

In our effort to reach out to and include more public school students in our programs, we request that the Ministry circulates this information to all secondary schools and encourage eligible students to apply. As in previous years, the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus is organizing two exchange programs for Cypriot high school students to travel to the United States this summer. One Cypriot student will be selected to represent Cyprus at the **Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship (BTF)**, an intensive four-week exchange program created to foster relationships among young Europeans and Americans and build strong linkages and awareness of shared values. The program will enable student leaders between the ages of 16 and 18, to explore U.S. foreign policy priorities such as youth engagement, support for democracy and civil society, and economic prosperity. The fellowship will consist of a series of lectures, seminar discussions and presentations, and a broad assortment of practical, faculty- and mentor-led workshops. Classroom programs will be complemented by community service participation, site visits, social and cultural activities, and homestays with American families to deepen participants' experience of American society. During their academic residency, participants will have the opportunity to discuss topics such as democratic practices, conflict resolution, problem solving, communication skills, critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity, youth leadership, team building, and the media. It will explore how freedom of expression provides rights to and imposes responsibilities on citizens. The program will take place late June to late July 2018 at Wake Forest University, North Carolina. The U.S. Embassy will also offer a **Summer Institute** program modeled after Benjamin Franklin for fourteen (14) Cypriot students from both communities who will travel as a group to George Washington University in Washington, D.C. between July 29 and August 7, 2018. **Applicants to the 2018 Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows program are automatically considered for both programs without the need for a separate application. Both programs are fully funded by the U.S. Department of State.**

Candidates nominated for this fellowship should:

be born between June 22, 1999, and June 22, 2002;

be highly proficient in English, as demonstrated in a personal interview;

be committed to enrolling in high school or university in their home countries in fall 2018, following completion of BTF;

demonstrate strong leadership potential and interest in transatlantic relations and diplomacy;

indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;

demonstrate a high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;

demonstrate a commitment to community and extracurricular activities;

have had little or no prior U.S. study or travel experience in the United States;

be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;

be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive summer program, with community service and educational travel;

be comfortable with campus life, shared living accommodations, travel and interaction with a multinational, co-ed group of participants from across Europe and the United States;

be comfortable engaging with the Americans they meet in the host communities; and

be able to adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries;

not hold U.S. citizenship.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://goo.gl/n6WKtz> before **January 28, 2018**.