COMPLETED BY CURRENT OR FORMER SUPERVISOR)

COUNTRY

NAME OF APPLICANT

REFERENCE: PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION BELOW. YOU MAY BE CONTACTED TO DISCUSS THIS REFERENCE LETTER FURTHER.

_____ NAME	_____ PROFESSIONAL TITLE	_____ E-MAIL ADDRESS
_____ NEWS OUTLET	_____ HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE APPLICANT?	_____ WORK TELEPHONE
_____ SIGNATURE	_____ DATE	

CAPACITY IN WHICH YOU HAVE WORKED WITH THE APPLICANT: _____

The person listed above is applying for a three-month working journalism fellowship in the United States. He/she will work as a reporter at a major metropolitan news outlet and will attend conferences and workshops related to his/her interests and skills. If chosen for this fellowship, he/she will return to your newsroom with new skills and ideas useful to your organization and will be expected to share them with you and other colleagues.

Please outline specific journalism skills that the applicant can focus on that will benefit your news organization. Please describe the ways in which the applicant will be encouraged to share knowledge and skills acquired on this program. Please also comment on the applicant's ability to share knowledge as well as his/her adaptability, maturity, leadership ability, assertiveness/self-confidence, English ability and commitment to journalism. Your comments will remain confidential and will not be shared with the applicant. *An English translation must accompany any reference letter not written in English originally.*

COMMENTS: (4600 CHARACTERS MAX.)



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EMPLOYER'S ENDORSEMENT

NAME OF APPLICANT

COUNTRY

I ENDORSE THIS APPLICANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESS PARTNERS PROGRAM FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER OF **2021**.

I AGREE TO CONTINUE PAYING ____ % OF HIS/HER SALARY FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM. (ENCOURAGED, NOT REQUIRED)

I GUARANTEE THAT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROGRAM, APPLICANT WILL BE RE-EMPLOYED AT _____ (**NEWS OUTLET**) AND ASKED TO TRAIN COLLEAGUES IN THE NEWSROOM.

NAME

PROFESSIONAL TITLE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PUBLICATION/ORGANIZATION

WORK TELEPHONE

SIGNATURE

DATE

WORK FAX

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