

BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION

# Fellowship

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
DECEMBER 2025  
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Bertelsmann Foundation Fellowship 2026**  
**Strategic Triangle:**  
**Exploring the Future of U.S.-EU-Asia Dynamics**

## OVERVIEW

The 2026 Bertelsmann Foundation Fellowship will bring together individuals from the public and private sectors North America, Europe and Asia for a 4-month hybrid exchange on transatlantic policy coordination in Indo-Pacific region.

Over the course of the program, fellows will meet with diverse, high-level stakeholders to discuss the various contours of this critical topic. Participants will meet with government officials, industry stakeholders, civil society, academia, community leaders, and subject-matter experts. In addition to virtual and in-person meetings, fellows will publish analysis on the Foundation's [Indo-Pacific site](#).

The Bertelsmann Foundation will select six public sector participants, evenly divided between the U.S. and Europe, and four private sector or academic participants from both sides of the Atlantic, along with two fellows from the Indo-Pacific region. Fellows will travel to Washington, D.C. and Brussels, Belgium to enrich their fellowship experience. The Bertelsmann Foundation will cover travel, accommodation, transportation, and meals for the program.

Individuals with backgrounds in the following fields are encouraged to apply:

- Political Science
- Foreign Policy
- Technology Policy
- Public Administration & Governance
- Indo-Pacific Regional Focus
- Trade Policy

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## FELLOWSHIP EXPECTATIONS:

The Fellowship will take place during the months of May, June, July, and September 2026.

### Virtual sessions

Fellows will meet on Zoom in May (3 virtual sessions), June (3 virtual sessions), and September (2 virtual sessions.)

Prior to these sessions, fellows will be expected to read a short article or engage with multimedia content (videos, podcasts, etc.) that shed light on the topics selected. Each session will be centered around a specific angle related to transatlantic policy coordination in the Indo-Pacific. Sessions will last for one hour, with experts providing short presentations, followed by a Q & A period driven by the fellows. Sessions will be moderated by the fellows on a rotating basis and assigned ahead of time.

### In-Person Programming

Fellows will travel to Washington D.C. for various expert sessions the **week of July 20, 2026**. This will be a six-day trip (**7/19 to 7/24**), with four days of programming and two days accounted for travel.

Fellows will travel to Brussels, Belgium for **the week of September 28, 2026**. This will be a six-day trip (**9/27 to 10/2**), with four days of programming and two days accounted for travel.

Fellows will be expected to contribute to a publish articles on the Bertelsmann Foundation's Indo-Pacific site beginning in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Final agenda details will be provided a month before the fellowship is set to start. The aim is to provide concrete takeaways for fellows on transatlantic policy convergence and divergence in the Indo-Pacific.

## BREAKDOWN:

- ➔ Virtual Sessions with selected transatlantic experts
- ➔ Travel to Brussels, Belgium & Washington, D.C. with in-person sessions
- ➔ Publish Content

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## ELEGIBILITY

Applicants for this exchange program must:

- Be mid-level to senior-level in their organizations and have expertise relevant to the subject of the fellowship
- **MUST** attend both travel components
- Be able to actively participate in the virtual components
- Publish written content
- Language proficiency in English (oral and written)

Most importantly, applicants should be excited to actively contribute to the design of the program itself. Prior to formally kicking off, fellows will schedule one-on-one calls to discuss what speakers, readings, themes they would like to see throughout the program. This Fellowship is unique in that it is reflective of the individuals who are participating in the program: it is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please send a CV (in English) and a short writing sample (< 1,000 words, in English related to the topic at hand) by e-mail to the Bertelsmann Foundation's Director of Transatlantic Relations, Tony Silberfeld at [Anthony.Silberfeld@bfna.org](mailto:Anthony.Silberfeld@bfna.org).

**Applications close February 2, 2026.**

Once your resume and writing sample are received, a short application will be sent for you to complete. Finalists will be interviewed in February 2026.

**Final decisions will be made by February 25, 2026.**

If you are interested in learning more about the Fellowship, please visit [our website](#).