



Dear Rafik Bouaziz,
University Of Sfax

On behalf of the Foreign Assistance Unit at the U.S Embassy in Tunisia we would like to reach out to you to announce the opening of our 2017 Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Student Leaders Program application period. We would be thankful if you would help us spread the word by sharing the program description and announcement attached in this package with the students at your university.

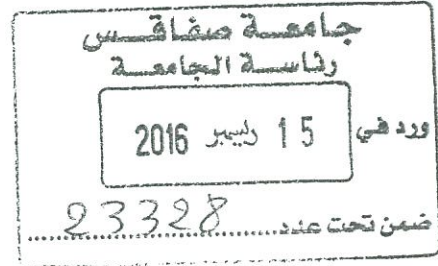
We will be happy to provide you with more information if needed. Should you have any questions or need further clarification please feel free to reach out to us via the following email: ForeignAssistanceTunis@state.gov or phone number: 71.107.323.

Best Regards,

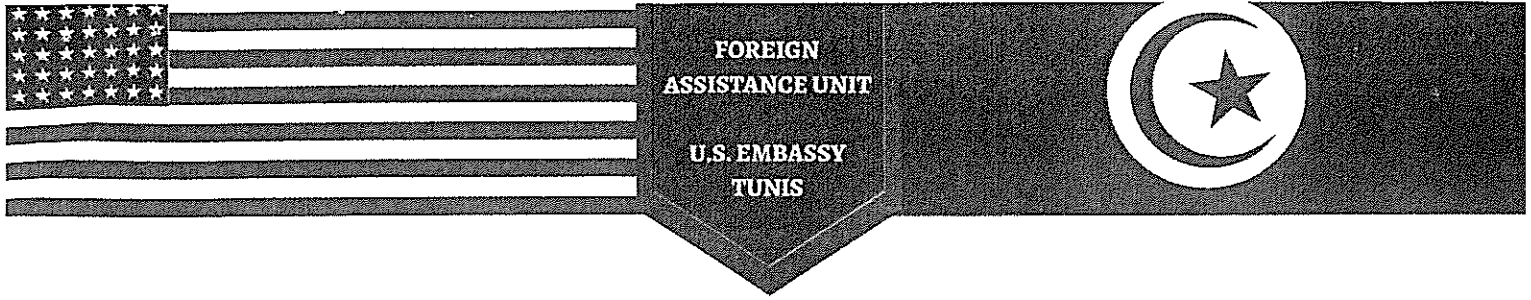
Stephanie Kotecki -Bonhomme

Foreign Assistance Coordinator

U.S Embassy Tunis



آمنة لمار، أوج على العاصمي



2017 MEPI STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM

NEA/AC's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program seeks nominations from Tunisia for potential participants in the MEPI Student Leaders Program scheduled to take place in summer 2017. The program will last approximately six to eight weeks, from June 25 - August 5, 2017.

Approximately 120 students are expected to participate in 2017 joining over 1,600 program alumni. NEA/AC will assign each Student Leader candidate to a host university, making every effort to ensure geographic diversity in the placement process.

Each host university will design its own course materials and schedule. However, each academic program will address common themes including: a comparative analysis of leadership styles; consensus-building, conflict resolution, individual and collective problem-solving, and group dynamics; the role of civil society; public speaking; and job-seeking skills. The program will include coursework/trainings as well as field visits to complement and reinforce the concepts explored in the trainings. Upon completion of the U.S.-based programs, host institutes work with participants to implement civic engagement programs in their home communities.

It is anticipated that participants will arrive and depart through Washington, D.C. in order to participate in U.S. Department of State welcome and farewell ceremonies and informational briefings and debriefings. Due to the rigorous academic and program schedule, travel to visit family or friends elsewhere in the United States will not be permitted before, during (including on weekends during the academic residency period), or after the program. Students must immediately return home upon conclusion of the program. All participants are expected to travel unaccompanied.

An alumni event is generally held in the region approximately 6 months after the U.S. portion of the program.

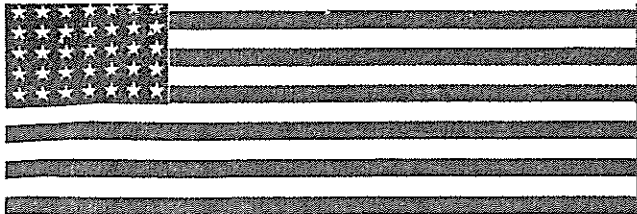
WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

While nominees may be undergraduate or graduate students in any field of academic specialization, it is critical that they exhibit a serious interest in pursuing leadership opportunities in their home countries and demonstrate a desire to deepen their civic engagement. We seek a gender-balanced pool of candidates and those from traditionally underserved regions. Ideal candidates for the MEPI Student Leaders Program:

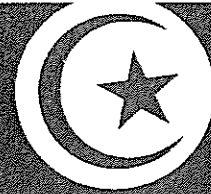
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**FOREIGN
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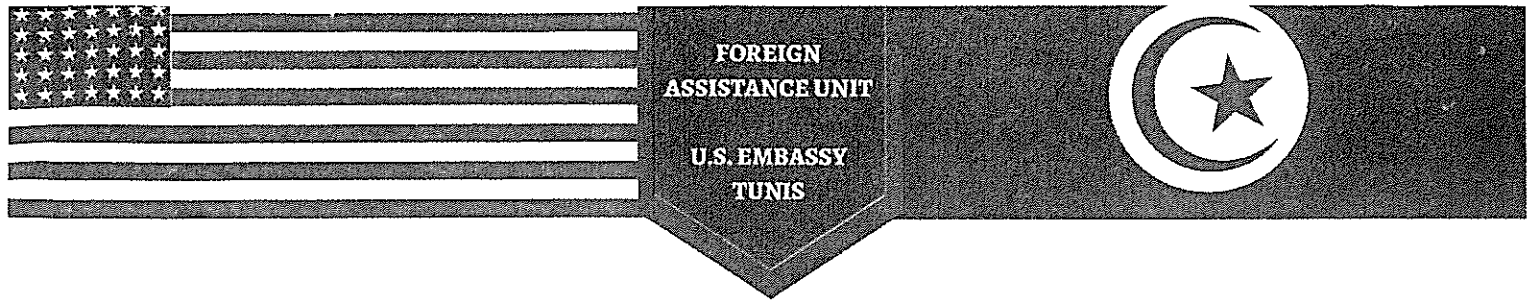
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1. Are 20 to 24 years of age;
2. Demonstrate strong English language skills needed to participate in a U.S. academic program;
3. Are committed to returning to their home country/community following completion of the program;
4. Exhibit strong leadership potential;
5. Indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
6. Have a sustained high level of academic achievement;

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7. Demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement;
8. Have no prior travel experience in the United States and limited study or travel experience outside their home country;
9. Are willing and able to participate fully in intensive academic, community service, and educational travel activities;
10. Are comfortable with campus life, sharing living accommodations while traveling with a multinational group of participants from the Middle East and North Africa region and with U.S. citizens, and making adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries/communities; and
11. Are comfortable spending part of Ramadan and Eid in the United States.

HOW DO PARTICIPANTS APPLY?

All applicants must complete the online application which includes the following information:

1. Candidate's complete contact information, including mailing address, email, and phone number;
2. Candidate's updated resume highlighting civic engagement, leadership and/or work experience, extracurricular activities, and academic honors;
3. A copy of the photo page of candidate's passport;
4. Name of candidate's college/university;
5. Candidate's field of study;
6. Evidence of high academic achievement;
7. Details of any previous travel or study outside of home country, including dates.
8. Candidate's response, in 500 words or less, to each of the following questions:

--Write about a problem currently affecting your community. If it were within your abilities, how would you work to solve this problem?

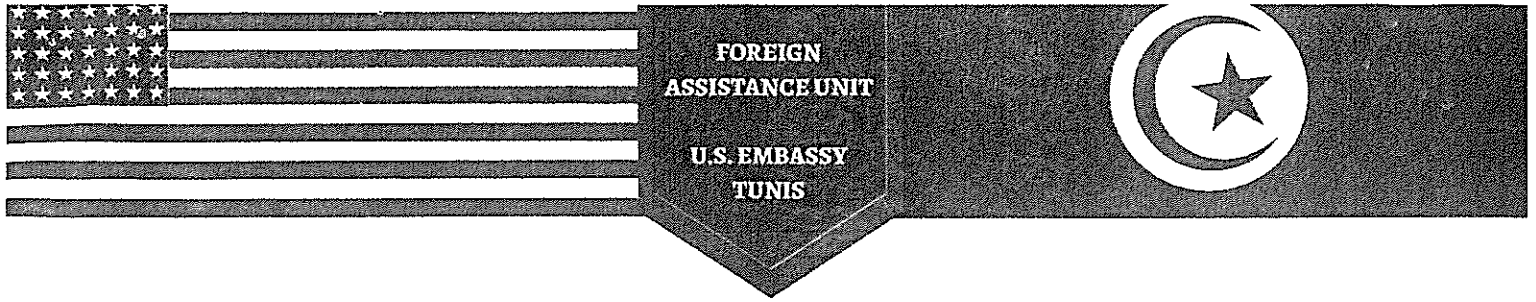
--What are the qualities of an effective leader? Name one leader living today whom you admire and explain why.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The recruitment process for the 2017 program is now open.

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The program will take place **June 25 - August 5, 2017**.

Applications should be submitted through the online platform <https://studentleaders.fluidreview.com/>

Deadline for accepting applications is **December 31, 2016** by 5pm.

For any questions, please e-mail: ForeignAssistanceTunis@state.gov.

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