The Edmund S. Muskie Professional Fellowship Program offers an exciting opportunity for U.S. organizations to host well-matched, motivated, and multilingual graduate students for the summer. This prestigious program places selected Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Program grantees from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia in either paid OR unpaid internship positions to develop practical skills and professional networks in support of their careers.

Why Host a Muskie Fellow?

- Muskie Fellows produce high-caliber results. Each is selected by the U.S. Embassy in their home country to complete graduate studies in the U.S. through the Fulbright Program based on their successes and contributions to their fields of study and society.
- Participating host organizations are not only at the forefront of bringing innovative talent to the U.S. workplace, but also play a critical role in fostering mutual understanding. Host companies develop international partnerships, build global competencies, and broaden perspectives among staff.

What Does Cultural Vistas Provide?

- A monthly stipend to cover living expenses during summer and travel expenses, provided through a grant from the U.S. Department of State. Compensation for internships is not required, but will be accepted if offered.
- Dedicated program assistance and guidance for all fellows throughout their internship matching process and the entire fellowship program.
- In-person and virtual professional development and cultural events for Muskie Fellows. Fellows participate in networking events, cross-cultural competence trainings, and learn about U.S. work culture.

Work Authorization Process

- Each fellow holds a valid J-1 visa with insurance coverage during their time in the United States.
- Each fellow will receive work authorization from their visa sponsoring organization, the Institute of International Education (IIE), once an offer letter is received from the host organization. Please note, approval may take up to four weeks for processing.
- Host organizations are only required to provide the following:
  - An offer letter to the fellow verifying that an internship placement has been made.
  - A brief approval form including a short paragraph describing the daily tasks and requirements of the internship.
  - Templates for these host company documents will be provided by Cultural Vistas.
- Internships must be offered between February and mid-April, must be full-time (32-40 hours a week), and last 10-12 weeks over the summer.

About Cultural Vistas

Founded in 1963, Cultural Vistas is a nonprofit exchange organization promoting global understanding and collaboration among individuals and institutions. We develop international professional experiences that create more informed, skilled, and engaged citizens. Our programs empower people to drive positive change in themselves, their organizations, and society.