



IFES supports citizens' right to participate in free and fair elections. Our independent expertise strengthens electoral systems and builds local capacity to promote sustainable democracy.

## The Charles and Kathleen Manatt Fellowship Democracy Studies Fellowship Program

The Charles and Kathleen Manatt Fellowship Program at the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#) (IFES) brings outstanding graduate students to the Washington, D.C., area each year to conduct research in democracy development, election administration, legal frameworks and civic participation in the political process. Previous fellows have found the Manatt Fellowship to be an excellent boost to their careers in international development or research. Manatt fellows have direct access to IFES experts and benefit from Washington, D.C.'s wide network of democracy professionals, institutions and resources.

Once at IFES, Manatt fellows are supported by the [Center for Applied Research and Learning](#) and carry out research under the mentorship of IFES staff during a fellowship term of six to eight weeks. Manatt fellows receive a stipend of \$5,000 and must complete and present a research paper that furthers the understanding of a technical topic aligned with [IFES' work](#).

### Eligibility

The Manatt Fellowship is open to Ph.D., master's and law students who are working toward a degree or concentration in international relations, political science, public administration, public interest law, data science or a related area at a university in one of the following states: **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota or Wisconsin**. Successful applicants will demonstrate how their research can directly benefit from IFES' institutional expertise, as well as how their research could contribute to IFES' technical leadership in the democracy and election assistance field.

### Application Process

Applicants can apply via one of two tracks:

**Track 1:** Propose an original research topic in line with IFES' mission and scope of work. This option may be attractive to Ph.D. students or others who would benefit from access to IFES resources and experts to further their dissertation work or other independent research goals. Research ideas will be evaluated based on their academic merit and on their applicability to IFES' technical areas of expertise.

**Track 2:** Apply to complete a research project in a pre-identified field, in close coordination with IFES' experts. This option may be attractive for graduate or law students wishing to do research in a professional context, gain subject-matter expertise and build their publication resume. For the 2020 fellowship cycle, applicants may apply to complete a project on:

- Models for leveraging election data to forecast and prevent fraud, intimidation and violence in elections;

**OR**

- Drivers of youth civic engagement and trends in their political participation;

**OR**

- The efficacy of international and regional anti-corruption review mechanisms.

*Both application tracks will receive equal consideration.*

## How to Apply

If you are interested in working with a pioneering organization in the field of democracy assistance, we encourage you to apply for the Charles and Kathleen Manatt Fellowship Democracy Studies Fellowship Program.

For an application to be considered complete, applicants must provide the following:

- 1 application, to be filled out here: <https://ifesfellowships.wufoo.com/forms/zszo6eo1hxd7u/>
- 1 copy of your current graduate transcript (to be uploaded with the application form);
- 1 copy of your CV (to be uploaded with the application form);
- 1 copy of an unpublished academic writing sample up to 10 pages, which may be an excerpt, to be evaluated for originality of thought, writing quality and rigor of research design (to be uploaded with the application form); and
- 2 letters of recommendation, one from a faculty member familiar with your work and one from another source, to be submitted via e-mail to [cdreher@ifes.org](mailto:cdreher@ifes.org) directly from the recommender.

Application forms and additional documents must be submitted by Friday, March 13, 2020. We anticipate awarding fellowships by mid-April 2020 for fellowships that will take place in the summer of 2020.

For more information, please visit IFES.org or contact:

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